

Call for Participation: Workshop 24.-25. October 2024 in Hamburg

## Perceiving and reflecting organized valuation with Christian Bessy and Working Group “Organization and Valuation”<sup>1</sup>

As part of the growing interest in valuation, the working group “Organization and Valuation” has examined organizations as contentious and ambiguous arenas for valuation (Meier & Peetz, 2021), especially when “people” are their objects of valuation (Dorn, Meier & Kaufmann, forthcoming). In addition, members of the working group stress that organized valuation unfolds outside specific organizational entities. It manifests in various forms, such as rankings and performance evaluations (Dorn, 2019, 2021), standards and certificates (Arnold, 2022; Arnold & Dombrowski, 2022; Loconto & Arnold, 2022), and through digitized infrastructures that shape valuation processes in both macroscopic contexts, such as the socio-environmental transformation (Degens et al., 2022; Lenz, 2021) and microscopic contexts, such as intimate relationships (Peetz, 2021, 2023).

While the working group has made strong efforts to contribute to an appreciation of organization as an essential component in valuation, Christian Bessy's work (Bessy, 2023, 2024; Bessy & Chateauraynaud, [1995] 2014, 2019, cf. Arnold, 2019), clearly shows that calculative and pre-established formal templates hardly constitute the entirety of valuation processes. Instead, the materiality of the valued object, as well as the immediate interaction with it, play significant roles (see also Meier & Peetz, 2022). While materiality has received substantial attention in valuation studies, the workshop departs from the assumption that the role of perception and senses is underrepresented in the research on organized valuation, and that Christian Bessy's work promises to develop more comprehensive explanations and understandings of organized valuation in this regard.

The purpose of the workshop is therefore to reflect, together with Christian Bessy, on the role of perception in organized valuation. Drawing on ongoing research projects, we aim to jointly examine the ways in which the interpretation of sensory information shapes and impacts organized valuation. To this end, the working group invites interested researchers to participate in our exploration of this topic. Unlike traditional workshops, and given the highly focused nature of the workshop theme, it is not necessary to submit an abstract in advance to participate. Instead, **expressing interest** by emailing Sarah Lenz at [sarah.lenz@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:sarah.lenz@uni-hamburg.de) **by July 15th** is sufficient. We truly appreciate your interest.

The workshop will take place over two half-days on October **24th and 25th, 2024, at the University of Hamburg**. It will commence at noon on October 24th and conclude at noon on October 25th. For those who will already be in Hamburg on the morning of October 24th, there is a planned **group excursion to the exhibition "Survival in the 21st Century,"** where we will immerse ourselves in observing valuing perceptions of our era to prepare for the theme of the workshop.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the working group, listed alphabetically: Nadine Arnold (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Christopher Dorn (Universität Bielefeld), Frank Meier (Universität Bielefeld), Thorsten Peetz (Universität Bamberg), Sarah Lenz (Universität Hamburg), Désirée Waibel (Universität Luzern), <https://organisationssoziologie.de/organisation-und-bewertung/>

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