Annotated Bibliography on Organization Network (2000-2006)

Important Note: Please note that the following abstracts, notes and summaries are directly taken (copied) from the various books and journals articles on the organization network available on the websites.

Medini Bhandari

2006


Abstract

This study examines change initiated from the center of mature organizational fields. As such, it addresses the paradox of embedded agency—that is, the paradox of how actors enact changes to the context by which they, as actors, are shaped. The change examined is the introduction of a new organizational form. Combining network location theory and dialectical theory, we identify four dynamics that form a process model of elite institutional entrepreneurship.


Abstract

Social networks evolve over time, driven by the shared activities and affiliations of their members, by similarity of individuals’ attributes, and by the closure of short network cycles. We analyzed a dynamic social network comprising 43,553 students, faculty, and staff at a large university, in which interactions between individuals are inferred from time-stamped e-mail headers recorded over one academic year and are matched with affiliations and attributes. We found that network evolution is dominated by a combination of effects arising from network topology itself and the organizational structure in which the network is embedded. In the absence of global perturbations, average network properties appear to approach an equilibrium state, whereas individual properties are unstable.


Abstract

This article reports results from a network analysis of international trade from 1965 through 2000. It addresses the impact of changes associated with globalization and the “new international division of labor” (NIDL) on structural inequality in the world economy. To assess this impact, I ask three specific questions. (1) Do patterns of international trade conform to a core/periphery
structure through time? (2) Does the structure exhibit inequality with regard to industrial sophistication? (3) Have globalization and the NIDL encouraged upward mobility for historically poor countries, or have they reproduced a stable set of structural positions? The findings support the view that the NIDL and globalization have benefited a few exceptional countries while at the same time producing structural inequality.


Abstract

This article examines the relevance of leading social science network theories for the analysis of social relations in particular fields and as a guideline for democratic planning practice. The first section explains the risks of using the network metaphor in social science analysis: the confusion of normative and real features of networks may lead to an abstract representation of institutional structures and power relations and naïve expectancies regarding democratic planning opportunities. The second section reviews institutional network theories in social science. The survey focuses on: the ‘raison d’être’ of the network, the typical behavior of its agents, the types of communication, interaction with the environment and creation of its own institutions. Section 3 examines how these network theories deal or do not deal with power and suggests improving the theorizing of the role of power in networks by providing a more solid reading of power relations in institutional structures and personal relationships in networks. This solidity could be offered by a combination of Regulation. The final section provides some guidelines on how a better reading of institutional structures and power relations may improve the impact of democratic planning.

Keywords institutional theory, network theory, power relations


Abstract

This special topic forum, commissioned to stimulate theory development on building effective networks, contains eleven papers spanning the micro, meso, macro, and meta levels of analysis. Each paper breaks new ground; collectively, they suggest that we are at a crossroads in network research. Important opportunities remain, however, for further work in network theory development, and we highlight major gaps relating to network theory’s scope and mission, accessibility, integration with other perspectives, and attention to process and internationalization issues.


Medini Bhandari
Abstract:

We introduce the construct of network inertia, referring to a persistent organizational resistance to changing interorganizational network ties or difficulties that an organization faces when it attempts to dissolve old relationships and form new network ties. Previous research has neglected the process of network change in favor of an emphasis on identifying beneficial content effects of networks. We emphasize the constraints on network change and propose a multilevel conceptual model relating key sources of network inertia to changes in network ties. We also discuss the implications of network inertia for the evolution of networks.


Abstract

U.S. environmental sociology has gone through a very different development path compared with its European counterpart. U.S. environmental sociology was dominant in establishing the field and setting the terms for the development and identity of this sub discipline. Whereas U.S. environmental sociology still sets the tone in terms of internal organization, structure, and interaction, arguably Northwest European environmental sociology has been more innovative in the last decade of the former millennium with respect to theoretical and conceptual contributions. Although we can still witness significant differences between the environmental sociologies of the two continents, these differences are diminishing. During the past decade, a remarkable degree of interaction, exchange, and social learning has taken place between the two academic communities, facilitated by various aspects of globalization. The question of whether we are moving to one environmental sociology should, however, also take other—and especially the emerging Asian—environmental sociologies into account.

