CGCER and the Work & Learning Network present:

(un) Doing Education with Actor Network Theory (ANT)

Tara Fenwick, University of Stirling via videoconference

Date: Tuesday, Feb 8, 2011 Time: 9:00 to 10:30 am
Location: Ed. N. 3-105

Since the 1980s, ANT studies and debates have figured prominently in research published in sociology, technology, feminism, cultural geography, organisation and management, environmental planning, and health care. Within educational research, actor-network theory has been much less visible. However, scattered studies drawing from ANT have examined questions of curriculum, educational policy and change, teaching and learning practices, and educational technology. In this seminar, after a brief discussion of ANT/STS and its debates, I will overview these studies to explore the potential contributions offered by ANT sensibilities to educational research and practice. In particular, I’ll focus on two issues that appear prominent in ANT-ish studies of education: (1) how materialising processes and assemblages help configure educational actors, subjectivities, knowledge and activities; and (2) what constitutes learning and change in practices, people and knowledge. I’ll conclude by showing what I believe to be the particular contributions being made by educational researchers to the development of ANT-related thought more generally.

Tara Fenwick is a Professor at the University of Stirling, where she holds a Chair in Professional Education. Her research has focused on lifelong learning and education in the everyday activity of ‘workplaces’ and organizations, with particular interest in understanding how identities, power relations and knowledge emerge in the rapidly changing conditions of globalised workplace practices. Please see the CGCER website for more bio information for Dr. Fenwick.

Please email Melody at cgcer@ualberta.ca to let us know if you are interested to attend and we will send more information to you about the session.