



TRACK 23: International supply chain management: between algorithms and ethics

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Abstract:

The main tenets of SCM were listed 25 years ago by Oliver and Webber: supply chain as a single entity, balancing inventories as a last resort and targeting system integration.

These tenets have still largely not been implemented. While parts of individual supply chains may be well coordinated or even well-focused on the end customer, few exemplars of overall supply chain management can be identified. The risk management along international supply chain is still underdeveloped as well as the use of integrative IT tools. Even nowadays supply chain management is at best still emergent in terms of both theory and practice. Few practitioners were able – or seriously aspired – to extend their reach across the supply chain.

While these achievements are still problematic, the supply chain theme is extending from being strictly “technical” on flow optimization and improvement, towards taking into account broader issues such as social responsibility and ethics and looking at “sustainable development” issues. These values are being taken into account in all steps along the chain of production-distribution-consume: upstream, where a fair distribution of benefit permits a balanced development of the local societies, and downstream, where products are sold to meet the demand of consumers to be more ethical.

The supply chain is a critical system in which it is possible to evaluate and allocate strategies related to the concepts of efficiency/effectiveness but also the issues of responsibility/fairness.

This track will provide a forum for discussing contemporary issues related to both the more technical and more social/environmental aspects of international supply chain. Contributions could include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- international supply chain optimization
- global vs. local sourcing
- international supply chain risk management
- sustainable development

- fair supply chain and fair trade