This colloquium explores the “black box” of micro-level interactions in inter-organisational and cross-sector relations, for example, amongst public and third sector actors. These networks or partnerships emerge, or are mandated, to deal with complex problems in the context of, for example, the coproduction of social services, new forms of territorial or environmental governance, or advocacy and citizens’ rights movements.

**Actors’ repertoires of interaction** can be understood as the stock of skills, behaviors, tactics and discourses that people use to sustain and control ongoing mutual exchanges. While they are almost always structured by institutional and organisational norms and power differences, the constructivist, micro-level approach recognizes that agency is not the preserve of the institutionally powerful. Regardless of the models, structures and systems prescribed or put in place, cross-sector relations are ultimately accomplished through situated interactions amongst actors in local sites.

The participants in this colloquium aim to better understand the processes and issues that arise for third sector actors in the context of inter-organisational and cross-sector collaboration. In terms of analysis, they exploit relational and agency-based perspectives such as interactionism and the negotiated order; practice-based analysis and strategy-as-practice; sense-making approaches; advocacy coalitions and field analysis; network theory and actor-network theory; the dynamics of contention, and others that either call for, or allow for, micro-level analyses.

By focusing on micro-level dynamics, colloquium papers and the discussions around them, will contribute to our understanding of how change is constructed (or resisted) through the creative routines of collaboration and negotiation – or through everyday disruptive practices.