Key Words: sociology • environment • globalization • social theory


Abstract

In constructing new ways of engaging with society and new visions of how society might be, social activists need to negotiate numerous social, political, philosophical and personal contradictions and tensions. Utilizing data from a discourse analysis conducted on web-based texts, this article focuses on three such tensions experienced by autonomous activists: autonomy versus collective, operationalization versus institutionalization and evasion of versus subjection to mainstream authorities. We examine how autonomous activists negotiate these tensions and argue that the way in which they ‘live with the tensions’ can be theorized using Lash and Urry’s concept...
of ‘aesthetic reflexivity’. This particular form of reflexivity augments cognitive and emotional reflexivity within autonomous activism, and provides further insight into how autonomous activists succeed in reconstituting their practice in ways that reaffirm their principles.

**Key Words:** aesthetic reflexivity • autonomous activism • social movements

DOI: 10.1177/0263276406062696 © 2006 Theory, Culture & Society Ltd.  

**Network**

Network is a device for organizing and conceptualizing non-linear complexity. Networks defy narrative, chronology and thus also genealogy because they entail a multiplicity of traces. Networks problematize boundaries and centrality but intensify our ability to think in terms of flows and simultaneity. As a concept, network has been highly conducive to theorizing phenomena and processes such as globalization, digital media (Internet), speed, symbiosis and complexity. This in turn enables us to rethink what constitutes the foundations of intelligence, knowledge and even life itself. One particularly useful application of network as a concept is the notion of the gift, which is often seen as the archetypical figure for understanding the nature of economics and social relationships.

**Key Words:** capital • complexity • flow • gift • network • symbiosis

doi:10.1111/j.1468-4446.2006.00092.x

**Abstract**

Critical cosmopolitanism is an emerging direction in social theory and reflects both an object of study and a distinctive methodological approach to the social world. It differs from normative political and moral accounts of cosmopolitanism as world polity or universalistic culture in its conception of cosmopolitanism as socially situated and as part of the self-constituting nature of the social world itself. It is an approach that shifts the emphasis to internal developmental processes within the social world rather than seeing globalization as the primary mechanism. This signals a post-universalistic kind of cosmopolitanism, which is not merely a condition of diversity but is articulated in cultural models of world openness through which societies undergo transformation. The cosmopolitan imagination is articulated in framing processes and cultural models by which the social world is constituted; it is therefore not reducible to concrete identities, but should be understood as a form of cultural contestation in which the logic of translation plays a central role. The cosmopolitan imagination can arise in any kind of society and at any time but it is integral to modernity, in so far as this is a condition of self-problematization, incompleteness and the awareness that certainty can never be established once and for all. As a methodologically grounded approach, critical cosmopolitan sociology has a very specific task: to discern or make sense of social transformation by identifying new or emergent social realities.
Global Networks Partnership

Abstract
What exactly has the network metaphor added to social analysis, and why has its use proliferated
at such a rapid rate in the study of global processes? Concepts of networked communication and
networked firms, network states and the purported arrival of network society have carried the
network metaphor into the heart of many debates about globalization. The typology of networks
now extends to business and trade, policy and advocacy, knowledge and the professions, together
with empire and terror, kinship and friendship, religion and migration. Where theories of
globalization once focused on systems and structures, social fields and social movements, global
network analysis threatens to replace all this with a concern for myriads of instances of networked
connectivity.

Visualization, American Journal of Sociology, volume 110 (2005), pages 1206–1241
DOI: 10.1086/421509 © 2005, The University of Chicago.

Abstract
Increased interest in longitudinal social networks and the recognition that visualization fosters
theoretical insight create a need for dynamic network visualizations, or network "movies." This
article confronts theoretical questions surrounding the temporal representations of social networks
and technical questions about how best to link network change to changes in the graphical
representation. The authors divide network movies into (1) static flip books, where node position
remains constant but edges cumulate over time, and (2) dynamic movies, where nodes move as a
function of changes in relations. Flip books are particularly useful in contexts where relations are
sparse. For more connected networks, movies are often more appropriate. Three empirical
demonstrate the advantages of different movie styles. A new software program for
creating network movies is discussed in the appendix.

Christine Hine (2005) Internet Research and the Sociology of Cyber-Social-Scientific
Knowledge, Routledge, part of the Taylor & Francis Group, Volume 21, Number 4
/ September-October, 0510.1080/01972240591007553

Abstract:
Perspectives from the sociology of scientific knowledge are deployed to explore the birth of
Internet research, focusing in particular on the development of methodological approaches. For a
researcher based in the sociology of scientific knowledge, being an Internet researcher has been a
vivid opportunity to experience at firsthand a phenomenon usually studied from the outside. The
article begins by assessing some models of the process of scientific change. Characterizing
Internet research as new has been a potent resource for enrolling researchers into the field and
positioning research responses. The development of virtual methods for doing social research illustrates the process of methodological innovation in social science and the negotiation of methodological adequacy. Methodological discussions have been enlivened by the advent of the Internet as an object of study. Internet research has arguably been a valuable reflexive opportunity for the traditional disciplines that have fed its development.


