

Summer Term 2008

Speaker: Professor Richard Scott, Stanford University, USA

Title: The maturation of institutional theory

Date: Wednesday 7 May 2008

Venue: Room B3.19, Warwick Business School, Scarman Road

Time: 14.30 – 16.00

Abstract: The talk will summarize several general trends in the institutional analysis of organizations which I view as constructive, and which I believe provide evidence of progress in the development of this perspective. Work in the US is emphasized, but some comparative comments on European approaches will be offered. I emphasize corrections in earlier theoretical limitations in US work as well as improvements in the use of empirical indicators and an expansion of the types of organizations included and issues addressed by institutional theorists.

Biography: W Richard (Dick) Scott is currently Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Stanford University. He has spent his entire career at Stanford in the Department of Sociology, and holds courtesy appointments in the Graduate School of Business, School of Education, and School of Medicine. He directed an interdisciplinary research training program on organization research supported by the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) from 1972 to 1987, and served as the founding director of the Stanford Center for Organizations Research from 1988-1995.

His major publications include four monographs, Evaluation and the Exercise of Authority (1975), with Sanford M Dornbusch, Hospital Structure and Performance (1987), with Ann Barry Flood, Institutional Change and Healthcare Organizations (2000), with Martin Ruef, Peter J Mendel, and Carol A Caronna, and Between Movement and Establishment: organizations advocating for youth, (forthcoming), with Milbrey McLaughlin and others. He is the author or co-author of three texts, Formal Organizations (1961), with Peter M Blau, Organizations and Organizing: rational, natural and open system perspectives, (2007), 6th ed, with Gerald F Davis, and Institutions and Organizations (2008), 3rd ed. He is currently collaborating with colleagues in the School of Engineering to study institutional factors affecting the success of global infrastructural construction projects.

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