

EGOS Colloquium 2017: Copenhagen Business School, 6-8 July 2017

Sub-theme 66: Organizational Capability Building: Dynamics, Creative Processes, Failures

Call for Papers

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The sub-theme calls attention to the key role of capability building for the successful development of firms and other organizations and opens up for studies on various stages and contexts of capability building, as well as explanatory factors and implications. Considering both individual (Vuori & Huy, 2015) and organizational factors such as routines, organizational culture, formal and informal structures for capability building and evolution, the sub-theme will explore their dynamics, successes and failures. Furthermore the sub-theme will examine how external factors such as institutions (Delmas, 2002), networks (Elango & Pattnaik, 2007) and ownership structures (Chen et al., 2014) might support or obstruct capability building and evolution in organizations. A special emphasis will be given the role of creative processes and knowledge development, as part of capability building. To build and evolve organizational capabilities for complex challenges, e.g. innovation in complex product/systems or adaptation to turbulent environments, the sub-theme suggests that organizations need to cross knowledge boundaries, integrate internal specialists, as well as acquire and integrate advanced external knowledge. The sub-theme will also open up for discussions concerning different barriers such as path dependence in the organizational capability building process.

As part of these ambitions, the sub-theme seeks contributions from several research fields, from micro-level studies of individual/group interaction, to macro-oriented analyses of organizations and networks. The sub-theme encourages discussion regarding the mechanisms for capability building and evolution using the lenses of for example learning including learning from failure, knowledge integration (Berggren et al., 2011, Karabag & Berggren, 2016), innovation and renewal (Schreyögg & Kliesch-Eberl, 2007) and boundary crossing (Carlile, 2002).

The sub-theme invites conceptual and empirical studies that highlight how organizations build, sustain and renew their capabilities. The building and evolution of capabilities are time-dependent processes, the sub-theme therefore invites, but is not restricted to, papers

based on a process view and longitudinal studies. The proposed sub-theme particularly invites contributions that focus on one or more of the following issues:

- How does capability building take place in different organizational contexts: start-ups, emerging economy firms, multinational companies, NGOs, government agencies?
- How do external and internal factors interact in organizational capability building?
- What are the mechanism of capability development in different types of organizations and industries (e.g. creative industries, IT or Professional Service firms)?
- How do organizations build capabilities for integrating internal and external knowledge?
- How do organizations suffer from path dependence and other barriers in capability renewal? What are the major failures?
- What are the dynamics of persistence and change in capability renewal?
- How are ethical issues taken up in capability building?
- How do initial conditions imprint later capability renewals?
- How do self-reinforcing processes influence capability building?
- What kinds of tools and skills are used for building specific capabilities?

The sub-theme intends to foster an exchange of theoretical ideas and empirical research results across these and related issues. Papers that discuss such issues empirically or conceptually, with regard to recent or more historical developments, are cordially invited.

The sub-theme wishes to attract both high-quality contributions that are ready to be submitted to a research journal as well as research in progress that explores these challenging issues. It seeks to provide an opportunity for engaging in constructive dialogue and to encourage mutual learning among the participating scholars.

References

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Christian Berggren is Professor of Industrial Management at Linköping University, Sweden, where he has co-directed a nine-year research program on “Knowledge Integration and Innovation in an Internationalizing Economy” (KITE). He was the lead editor of “Knowledge Integration and Innovation: Key Challenges Facing Technology-based Firms”, published by OUP 2011, and one of the editors of “Managing Knowledge Integration across Boundaries”, forthcoming at OUP, 2016. His current research focuses on competition between sustainability technologies, public policy and innovation, including capability building and knowledge integration at innovating firms in emerging economies.

Georg Schreyögg is currently Professor of Management and Organization Studies at the School of Business & Economics of Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, and University of Graz, Austria. Formerly, he was Professor of Organization Studies and Planning at FernUniversität Hagen and Universität Bamberg. He received his two doctoral degrees from Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany and his doctor honoris causa from University of Graz. He has written nine books, has edited numerous volumes and has published more than 150 articles on organization theory, leadership and corporate governance. His recent research has focused on organizational path dependence and organizational capabilities.

Solmaz Filiz Karabag is Associate Professor at the Department of Management and Engineering, Linköping University, Sweden. Her PhD dissertation analyzed the impact of environment and strategies on firm performance in emerging economies. Her latest research explores how innovator firms in emerging economies build innovation capabilities and gain sustainable competitive advantages in global markets. She is currently Editor-in-Chief of the ‘Journal of Applied Economics and Business Research’.

Deadline for submissions: Monday, January 9, 2017

Submission guidelines and further information:

<http://www.egosnet.org/jart/prj3/egos/main.jart?rel=de&content-id=1442567999321&reserve-mode=active>