**Abstract**

A recursive analysis of network and institutional evolution is offered to account for the decentralized structure of the commercial field of the life sciences. Four alternative logics of attachment—accumulative advantage, homophily, follow-the-trend, and multiconnectivity—are tested to explain the structure and dynamics of interorganizational collaboration in biotechnology. Using multiple novel methods, the authors demonstrate how different rules for affiliation shape network evolution. Commercialization strategies pursued by early corporate entrants are supplanted by universities, research institutes, venture capital, and small firms. As organizations increase their collaborative activities and diversify their ties to others, cohesive sub networks form, characterized by multiple, independent pathways. These structural components, in turn, condition the choices and opportunities available to members of a field, thereby reinforcing an attachment logic based on differential connections to diverse partners.


**Abstract:**

We examine how social capital dimensions of networks affect the transfer of knowledge between network members. We distinguish among three common network types: intracorporate networks, strategic alliances, and industrial districts. Using a social capital framework, we identify structural, cognitive, and relational dimensions for the three network types. We then link these social capital dimensions to the conditions that facilitate knowledge transfer. In doing so, we propose a set of conditions that promote knowledge transfer for the different network types.


**Abstract**

This article addresses a gap in the extant literature on networks by assessing how interorganizational relationships evolve in a public sector network setting. The context for the research was a network of publicly funded health and human service agencies involved in service
delivery to people with serious mental illness. Longitudinal data were collected from a single community. The analysis suggests that public and nonprofit sector relationships evolve differently than private sector partnerships, providing an alternative perspective to the prevailing view in organization theory.


**Abstract**

Membership in certain intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the World Trade Organization, has long been argued to stimulate trade. Yet, evidence linking IGOs to trade is mixed. The authors argue that identifying the influence of IGOs requires attention not only to the institutions IGOs enact, but also to the network through which they enact them. This approach allows them to demonstrate that trade between two countries increases by an average of 58% with every doubling of the *strength* of IGO connection between the countries. They also contribute to debates regarding the mechanisms through which structural relationships influence economic behavior by showing that substantial trade benefits occur not only through economic IGOs, but also through IGOs that were formed for social and cultural purposes, and that connections through IGOs that are organizationally strong have more impact than those through minimalist IGOs.


**Abstract:**

The network model of organization plays a central role in recent sociological accounts of the information economy. This model is also often presented in organization and information and communication technologies (ICT) literature with an air of enthusiasm that underscores its advantages—flexibility, cooperative culture, innovativeness, and knowledge and technology intensity. Such themes are usually based on a “networking logic” that assumes the trustful cooperation of large and small production firms in a rapidly changing economic environment. We believe that both the logic and the themes based upon it are too narrow to be able to explain the complex dimensions of interorganizational networking. Using Enron as a case study, our goal in this article is to enrich the logic just described and to develop an extended model of the network enterprise. We argue that this is only possible by extending the unit of analysis beyond the production firm, to include, among others, subsidiaries, banks, investors, auditors, and government agencies. The proposed extended model allows the broadening of many of the aforementioned themes, making it possible to arrive at a realistic picture of the complexities of the network enterprise. The managerial advantages of the model are also discussed.

Abstract

Purpose – To provide an interesting approach for determining interval measures, through the analytic hierarchy process, for integration with social network analysis for knowledge mapping in organizations.

Design/methodology/approach – In order to develop improved organizational and business processes through knowledge management, a knowledge audit should be conducted to better understand the knowledge flows in the organization. An important technique to visualize these knowledge flows is the use of a knowledge map. Social network analysis can be applied to develop this knowledge map. Interval measures should be used in the social network analysis in order to determine the strength of the connections between individuals or departments in the organization. This paper applies the analytic hierarchy process to develop these interval measures, and integrates the values within the social network analysis to produce a meaningful knowledge map.

Findings – The analytic hierarchy process, when coupled with social network analysis, can be a useful technique for developing interval measures for knowledge-mapping purposes.

