



TRACK 34: Management and Organization of Sustainability in Production and Consumption Systems

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Abstract:

The ways in which organizations deal with their environmental and societal impacts is slowly gaining hold as a management research topic. Apart from an interesting topic in itself, organizational activities under the heading 'sustainability' or 'corporate social responsibility' provide a laboratory for studying processes of organizational change, institutionalization, and coalitional conflicts.

In this track, we look for papers addressing inter-organizational dimensions of negative ecological and social impacts. We define the object of study as sustainability in production and consumption systems, involving networks of actors that constitute production and consumption systems in geographically dispersed materials and energy flows, which may lead to negative social and ecological impacts perceived as problematic at least by some actors. This inter-organizational dimension has been previously studied as: product chains, supply chains, and

consumption. These contributions come from disparate research fields, and are often disconnected. Connecting these may further understanding on the following issues:

- a) Increasingly global interconnectedness of production and consumption, facilitated by new forms of coordination and dependency relations.
- b) How management practices and governance relate to changes in ecological and social impacts. Technology studies, actor-network theory and complex systems theory provide different routes to make this connection.
- c) Coordination efforts and governance of economic activities for sustainable development, and how these global concepts 'translate' into local practice.
- d) How firms, consumers and governmental organizations strategize in the context of consumption and production systems, how the sustainability strategy of a firm shapes and is shaped by its position in the product chain.

We invite contributions in which empirical research provides a basis for exploring one or more of these issues, and for further theoretical development concerning sustainability in production and consumption systems.