

## Ann L. Cunliffe, Ph.D.

We are delighted to have Ann Cunliffe as our special guest at the ISI 2018. Ann was a colleague of John Shotter and her work is highly influenced by Shotter and Bakhtin. She has worked for 20 years with practitioners in institutions in the USA, England and Brazil, and is a sought-after speaker, presenting seminars and keynotes in Europe, Australia and North America. Her recent publications include the books *A Very Short, Fairly Interesting and Reasonably Cheap Book about Management* and *Key Concepts in Organization Theory*, co-authored with John Luhman. Ann is also Co-Editor in Chief of the journal *Management Learning*, and organizes the International Qualitative Research in Management and Organization Conference.

She is currently professor of Organization Studies at the University of New Mexico and Professor of Organization Studies at Escola de Administração da Fundação Getúlio Vargas-EAESP Brazil, and previously Professor of Organization Studies at the University of Leeds.



Ann will present the following:

**Dialogical Sensemaking as a way of making Experience Sensible  
and developing Socially Useful Knowledge  
in Collaborative Researcher-Practitioner Conversations:**

**Reflexivity, Relationality, Research and Practice**

The gap between theory and practice in Organization Studies has long been recognized. Kurt Lewin's (1951) comment that 'There's nothing so practical as a good theory' highlights a key issue: the concurrent connection and separation of the two. Academic debate has largely focused around how we can better apply theory to practice or make practice more theoretical, with very little work on how we might integrate the two. Given the growing critique that the work of academia is becoming more abstract, distant from real world issues and self-referential, how might we address the issues and have an impact on the world in which we live? I will suggest that engaging with reflexivity and relationality offers one way of doing so - of rethinking how we might 'practice' in more thoughtful ways and 'theorize' practice in more relevant ways. And importantly, facilitating a dialogical sensemaking process toward developing useful local knowledge.