

The Ontology of Time and Process

# Part II: Processes and Events

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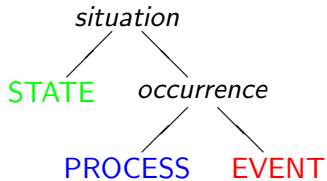
**One person's process is another's event, and vice versa.**

Michael F. Worboys,  
'Event-oriented approaches to geographic phenomena'  
*International Journal of Geographical Information Science*  
19(1):1–28,2005.

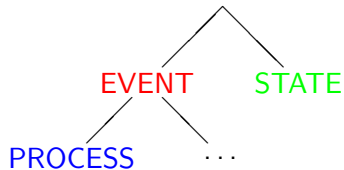
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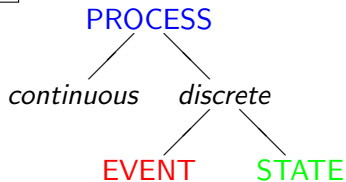
In fact it is worse than that ...



MOURELATOS (1981)



MOENS AND STEEDMAN (1988)



SOWA (2000)



ALLEN (1984)



PUSTEJOVSKY (1991)

There seems to be a lot of confusion here about the meanings of “process” and “event”.

But there is ample evidence that in everyday life we have a fairly clear conception of what these terms mean, and the difference between them.

**Experiment:** Google the phrase “not an event but a process”.

Here is what I found . . .



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## Change is a process

Change occurs as a process, not as an event. Organizational change does not happen instantaneously because there was an announcement, a kick-off meeting or even a go-live date. Individuals do not change simply because they received an email or attended a training program. When we experience change, we move from what we had known and done, through a period of transition to arrive at a desired new way of behaving and doing our job.

Although it is the last of the seven principles of change management presented, treating change as a process is a central component of successful change and successful change management. By breaking change down into distinct phases, you can better customize and tailor your approach to ensure individuals successfully adopt the change to how they work.

## Understanding change as a process

It is easy to see changes in nature occurring as a process. Whether it is a caterpillar turning into a butterfly, or winter shifting into spring, we can easily appreciate the process of change. But when we begin changing our organization with projects and initiatives, we often forget the fact that change does not happen instantaneously.



# Capacity building is not an event but a process: lesson from health sector decentralization of Nepal

*G Gurung*

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## **ABSTRACT**

Health Facility Operation and Management Committee are supposed to govern all the affairs of local health facilities under decentralization policy. The capacity building of the committee was deemed necessary and thus different stakeholders involved in the capacity building process. All agreed up on the need of capacity building of the committee but there were different school of thoughts on the contents and process of capacity building. Major capacity building inputs included orientations and training to the committee. However the follow up part was not uniform; some organizations conducted periodic reflection meeting, where as many ended up with the training. There were some tangible changes observed by the capacity building inputs. Their priority however was on infrastructure and drug purchase. The changes observed were very short lived and not sustainable. The capacity building was equated with training and an event with low priority on follow up, monitoring and coaching. It was not thought as a process. A concept of complete package of capacity building should have been developed where training component would be only an element of overall capacity building.

**Keywords:** Capacity building, health facility operation and management committee, training.



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## Performance Reviews Are a Process Not an Event

January 26, 2016 by [Sharlyn Lauby](#) [9 Comments](#)

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NETWORK NODE SHUTDOWN IS A  
PROCESS, NOT AN EVENTBy [Ivan Pepelnjak](#)[Click here to subscribe to my SDN mailing list](#)

Monday, January 18, 2016

In theory, you should shut down a network device with a well-defined procedure:

- Drain the traffic from the device;
- Verify the device is no longer forwarding traffic;
- Turn off the device.

In practice, network devices don't have a **shutdown** command, and **reload** typically just restarts the network OS.

## Graceful Shutdown

Every major vendor claims they have *graceful shutdown* functionality, but there's a small problem: the shutdown is usually not so very graceful. For example:

- BGP router tears down BGP sessions:



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Ros is a leading authority on both private and state pensions, annuities and retirement policy. Numerous major awards have recognised her work to demystify finance and make pensions work better for people.