Research limitations/implications – The analytic hierarchy process may become tedious and arduous for use in large social network maps. More research needs to be conducted in this area for scalability.

Practical implications – As social network analysis is gaining more prominence in the knowledge management community, the analytic hierarchy process may be able to provide more valuable measures to determine the strengths of relationships between actors than simply using ordinal numbers.

Originality/value – Coupling the analytic hierarchy process with social network analysis provides a novel approach for future knowledge-mapping activities.

Keywords Social networks, Analytical hierarchy process, Auditing


Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to engage in a comprehensive review of the research on strategic alliances in the last decade.

Design/methodology/approach – After presenting a typology of diverse alliance governance forms, reviews recent analyses of alliance formation, implementation management, and performance outcomes of collaborative activities.

Findings – Strategic alliances developed and propagated as formalized interorganizational relationships. These cooperative arrangements represent new organizational formation that seeks to achieve organizational objectives better through collaboration than through competition.
Practical implications – The paper provides future research directions on partner selection, networks patterns and processes, understanding the integration in alliances through fusion, fission, and how to manage developmental dynamics.

Originality/value – Concludes with some future directions for theory construction and empirical research.

Keywords Strategic alliances, Corporate strategy, Organizational structures


Abstract:

Different subsets of social networks may explain knowledge sharing outcomes in different ways. One subset may counteract another subset, and one subset may explain one outcome but not another. We found support for these arguments in an analysis of a sample of 121 new-product development teams. Within-team and interunit networks had different effects on the outcomes of three knowledge-sharing phases: deciding whether to seek knowledge across subunits, search costs, and costs of transfers. These results suggest that research on knowledge sharing can be advanced by studying how multiple networks affect various phases of knowledge sharing.


Abstract

All sociological/anthropological research (network or otherwise) in organizations (particularly corporations) is complicated by the need to obtain consent not only from the potential respondent but from the organization itself. Whereas in ordinary research there are essentially two parties that must come to agreement – the researcher and the respondent – in the organizational research there are three. In addition, the fact of organizational hierarchy means that the employee's participation in the research entails considerably more risk than in other situations. At the same time, social network research involves special challenges due to the lack of anonymity at the questionnaire level and the sensitivity of some of the questions. This paper seeks to lay out some of the issues and to propose a set of standard guidelines for ethical research on networks in organizations. It is hoped that developing a set of standard guidelines and forms will help Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) to allow network research. Examples of proposed forms are included as appendices.

Keywords: Social networks; Ethics; Organization; IRB
Abstract:

We examine how social capital dimensions of networks affect the transfer of knowledge between network members. We distinguish among three common network types: intracorporate networks, strategic alliances, and industrial districts. Using a social capital framework, we identify structural, cognitive, and relational dimensions for the three network types. We then link these social capital dimensions to the conditions that facilitate knowledge transfer. In doing so, we propose a set of conditions that promote knowledge transfer for the different network types.

Abstract

For the past half-century, the study of organizations has been an active area within sociology. I provide an overview of the emergence of this specialty during the second half of the twentieth century, its relation to the larger field of organization studies, and the important theoretical advances associated with the adoption of an open system framework during the 1960s. Among the recent trends I describe are changes in our conceptions of organization boundaries, strategies, and controls, and the beginning of a shift from an entity-based to a process-based view of organization. Evidence of success—the number of sociologists now employed in professional schools—simultaneously raises concerns about the source of future organizational sociologists.


Abstract

Why do women have more opportunities in some employment settings? I investigate how organizational form affects gender stratification among life scientists. I propose that firms governed by networks, rather than bureaucracies, allow for greater equity. Hierarchy and rules hide gender bias, while reliance on ties outside the organization provides transparency and flexibility. I analyze the careers of 2,062 U.S. life scientists and interviews with 41 scientists. I examine employment data by gender for two patterns: early entrance into the biotechnology industry and promotion within network and hierarchical organizations. Gender does not affect when a scientist enters the biotech industry but is related to promotion. Men are more likely to attain early supervisory-level positions across organizational settings. Female scientists are nearly eight times more likely to supervise in biotech firms than in more hierarchical settings. The two organizational forms—network and hierarchy—provide different employment experiences for female scientists.


