

Critical Realism in Action Group

Applied Methods for Social Mechanisms

Leeds University Business School, 18th June 2010

Nottingham Business School, 8th September 2010

The third and fourth ESRC Seminar Series on Critical Realism in Action will consider how a commitment to critical realism affects the way in which applied social research is conducted. Presentations may include reports about research conducted from a macro and/or micro perspective, the varying use of interview techniques, case studies, surveys, quantitative methods and comparative approaches. Contributions are likely to ask how critical realism informed projects differ, both from one another as well as from projects informed by other ontological and methodological resources.

Projects founded upon CR ought to assume that there are methods apt to interrogate the specific type or level of entity/mechanisms they are seeking to study. So, this workshop will debate how the differential foci of our investigations have implications for research design, in terms of the staging of the research, types of data required, the analytical strategy and the forms of induction used. The objective of these workshops is to fill the void in the literature by offering at least one targeted edited collection that addresses issues in applied critical realist research.

These workshops should be of particular interest to early career researchers and PhD students, who are invited to do short presentations on how they might, or have, sought to use CR within their PhD and to seek advice and comment. Limited funds are available to cover the transportation costs of PhD students who wish to participate in this Seminar Series, and these will be distributed on a first come first serviced basis.

The Critical Realism in Action Group (CRAG) established itself in 2007 and has so far run seven seminars. In 2009, CRAG won ESRC funding through its established Seminar Series. The seminars include original papers from scholars interested in, but not necessarily committed to, Critical Realism.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the Leeds event, please contact Steve Vincent: email sv@lubs.leeds.ac.uk, phone +44 (0) 113-343-4516. For the Nottingham event, please contact Lee Martin: email Lee.Martin@nottingham.ac.uk, phone +44 (0) 115 8466062

If you are interested in attending or being added to the CRAG mailing list for future events, please contact: Val Jephcott at Val.Jephcott@wbs.ac.uk