



2014 Spring Seminar

Hosted by NUI Maynooth on 21st March 2014

Guest Speaker:	Professor Lisa Jack (University of Portsmouth)
Seminar Title:	Accounting and social theory
Time:	11.00am to 1.00pm (registration at 10.30am)
Seminar Fee:	€10 (Please register on the events section of the IAFA website)
Location:	Renehan Hall, South Campus, NUI Maynooth

Background to seminar

Every aspect of the social world, from the most exalted to the most mundane, can be the subject of social theory (Ritzer, 2007).

What does social theory tell us about accounting, and what does accounting tell us about the social world? This talk is a straightforward guide to what has been done over the last forty years, and what could be done in the future, using social theory in accounting research. Can accounting research using social theory be used to influence change in accounting practice in real world situations?

The session will also include discussion about the more practical questions of taking a critical or interpretative approach to research, such as: Which of the many theories should you adopt? What is the relationship between empirical work and social theory analysis? How should you present your results? What is a theoretical contribution?

Professor Lisa Jack has been investigating the use of social theory in accounting research for an upcoming book on the subject. She began her PhD as a mature student in 2000 expecting that her Maths degree would come in useful. When her topic did not lend itself to statistical analysis she found herself reading sociology books and thus began an interesting, though occasionally painful, journey through the strange world of accounting and social theory.