Abstract
Responding to the growing gap between the sociological ethos and the world we study, the challenge of public sociology is to engage multiple publics in multiple ways. These public sociologies should not be left out in the cold, but brought into the framework of our discipline. In this way we make public sociology a visible and legitimate enterprise, and, thereby, invigorate the discipline as a whole. Accordingly, if we map out the division of sociological labor, we discover antagonistic interdependence among four types of knowledge: professional, critical, policy, and public. In the best of all worlds the flourishing of each type of sociology is a condition for the flourishing of all, but they can just as easily assume pathological forms or become victims of exclusion and subordination. This field of power beckons us to explore the relations among the four types of sociology as they vary historically and nationally, and as they provide the template for divergent individual careers. Finally, comparing disciplines points to the umbilical chord that connects sociology to the world of publics, underlining sociology's particular investment in the defense of civil society, itself beleaguered by the encroachment of markets and states.


Abstract

This article sets out, first of all, to reconstruct a Durkheimian network theory that is derived from Durkheim’s own writings, and the sociological literature that considers their relationship to network theory. Secondly, it seeks to show how this Durkheimian network theory is compatible with, and may contribute to, contemporary network theory and fields of inquiry to which network theory has been applied, such as social movements, professions, social capital and organizations. According to this Durkheimian network theory, systemic solidarity flows from dense economic and non-economic relations in local subsystems connected through institutional relations, as are relations in the professions or in the market. If this is not the case, the social system disintegrates into a set of unconnected, or loosely connected, clusters.

Key Words: division of labor • Durkheim • network theory • social networks • systemic solidarity


Abstract

Empowerment research has generally been limited to the individual level of analysis. Efforts to study empowerment beyond the individual require conceptual frameworks suggesting attributes that define the construct and guide its measurement. This paper presents an initial attempt to describe the nomological network of empowerment at the organizational level of analysis—organizational empowerment (OE). Intraorganizational, interorganizational, and extraorganizational components of OE are described. Implications for empowerment theory and practice are discussed.

Abstract:

Support for the notion of networks is growing rapidly across Europe, especially in the public sector where faith in market and hierarchy is diminishing. However, the concept is still loosely interpreted and variably applied. This article unpacks the concept of network and goes on to suggest that a useful model for application to a 'whole systems' approach is Ken Benson's neglected framework of an 'inter-organisational network'. It urges application of the framework to specific contexts and issues.

Herminia Ibarra, Martin Kilduff, Wenpin Tsai, (2004) Zooming In and Out: Connecting Individuals and Collectivities at the Frontiers of Organizational Network Research, Organization Science Volume: 16 | Issue: 4

Abstract

The role of individual action in the enactment of structures of constraint and opportunity has proved to be particularly elusive for network researchers. We propose three frontiers for future network research that zoom back and forth between individual and collective levels of analysis. First, we consider how dilemmas concerning social capital can be reconciled. Actors striving to reap maximal network advantages may benefit or detract from the collective good; investigating these trade-offs, we argue, will advance our understanding of learning and knowledge processes in organizations. Second, we explore identity emergence and change from a social network perspective. Insights about how networks mold and signal identity are a critical foundation for future work on career dynamics and the workplace experiences of members of diverse groups. Third, we consider how individual cognitions about shifting network connections affect, and are affected by, larger social structures. As scholarly interest in status and reputational signaling grows, articulating more clearly the cognitive foundations of organizational networks becomes imperative.


Abstract:

Network analysis, an area of mathematical anthropology and sociology crucial to the linking of theory and observation, developed dramatically in recent decades. This made possible a new understanding of social dynamics as a synthesis of network theories. Concrete links can be identified between the actions of self-reflective agents, with rich information processing and decision processes deeply embedded in social worlds, and emergence or change in the self-restructuring systems they operate—including the emergence of organizations, groups,

**Abstract**

The creation of the public corporation in the 19th century drove out the partnership as the predominant form of organizational governance. Yet, within the professional services sector, partnerships have survived and prospered. Moreover, professional services firms that chose to abandon the partnership form tended to become private rather than public corporations. Drawing upon several theories, we compare the efficiency of the partnership relative to corporate forms of governance in the context of the professional services sector. We argue that the professional partnership minimizes agency costs associated with both the private and public corporation. We also argue from tournament theory and property rights theory that partnerships have superior incentive systems for professionals in particular and knowledge workers more generally. However, drawing upon structural-contingency theory, we identify limiting conditions, which affect the relative efficiency of the partnership. We argue that the corporation, especially the private corporation, will be the preferred form of governance where the limiting conditions are prevalent. Nevertheless, we also argue that under specific conditions the partnership form of governance will persist and prosper because it remains unusually suited to the management of knowledge workers.

