These are unprecedented times. As a group of Critical Management Studies scholars coming together, including representation from the Academy of Management’s CMS Division executive team and Organization, we invite you to join us in continuing to foster, support, nurture and extend our CMS community during and beyond the pandemic through a series of free and open webinars. In acknowledging the challenges of inclusivity that webinars may bring, we also welcome initiatives that seek to promote inclusivity through other formats and languages. Attendance of these seminars is open to everyone.

What is the objective? The webinar series provides an opportunity to connect across the world as we work through Covid-19 and beyond. Some may use it to discuss teaching or research and to foster and enhance the CMS community. Others may use it as an opportunity to support PhD students or early career researchers about negotiating careers or institutional changes emerging with this difficult situation or more generally. There is also space to share experiences that speak to broader areas of concern in critical management surrounding inequalities, power and politics.

What might the focus be? The focus of each session may concern research, teaching, or practice. Sessions may address Covid-19-related questions, the role of academics in the world, or other issues of relevance to society framed and understood through a critical lens. You can find resources to engage further with the CMS domain of interest here. Some questions that we invite you to think about include: What can (should) the CMS as a community do differently at/during/after this time of (pandemic) crisis? How is the CMS community navigating activities and responding at a time when we see autocratic processes occurring ‘in the name of the crisis’, recognizing that a number of political and ideological changes are currently taking place? What are the short- and long-term impacts of the mass-move towards online tools for the CMS community and those it engages with? What are the short- and long-term impacts of the mass-move towards digital and a-somatic worlds? This is not an exclusive list of questions and we are very much open to other ideas.

How will it run? Webinars will be initially run through Zoom, hosted by one of the In-Touch team. Suggested format for webinars is that each will last 45-90 minutes (including 20 second breaks from the screen every 20 minutes) and involve a small group of speakers and a Q&A facility. However, other formats and particularly creative and innovative approaches are very welcome.

Interested in running a session? To help you consider what it might look like, use the link to the online webinar proposal form at the end of this document to think about content and structure. This should include your target audience, and how your session may address concerns, challenges and debates, or offer support within the CMS community. To fit the scope of the webinar series, please make sure that your webinar has a clear and explicit CMS focus. We very strongly encourage submissions that bring together diverse groups of organisers, speakers and participants in terms of gender, race, geographical
locations and different career stages. As a team we will discuss and work with potential organisers to develop the series, seeking external advice where appropriate.

A note on responsibilities

As webinar organizers, you will have responsibility for: Developing the content of the session and for its leading, running and timekeeping; advertising the event over and above the channels specified below; coordinating and communicating with your speakers; planning any activities; ensuring all organizers and speakers have a working Zoom account (basic, free account is sufficient), maintaining respectful exchange during the webinar; and writing a post-event summary to be posted on the CMS online portal one week after the seminar. Where it has been agreed to record the webinar (optional), you will be responsible for seeking participants’ permission prior to recording.

To help ensure your success, the In-Touch team will have responsibility for: Timetabling the series of events; managing webinar registrations via Eventbrite, advertising the event through CMS main channels such as Connect@AOM, social media, and listservs; liaising with the organizers of each webinar, ‘hosting’ the session using the online platform Zoom and introducing the organizers at the start of the webinar. Where it has been agreed to record the webinar (optional), the In-Touch team are responsible for recording the webinar and uploading it to the CMS library in Connect@AOM and our ‘Resource’ page on the CMS website.

We seek to encourage inclusivity. We strongly encourage diversity of all kinds in every proposal (e.g., gender, academic experience/rank/role, ethnicity). You may submit a panel proposal, participate in a panel, or attend an event regardless of your academic affiliation (or lack of it), and membership (or lack of it) of the AoM or the CMS Division. We are open to all and any topic as long as it has a clear critical element/view. All languages are welcome, we are not restricted to English.

To submit a webinar idea, please complete the webinar proposal form found here. If you have any questions, please drop an email to cmswebinars@gmail.com.

In-touch team (in alphabetical order: Ozan Alakavuklar, Marcos Barros, Alexandra Bristow, Marie Hasbi, Arturo E. Osorio, Kathleen Riach)