## Retirement - a 'process' not an 'event'

by Dr. Ros Altmann

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We all know that pension policy is under the microscope at the moment. There is much talk of 'raising the retirement age' as a way to solve the problem of increasingly inadequate, yet costlier State and private pensions. If we are to provide a sustainable solution, we need to consider the issue from a broader perspective. The idea of one retirement age is, in my view, outdated. We need to move away from the notion of going straight from full-time work, to full time 'non-work'. Social attitudes - of both employers and employees - will need to focus on the benefits of gradual and phased withdrawal from the labour force. Retirement should become a 'process', not an 'event'.

# Subtle Brain Injury

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## BRAIN INJURY IS A PROCESS, NOT AN EVENT

The common conception of brain injury seems to be that real world brain injuries are like those we observe in the boxing ring. When a fighter is knocked down, we wait to see if he gets up. If he gets up, we realize that he is particularly vulnerable at first. But our experience with boxing matches tell us that if he can survive for even thirty seconds or to the end of the round, he may shake off the effects of the blow and have a chance to win the fight. Brain injury is a process and may not be immediately obvious from the time of the blow but later on as the damage to cells will continue to effect the brain.



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## Recovery is a Process and Not an Event

### There is No Magic Cure for Addiction

There is no magic cure available that will make it easy for people to escape their addictions. It takes much effort and the real work only starts after the individual has stopped abusing alcohol or drugs. Even when people start building a life in recovery it does not mean that they are cured. The work has to continue. If the only thing that changes is that the individual stops using intoxicants there is unlikely to be much progress.

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## 'Brexit' will be a process, not an event

Ryan Bourne  
7 March 2016

The actor Norman Reedus once said that "the dog with the loudest bark is the most afraid". Last week, George Osborne showed how true this is, offering up warnings of the "profound shock" that would occur if the UK were to leave the EU and getting British diplomats to persuade G20 finance ministers to claim that Brexit would adversely hit the global economy. The Cabinet Office also produced "independent" government analysis suggesting that Brexit would put us in a tailspin of 10 years of uncertainty. This marks a clear strategy: David Cameron wants Brexit considered a dangerous "leap into the dark" against the security of the known.

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## Devolution: A Process Not an Event

1999

More than any other contemporary politician Ron Davies is responsible for the devolution process in the 1990s. From 1992 he had a responsibility for developing Labour's policy in opposition and from May 1997 until his resignation in October 1998 he turned the policy blueprint into a constitutional reality. He drafted the White Paper, *A Voice for Wales* and led the referendum campaign which saw a narrow Yes vote on September 18th 1997 - a 30 per cent shift from the vote on St David's day 1979. As Secretary of State for Wales he took the devolution legislation through its parliamentary stages and on 31st July 1998 the Government of Wales Act reached the statute books.

There could be no more qualified person, therefore, to be asked to search out some of the significant political trends from that process and see what pointers they give us for the future. In this Paper Ron Davies traces the background debates on devolution over the latter part of the 20th Century and how they have reflected differing views about Welsh identity. He discusses the way the present settlement emerged through the Welsh Labour Party policy process. He suggests a number of lessons should be learned from that experience which, if they had been adopted at the time, would have resulted in a more inclusive process and a stronger consensus around the change.





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# Revolution is not an Event but a Process

 January 16, 2013 0 Comment Michel Bauwens 4 min read

Via :

*“Author and Occupy activist Yotam Marom tackles in his article the age-old question of reformism versus revolution. The article was originally published in the book We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy from Occupation to Liberation (2012).*

*Here’s an excerpt discussing the nature of revolutions.”*

## Genocide Is a Process, Not an Event

Sheri P. Rosenberg

### Abstract.

Genocide studies is simultaneously an emerging and accepted category of scholarly inquiry. The field is robust and at a critical turning point as more disciplines engage the subject. This article identifies two areas within the field that suggest the need for further scholarly attention. First, it urges a renewed attention to the processual nature of genocide and the implications that flow from a particularized understanding of it, specifically in relation to prevention. The article explores this relationship by providing a process-oriented examination of the under-theorized concept of "genocide by attrition," seeking engagement and critique of the concept. Second, new disciplines have entered the field of genocide studies, bringing with them new methodologies and insights. While this is a



**nancy dhangra**

Student at ABES Engineering College

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## Success is not an event ; it's a thought process

Jan 1, 2016

35 views



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So to win over your problems, you should change the view of seeing your problems.

