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Introduction: Echoes of an Era – A Century of Organisational Studies

Hundred years ago, Henri Fayol’s “Administration Industrielle et Générale”, a milestone in the history of organisational thought, was published. This centenary motivates the editors of the Management Revue to launch a stream on the history of organisational studies. Starting with this volume, and rather on an infrequent basis, we would like to publish contributions which not only introduce the reader to one or several, interrelated seminal works of organisational theory but also provide accompanying commentaries and an analysis of their history of effects.

The reason for this format is, given our discipline’s forgetfulness of history, to provide orientation, which not only serves teaching and young management scholars. While reference to classic thought contributes to scientific advancement in other fields of the social sciences, in our field some research issues are being addressed repeatedly – without putting the associated arguments and findings in an adequate historical context. In this respect, addressing the history of thought should be understood as a contribution to the advancement of management research.

The stream is opened by Søren Voxted who marks the 100th anniversary of Henri Fayol’s publication Administration Industrielle et Générale. By extension, this paper takes the opportunity to consider whether Henri Fayol’s contributions and ideas remain relevant in contemporary management. Sure that this essay provides valuable insight into the history of ideas we hope that it is a starting point for a stimulating interesting debate – the stream is still open for submissions.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee

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