**Key Words:** organization form • governance • professional partnership • knowledge workers


**Abstract**

In this paper, we review and analyze the emerging network paradigm in organizational research. We begin with a conventional review of recent research organized around recognized research streams. Next, we analyze this research, developing a set of dimensions along which network studies vary, including direction of causality, levels of analysis, explanatory goals, and explanatory mechanisms. We use the latter two dimensions to construct a 2-by-2 table cross-classifying studies of network consequences into four canonical types: structural social capital, social access to resources, contagion, and environmental shaping. We note the rise in popularity of studies with a greater sense of agency than was traditional in network research. © 2003 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Abstract

This study of 40 units in a large multinational corporation considers the influence of the density of networks of strong ties on the implementation of planned organizational change between organizational units and unit leaders in both a change implementation and a change recipient network. Also examined are the effects of the density of networks of strong ties within the change recipient network of units and unit leaders on the use of change. The results suggest the need for implementers of change to create strong ties with the change recipient units for successful change implementation. Both unit level and unit leader density of strong ties within the change recipient unit network were significant predictors of change use, indicating that both unit members and unit leaders may play central but independent roles in influencing the change use process. Implications for using social network analysis in planned organizational change are discussed.

Keywords: social networks; planned

Peter Sheridan Dodds, Duncan J. Watts, and Charles F. Sabel, Information exchange and the robustness of organizational networks, Science 2003, vol. 100 | no. 21 | 12516-12521

Abstract

The dynamics of information exchange is an important but understudied aspect of collective communication, coordination, and problem solving in a wide range of distributed systems, both physical (e.g., the Internet) and social (e.g., business firms). In this paper, we introduce a model of organizational networks according to which links are added incrementally to a hierarchical backbone and test the resulting networks under variable conditions of information exchange. Our main result is the identification of a class of multiscale networks that reduce, over a wide range of environments, the likelihood that individual nodes will suffer congestion-related failure and that the network as a whole will disintegrate when failures do occur. We call this dual robustness property of multiscale networks "ultrarobustness." Furthermore, we find that multiscale networks attain most of their robustness with surprisingly few link additions, suggesting that ultrarobust organizational networks can be generated in an efficient and scalable manner. Our results are directly relevant to the relief of congestion in communication networks and also more broadly to activities, like distributed problem solving, that require individuals to exchange information in an unpredictable manner.


Abstract

Forced migration - including refugee flows, asylum seekers, internal displacement and development-induced displacement - has increased considerably in volume and political significance since the end of the Cold War. It has become an integral part of North-South relationships and is closely linked to current processes of global social transformation. This makes it as important for sociologists to develop empirical research and analysis on forced migration as it
is to include it in their theoretical understandings of contemporary society. The study of forced migration is linked to research on economic migration, but has its own specific research topics, methodological problems and conceptual issues. Forced migration needs to be analysed as a social process in which human agency and social networks play a major part. It gives rise to fears of loss of state control, especially in the context of recent concerns about migration and security. In this context, it is essential to question earlier sociological approaches, which have been based on the principle of relatively autonomous national societies. The sociology of forced migration must be a transnational and interdisciplinary undertaking.


Abstract

Over the past decade, a new structuralism has begun to emerge in organizational theory. This exciting new research program draws inspiration from the social structural tradition in sociology, but extends that tradition by more broadly conceptualizing social structure as comprised of broader cultural rules and meaning systems as well as material resources—revealing the subtleties of both overt and covert power. Building on the insights of Bourdieu and related work in social theory and cultural sociology, new structuralist empirical research focuses on concrete manifestations of culture in everyday practice and has pioneered the measurement of cultural aspects of social structure using a variety of relational methods. In this essay, we revisit mid-century social structural approaches to organizations, review the development of organization theory as a management subfield that increasingly focused on instrumental exchange, highlight key aspects of the new structuralism in organizational theory, and discuss promising new research directions.

Key Words: Bourdieu • culture • institutional theory • new structuralism • social structure


Abstract

Social network analysis (SNA) is not a formal theory in sociology but rather a strategy for investigating social structures. As it is an idea that can be applied in many fields, we study, in particular, its influence in the information sciences. Information scientists study publication, citation and co-citation networks, collaboration structures and other forms of social interaction networks. Moreover, the Internet represents a social network of an unprecedented scale. In all these studies social network analysis can successfully be applied. SNA is further related to recent theories concerning the free market economy, geography and transport networks. The growth of SNA is documented and a co-author network of SNA is drawn. Centrality measures of the SNA network are calculated.

