

Workshop invitation

“Overcoming barriers to the development of new theories and methods in Management research”

We invite papers for a one-day workshop on “Overcoming barriers to the development of new theories and methods in Management Research” at Warwick Business School’s main campus in Coventry (UK) on Friday April 26th 2019.

The field of management strongly emphasizes the importance of theory building (Hambrick, 2007), and has developed relatively stringent norms of what does and does not constitute a theoretical contribution (Corley & Gioia, 2011). Creation of new theory and the development of theoretical contributions are demanding activities, however, and management scholars face significant barriers when attempting to engage in such processes (Suddaby, Hardy, & Huy, 2011). Combining theoretical lenses may prove to be a fruitful endeavour, but also presents challenges in its own right (Okhuysen & Bonardi, 2011; Hendriks, Slangen, & Heugens, 2018). Yet, scholars still find ways of offering novel and unique perspectives to widely studied phenomena, despite the field’s increasing sophistication (Zollo & Winter, 2002; Reuer, Tong, & Wu, 2012; Laamanen & Keil, 2008). In that the applied theory and method used are both equally important to the formulation of contributions (Van Maanen, Sorensen, & Mitchell, 2007), scholars have focused on cultivating methods that help build theory (Eisenhardt & Graebner, 2007), as well as the development of new empirical approaches (Fiss, 2011; Shepherd & Sutcliffe, 2011; Graebner, Knott, Lieberman, & Mitchell, 2018). Such approaches could draw on methods from other fields and offer more nuanced measures and findings compared to prior research (Arora, Gittelman, Kaplan, Lynch, Mitchell, & Siggelkow, 2016). With the help of such rigorous new theories and methods, management scholars may be in a better position to impact practice, for example by better addressing society’s grand challenges (Eisenhardt, Graebner, & Sonenshein, 2016).

The one-day workshop is not only aimed at better understanding the prospects of theory and methods development in management, it also addresses the inherent difficulties associated with such a process. The workshop takes on the barriers that scholars face in various stages of their careers. That is, the day is comprised of two paper development sessions before it concludes with a panel that will bring together five senior scholars with substantial editorial experience:

Melissa Graebner – University of Texas at Austin

Tomi Laamanen – University of St. Gallen

Will Mitchell – University of Toronto

Jeff Reuer – University of Colorado

Maurizio Zollo – Bocconi University

In our first paper development session, participants have the opportunity to present a paper (idea) or proposal on which feedback is provided by the invited panel members and the audience. We invite papers that aim to make a sound theoretical or methodological contribution. For our second paper development session we invite scholars to submit previously rejected papers or difficult R&Rs to receive feedback from

our invited experts on how to manage the revision process. In our last session of the day, the panel members will share their personal experiences and give specific examples on how they have overcome barriers in developing new theory and methods throughout their scholarly careers.

Preliminary schedule:

- 9:30 am: **Registration**
- 9:45 am: **Welcome and opening remarks**
- 10 – 12: **Paper Development Workshop:** (parallel sessions)
Proposals and early-stage papers. Participants present a paper (idea) or proposal on which feedback is provided by the invited panel members and the audience. 30 minutes per paper, for a total of 4 papers per session.
- 12 – 1pm: **Networking Lunch**
- 1 – 3 pm: **How to manage the revision process?**
Paper development workshop with a focus on difficult to publish papers and challenging R&Rs.
- 3 – 3:30 pm: **Break**
- 3:30 – 5:30: **Panel: Barriers in the development of Theory and Methods**
Five senior scholars share their personal experiences with overcoming barriers in the development of new management theories and methods, e.g. specific papers or revision process. Opportunity for the audience to ask questions.
- 5:30 pm: **Closing remarks**

Submission process

We invite the submission of proposals for our one-day workshop at WBS. Proposals should not exceed a total of 7 pages and 4000 words – 5 pages for the body which can include charts, graphs, diagrams, etc. and up to 2 pages of references. Proposals must be accompanied by an abstract not exceeding 200 words. Proposals should be submitted to Guus.Hendriks@wbs.ac.uk or Rosemary.Li@wbs.ac.uk before the deadline date of 1 March 2019 (midnight). The workshop as well as lunch and refreshments are free of charge, but participants need to make their own travel arrangements.

- 1 March 2019: Submission deadline
15 March 2019: Notification of proposal acceptance
26 April 2019: Workshop at WBS' campus in Coventry, United Kingdom

References

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