
Strategic Management and Sustainability Transitions: Theory and Practice

Editor: Michael Zhang[†]

This edited Routledge book will be a thematical collection of contributions addressing the challenges in strategic management of sustainability transitions faced by decisionmakers in both private and public sectors. Sustainability transitions has in the past decade or so become an established field of study for both academics, policy makers and practitioners alike (European Environment Agency, 2019; Goldman Sachs, 2021; Markard et al., 2012). Framed in the socio-technical systems, scholars contend that it is the interactions of the networks of actors, institutions and material artifacts that drive transition processes toward sustainability. The multi-level perspective provides an architectural framework for a better understanding of the complexity in managing sustainability transitions (Geels, 2002; Smith et al., 2010).

Nonetheless, these developments lack elaboration on strategic management of the transition processes, with the exception of an edited book by Aagaard et al. (2021), which is the first research monograph devoted to strategic management of sustainability transitions through the theoretical lens of business models. The authors link organisational strategies with the above-mentioned socio-technical systems embedding the business entities. Such an approach offers limited extension of analytical frameworks beyond the single business organisations. The editors accurately contend that business firms are ‘the predominant mode of resource allocation in capitalist society’ (Aagaard et al., 2021: 8). Interestingly, many authors of the book have applied the concept of stakeholder(s) as indicated by the appearance of the concept 127 times in 12 out of the 13 chapters. In addition, a recent Editorial by Massey (2022) emphasises the role played by public administration to achieve United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (UNDP, 2015). Government and non-government organisations at various levels are important actors for successful sustainability transitions. For resource mobilisation and allocation, it is critical that ‘good, effective public administration’ (Massey, 2022: 5) is in place to support business model innovations. Business strategies and practice are under increasing public and regulatory pressures and scrutiny by multi-stakeholders.

Furthermore, the concept of multi-stakeholder ecosystems has in the past years attracted attention from both researchers and practitioners alike (Gyrd-Jones and Kornum, 2013; Jennings et al., 2016). Value co-creation and co-capturing amongst multi-stakeholders can enhance innovation process and improve ecosystems’ strategic performance (Pera et al., 2016; Reypens et al., 2016). This emerging theoretical framework demonstrates promising potential for studies of sustainability transitions. It is against this backdrop that we are editing the book.

We would like to hear from you regarding your recent research ideas on the above-mentioned themes in the form of chapter proposals. We are particularly interested in empirical analysis and case studies applying stake-holder ecosystems, broadly defined. In line with the SDGs we envisage to cover a number of, but not limited to, industries and sectors: energy, food, healthcare, infrastructure, transport, and water. Doctoral candidates in their writing-up stage and early-career researchers are encouraged to submit proposals. The proposal should be in the format of **an extended abstract of 400-500 words**. It needs to

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include **the names, affiliations, and email contacts** for all the authors. Proposals should be sent to the Editor Michael Zhang at SMST.Routledge@gmail.com

The final accepted chapter will be around **6,000-8,000 words** in length. Longer chapters can be considered in special cases. The prospect authors need to contact the Editor for a discussion of their case.

The publication plan is scheduled as follows:

- Deadline for proposals: **30 June 2022**
- Notification of acceptance of the chapter proposal: **30 July 2022**
- Deadline for submission of full chapters: **15 December 2022**
- Feedback of reviewers' comments on chapters: **31 January 2023**
- Deadline of submission of the final chapters: **31 March 2023**
- Expected publication date: by the end of **October 2023**

Upon publication this edited book will become a volume in ***Routledge Research in Strategic Management***.

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