# Debunking the Eureka Moment: Why Creativity Is a Process, Not an Event

By James Clear | Creativity

In 1666, one of the most influential scientists in history was strolling through a garden when he was struck with a flash of creative brilliance that would change the world.

While standing under the shade of an apple tree, Sir Isaac Newton saw an apple fall to the ground. "Why should that apple always descend perpendicularly to the ground," Newton wondered. "Why should it not go sideways, or upwards, but constantly to the earth's center? Assuredly, the reason is, that the earth draws it. There must be a drawing power in matter." <sup>1</sup>

And thus, the concept of gravity was born.



## COMMENTARY

# Peace is a process, not an event

BY BEENA SARWAR

1 FEBRUARY 2016

Not letting terror attacks determine foreign policy augurs well for India-Pakistan's relationship

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# A Common Understanding

## ► An **event**

- is a discrete “one-off” occurrence with a definite beginning and end,
- has a completion,
- typically lasts a short time relative to the temporal scale of the context in which it is described,
- or can even be instantaneous

## ► A **process**

- is open-ended,
- may continue indefinitely,
- may never reach a state of completion,
- may be extended over a long period,
- may be more or less homogeneous, but possibly involves a variety of different activities.

From the web-sites above, it appears that almost *anything that happens* can be claimed to be “a process rather than an event” .

This is a cliché that people often utter with an air of apparent wisdom, as if they were providing a startling new insight that has passed lesser mortals by.

Let's try it out:

**Making an apple pie is a process, not an event**

In what sense, if any, is this true?



## The Event case

Making an apple pie has a definite beginning, it has a completion (when the pie is ready), it doesn't take more than an hour or so.

## The Process case

Making an apple pie involves a succession of different activities: cutting up the apples, preparing the pastry, assembling the pie, heating the oven, cooking the pie; it is by no means instantaneous.

**Conclusion:** Making an apple pie is both a process and an event.

**More exactly:** What happens or goes on can partake of both event-like and process-like characteristics.

**Put differently:** What happens can be described using “event language” or “process language”.

These reflect two different points of view: the **historical** and the **experiential**.

## Interlude

“...two rather different kinds of description: historical and experiential. The importance of this distinction between two kinds, or modes, of description has often been recognized .... But there is no established terminology for it. The term used here, ‘historical’, is intended to suggest the narration of events, ordered in terms of successivity and presented dispassionately with the minimum of subjective involvement; and this mode of description clearly relates to the static, non-deictic, objective conception of time. The term ‘experiential’, on the other hand, is suggestive of the kind of description that might be given by someone who is personally involved in what he is describing; and this mode is no less clearly related to the dynamic, deictic, subjective conception of time.”

John Lyons, *Semantics*, Cambridge University Press, 1977, p.688.

## Aspects

The difference between processes and events thus appears to be, not a difference between two different kinds of thing in reality, but a difference between two different ways of describing reality.

In language, these different points of view show up as the **aspects** of the verb: **perfective** vs **imperfective**.

In English this distinction is conveyed by the simple vs continuous tenses:

- ▶ *What did you do yesterday?*  
*I made an apple pie.* (An event)
- ▶ *What were you doing when I called?*  
*I was making an apple pie.* (A process)

## The implications for ontology

The above considerations suggest that:

- ▶ If the target of your ontology is to characterise the nature of reality as it is in itself, independently of the manner in which it is viewed or presented, then you should regard the difference between processes and events as outside the scope of the ontology.
- ▶ But if the target of your ontology is to characterise elements of reality from different points of view, so that one and the same entity may be classified in different ways in different contexts, then the difference between processes and events should be taken seriously as something to be enshrined in the ontology itself.

In the next section we will see examples of both these approaches.