"How Are Moral Expectations Real?
researching troubles in the coordination of action"

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Thursday, Oct. 12, 12:30-2:00
University of Southern California
Doheny Intellectual Commons
Doheny Library

Monday, Oct. 9, 11-1:30, he will be giving a workshop for graduate students.
All are welcome; if you are a student, come with ideas to discuss from your own work, if you want.
Faculty are invited as well. Kaprielian 358 (the seminar room)

He will also be available during the week for meetings.

Laurent Thévenot, one of the most influential, original, and stimulating sociologists in Europe, writes about the patterned ways that people coordinate action. His work makes it clear how moral judgment, emotions, cognition and practical action come together when people create situations. Some of his work asks how enduring patterns of justification ("expertise," "creative or religious inspiration," "family" or "market logic" for example) play out in everyday life. When businesses claim to work "like a family," for example, or "in the spirit of creativity," or "for the good of the community," for example, does it make any difference at all? If so, what difference, and how? In this way, his work shows a way of connecting language and culture to material circumstances. To check out a bit of this, you can read the first chapter of On Justification (with Luc Boltanski) that has just been translated by Princeton University Press (http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/chapters/s8182.html). Some more recent work focuses on how people shift between coordinating action that needs justification (the "regime of justification") and coordinating actions that does not need justification (the "regime of familiarity"). His work should be of interest to anyone who wants a fresh, non-reductive, pragmatic way of connecting narrative and action, institutions, cognition and culture—for understanding how people create organizations, and make life make sense in them.

For more information, contact Nina Eliasoph (Eliasoph@usc.edu)