Abstract:

Inter-organizational collaboration has been linked to a range of important outcomes for collaborating organizations. The strategy literature emphasizes the way in which collaboration between organizations results in the sharing of critical resources and facilitates knowledge transfer. The learning literature argues that collaboration not only transfers existing knowledge among organizations, but also facilitates the creation of new knowledge and produce synergistic solutions. Finally, research on networks and interorganizational politics suggests that collaboration can help organizations achieve a more central and influential position in relation to other organizations. While these effects have been identified and discussed at some length, little attention has been paid to the relationship between them and the nature of the collaborations that produce them. In this paper, we present the results of a qualitative study that examines the relationship between the effects of interorganizational collaboration and the nature of the collaborations that produce them. Based on our study of the collaborative activities of a small, nongovernmental organization (NGO) in Palestine over a four-year period, we argue that two dimensions of collaboration – embeddedness and involvement – determine the potential of collaboration to produce one or more of these effects.


Abstract

Social scientists have argued that concentration of ownership among media companies reduces diversity in media content, and a similar rationale was used to justify regulations that prohibited television net- works from owning the series they broadcast. In this article, we analyze the rhetorical claims used by proponents and opponents of ownership regulation during an era when the FCC was phasing out its Financial interest and Syndication Rules and assess the impact of deregulation on broadcast networks' reliance upon outside program suppliers for new prime-time series.

Judith H. Heerwagen, Kevin Kampschroer, Kevin M. Powell, Vivian Loftness (2003) Collaborative knowledge work environments, Building Research & Information, Publisher: Routledge, part of the Taylor & Francis Group Issue: Volume 32, Number 6 / November-December 2004 Pages: 510 - 528 DOI: 10.1080/09613210412331313025

Abstract:

How can the physical design of the workplace enhance collaborations without compromising an individual's productivity? The body of research on the links between physical space and
collaboration in knowledge work settings is reviewed. Collaboration is viewed as a system of
behaviours that includes both social and solitary work. The social aspects of collaboration are
discussed in terms of three dimensions: awareness, brief interaction and collaboration (working
together). Current knowledge on the links between space and the social as well as individual
aspects of collaborative work is reviewed. The central conflict of collaboration is considered: how
to design effectively to provide a balance between the need to interact and the need to work
effectively by oneself. The body of literature shows that features and attributes of space can be
manipulated to increase awareness, interaction and collaboration. However, doing so frequently
has negative impacts on individual work as a result of increases in noise distractions and
interruptions to on-going work. The effects are most harmful for individual tasks requiring
complex and focused mental work. The negative effects are compounded by a workplace that
increasingly suffers from cognitive overload brought on by time stress, increased workload and
multitasking.

Organizations Creativity and Innovation Management, Volume 13 Page 30 - March 2004
doi:10.1111/j.1467-8691.2004.00291.x, Volume 13 Issue 1

Abstract

Project organizations operate in environments where innovation depends significantly on the
ability to integrate different but interrelated knowledge bases. These knowledge bases include
individuals who are located outside organizational boundaries and have no formal relationship
with the organization, but are connected socially to project workers. Organizational researchers
have generally recognized the importance of external social relations for knowledge search.
However there is some debate on the question of whether social networks are more useful for
innovation if they provide social cohesion through close interaction or access to diverse and novel
sources of knowledge through more distant relationships. This study explores the configuration of
project workers' external social networks and their effects on innovative behaviour, using data on
the network ties of workers in 17 project organizations in the new-media industry. The findings
are more consistent with the social embeddedness view of close social relations providing an
important source of continuity in markets where intermittent projects are common. Project
workers embedded in cohesive work-related social structures outside the organization tend to be
more innovative in their project work than workers lacking such networks.

Tobias Mueller-Prothmann Ina Finke (2004) SELaKT - Social Network Analysis as a
Method for Expert Localisation and Sustainable Knowledge Transfer, Journal of Universal

Abstract:

In many organizations, conservation of specialized expertise is picked out as a central theme only
after experienced members have already left. The paper presents the SELaKT method, a method
for Sustainable Expert Localization and Knowledge transfer based on social network analysis
(SNA). It has been developed during a project co-operation between the Department of
Information Science at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Free University
Berlin, and the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Systems and Design Technology IPK, Berlin. The SELaKT method uses recent insights into network analysis and pragmatically adapts SNA to suit organizational practice. Thus it provides a strategic tool to localize experts, to identify knowledge communities and to analyze the structure of knowledge flows within and between organizations. The SELaKT method shows its advances and increasing relevance for practical use by integration of specific organizational conditions and requirements into the process of analysis.

