
Explaining how organisations can be studied using a discursive approach is one of the key goals of Cooren’s *Organizational Discourse*. The other is highlighting the centrality of discourse and communication in organisations. The book achieves both goals admirably.

After providing general and technical definitions of organisational discourse, the author introduces six frameworks for studying it: semiotics, rhetoric, speech act theory, ethnomethodology/conversation analysis, narrative analysis and critical discourse analysis. Each of these approaches is outlined and its use briefly illustrated through several examples. More in-depth demonstrations of the frameworks are then provided, applied to longer examples relating to three key areas of organisational life: coordination and organising; organisational culture, identity and ideology; and meetings (with a focus on understanding negotiation, decision-making and conflicts). The author also draws on the theory of the ‘communicative constitution of organisation’ to underscore...
throughout the book that organisations, by their very natures, depend on discourse (and communication more broadly) to exist.

The rest of this review is available from:
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