



ISM SEMINAR

Autumn Term 2014-15

Speaker: Professor Paolo Quattrone, University of Edinburgh Business School

Title: Finance matters: doubt, inventory and invention

Date: 22 October 2014

Venue: M2, MBA Teaching Centre

Time: 11.00

Abstract: Accounting research in the last thirty years or so has ventured into new realms which have moved away from conventional views of accounting as a functional, economic-driven, and representationalist practice. My current research project intends to reflect on this move and possibly take this speculative attempt forward by going back to the features of the accounting craft, before the frenzy for mathematical modelling, statistical analysis and market based research entered the accounting research arena. In this sense, I aim at exploring the possibility of developing alternative forms of accounting and representations which draw upon the constructivist turn which accounting research has experienced in the past few decades. However, I want to do this by going back to the way in which 'accounts', meant as graphical inscriptions, were designed before the neoliberal move towards a belief in transparency took over the debate on what accounting does and is supposed to deliver. The historical detour is useful in exploring how representations can be used as means of reflection. Using Latour's words, inscriptions do not produce matters of fact but can be used to raise and manage matters of concern. This has implications for accounting, information technologies and various business modelling attempts.

Biography: Before joining Edinburgh, Paolo Quattrone was Professor of Accounting and Management Control at IE Business School, Madrid, and Reader in Accounting at the Saïd Business School, and Official Student (i.e. Fellow) of Christ Church, at the University of Oxford. A truly international scholar, he has conducted research and taught at the Universities of Catania, HEC-Paris, Kyoto, Madrid Carlos III, Manchester, Oxford, Palermo, Siena, Stanford and Luigi Bocconi of Milan. His work addresses questions related to the emergence and diffusion of accounting and managerial practices in historical and contemporary settings.

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