Theories in cscw: actor-network theory

readings:

mandatory:

additional readings:
- Latour, B.: Actor-network theory. A few clarifications plus more than a few complications, 1996

questions:

1. both Berg and Aanestad introduces concepts from actor-network theory (ANT). Explain the basic idea of ANT and the concepts: heterogeneous network, actants, the symmetry principle, emergent properties, alignment, translations, inscription, program of action, delegation, enrolment, displacement
2. how do Berg and Aanestad describe technologies (technologies-in-use)?
3. what kind of work do artefact do? And human actors?
4. how would Berg and Aanestad describe "computer supported cooperative work"?

follow-up questions

5. does ANT fit the definitions of cooperative work and cscw discussed earlier (e.g., by Schmidt & Bannon)?
6. how does Berg talk about “articulation work”?
7. how does Aanestad talk about “configuration”?
8. how does Aanestad’s example of “design-in-use” fit other examples of the complexities of cooperative work (e.g. Bowers’ print shop)?

extra questions

9. compare the studies of cooperative work carried out by Berg and Aanestad (using ANT) with the studies of cooperative work by Bardram and Halversen (using AT). What are the main differences in their approaches? How do they carry out their data gathering and their analysis?
10. is it useful to combine ANT and AT in one study, and what would be the benefits of this? Based in AT both Engeström & Escalante and Miettinen discuss how the theories are different – do you agree with them?