



SIG 10: Project Organizing

Project and program management is a growing area of research interest as organizations switch to project-based/oriented forms of working. There is growing concern for the performance of projects as they grow in scale and complexity. This Special Interest Group (SIG) is focused on projects and programs defined as temporary organizations with a goal and pre-determined life cycle. The Project Organizing SIG is concerned with project-based/oriented organizations: firms or public sector agencies organized to promote and/or deliver projects or to implement their strategies and changes by projects and programs.

The purpose of Project Organizing SIG is to promote the creation and diffusion of knowledge in relation to project organizing. The ambition is to develop a global project organizing research community leaning on management and organization disciplines like strategy, entrepreneurship, innovation, organization theory, organizational behaviour, human resource management, and institutional theory, but also open to contributions from other disciplines. It therefore aims to stimulate discussion about a variety of topics related to the organization of projects and programs across all sectors.

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SIG General Track

10-00 Project Organizing

The Project Organizing track provides an international platform to share and debate topical issues in project-based/oriented organizing. This includes the management of single projects and programs as temporary organisations, the management of project portfolios, the management of project-oriented organisations, which deliver projects to external or internal customers and project networks, or multi-enterprise meta-organisations, which are created in order to manage projects.

Today, there is growing concern for the performance of projects as they grow in scale and complexity in business and in society. Yet, they have received relatively little attention from the business and management academic community. However, projects challenge many of the assumptions of theory and practice in business and management.

Among the central concerns in this research field are:

- how a can project organizing succeed with the increasing scale and complexity of projects
- how a can project organizing alter business and management in a broader institutional context
- how should different types of organizations design, deliver and organize their projects, and
- how do individuals as members of the project-based organizations succeed in their temporary project roles?

We invite conceptual as well as empirical papers based on quantitative or qualitative research. We welcome different research paradigms ranging from positivist to constructivist.

The track is organised interactively to allow for feedback and discussion amongst scholars. We combine traditional formats with less traditional formats to allow for co-creating new ideas. In addition to the presentation of full academic papers, we will run several sessions within our track to develop ideas and encourage scholars with different backgrounds to enter the conversation about project organizing.

These interactive workshops cover topics such as

- Innovation, design thinking and project organizing (Christophe.Midler@polytechnique.edu)
- Public Policy and Projects (Graham.Winch@mbs.ac.uk)
- Project organizing in Small and Medium Sized enterprises (Rodneyturner@europrojex.co.uk)
- Project Management research in Middle and Eastern Europe (Martina.Huemann@wu.ac.at)

Selected papers from this track will be published in a special issue of one of the prominent project management journals – International Journal of Project Management; Project Management Journal & International Journal of Managing Projects in Business.

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SIG Standing Track

ST_10-01 Organizational Project Management: Adding rungs to the ladder of Novelty between Organizational Project Management and its link to Research Methodology

In recent decades, the field of project management has extended its focus from the study of a single project to the way a firm uses projects to achieve its goals. Projects as seen as venues for mastering business, implementing changes, innovating and developing competitive advantage. However, in the field of project management, there is still limited set of research methods that are used that delimits the variance in research designs, leads to repetitive design studies and predictable results. We notice a call for new methodological approaches that are alternatives to rational approaches (e.g. reflective methods), a call for organizational-level research as well as project networks and complexity (e.g. mixed approaches) and a call for more clarity in reports on the research paradigms, underlying philosophy and its link with applied methodology. Outside the specific field there is a great deal that can usefully be imported, transformed, and translated so that it is fit for project management research purposes. More trans-disciplinary, translational, and transformational approaches for conducting project related research are required.

Therefore, the topic is dedicated to research that explores and proposes different avenues to contribute to the development of novel methodological approaches to conduct research in the field of organizational project management. This proposed topic encompasses reflections on fundamental questions underlying any research, such as the type of knowledge sought, its epistemological and ontological assumptions as well as those questions and issues not raised. It also proposes to broaden research methods and theory perspectives, drawing on contemporary approaches such as action research, soft systems methodology, activity theory, actor network theory and other approaches adopted in related scientific and technological areas that are only recently being adopted. It includes contemporary research methods and designs from areas allied to project management research, such as organization science, organizational studies, sociology, behavioural science and biology, strategy, providing innovative invitations to research design and methodological choice.

The track invites papers to be submitted in the following areas:

1. Plurality in Philosophical Foundations (e.g. trend towards plurality in perspectives, multi-paradigm approaches and integration of results from multi-paradigm research),
2. Creative Contemporary Approaches (e.g. methods to study human actions to capture softer side of project management),
3. Learning across disciplines (e.g. exploration of new conceptual directions),
4. New Approaches useful for Organizational Project Management Research.

Selected papers from this track will be published in a special issue of one of the prominent project management journals – International Journal of Project Management; Project Management Journal & International Journal of Managing Projects in Business.

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