**Keywords:** applied research, collaboration, communities of practice, distributed knowledge management, expert localisation, implementation, knowledge networks, knowledge sharing, social network analysis, strategies, and sustainability
Abstract

Understanding the overall network structure of organizations can help managers to support change. This article describes three different network theories of change, exploring the underlying assumptions and implications of each model. First, the E-I model predicts that cross-departmental friendship ties will help generate positive response to change in organizations by fostering trust and shared identity. The viscosity model predicts that introducing controversial (not clearly good or bad) change into the periphery of an organization and carefully regulating the interaction of innovators and nonadopters provides the best chance that it will diffuse successfully. Finally, the structural leverage theory presents a mathematical model that supports broad diffusion of clearly superior change, informing as many people as possible about the change.

Key Words: social networks • change • diffusion • innovation


Abstract

Dynamic network analysis (DNA) varies from traditional social network analysis in that it can handle large dynamic multi-mode, multi-link networks with varying levels of uncertainty. DNA, like quantum mechanics, would be a theory in which relations are probabilistic, the measurement of a node changes its properties, and movement in one part of the system propagates through the system, and so on. However, unlike quantum mechanics, the nodes in the DNA, the atoms, can learn. An approach to DNA is described that builds DNA theory through the combined use of multi-agent modeling, machine learning, and meta-matrix approach to network representation. A set of candidate metric for describing the DNA are defined. Then, a model built using this approach is presented. Results concerning the evolution and destabilization of networks are described.


Abstract

This paper examines the degree of stability in the structure of the corporate elite network in the US during the 1980s and 1990s. Several studies have documented that board-to-board ties serve as a
mechanism for the diffusion of corporate practices, strategies, and structures; thus, the overall structure of the network can shape the nature and rate of aggregate corporate change. But upheavals in the nature of corporate governance and nearly complete turnover in the firms and directors at the core of the network since 1980 prompt a reassessment of the network’s topography. We find that the aggregate connectivity of the network is remarkably stable and appears to be an intrinsic property of the interlock network, resilient to major changes in corporate governance. After a brief review of elite studies in the US, we take advantage of the recent advances in the theoretical and methodological tools for analyzing network structures to examine the network properties of the directors and companies in 1982, 1990, and 1999. We use concepts from small world analysis to explain our finding that the structure of the corporate elite is resilient to macro and micro changes affecting corporate governance.


Abstract

Research in organizational learning has demonstrated processes and occasionally performance implications of acquisition of declarative (know-what) and procedural (know-how) knowledge. However, considerably less attention has been paid to learned characteristics of relationships that affect the decision to seek information from other people. Based on a review of the social network, information processing, and organizational learning literatures, along with the results of a previous qualitative study, we propose a formal model of information seeking in which the probability of seeking information from another person is a function of (1) knowing what that person knows; (2) valuing what that person knows; (3) being able to gain timely access to that person’s thinking; and (4) perceiving that seeking information from that person would not be too costly. We also hypothesize that the knowing, access, and cost variables mediate the relationship between physical proximity and information seeking. The model is tested using two separate research sites to provide replication. The results indicate strong support for the model and the mediation hypothesis (with the exception of the cost variable). Implications are drawn for the study of both transactive memory and organizational learning, as well as for management practice. (Information; Social Networks; Organizational Learning; Transactive Knowledge)

Source: http://connectedness.blogspot.com/2005/05/annotated-bibliography-of-social.html

Abstract

This study examines the role of professional associations in a changing, highly institutionalized organizational field and suggests that they play a significant role in legitimating change. A model of institutional change is outlined, of which a key stage is "theorization," the process whereby organizational failings are conceptualized and linked to potential solutions. Regulatory agencies, such as professional associations, play an important role in theorizing change, endorsing local innovations and shaping their diffusion.


Abstract

Social scientists are increasingly interested in innovative organizational forms made possible with new media, known as epistemic communities, knowledge networks, or communities of practice, depending on the discipline. Some organizational forms can be difficult to study qualitatively because human, social, cultural, or symbolic capital is transmitted over significant distances with technologies that do not carry the full range of human expression that an ethnographer or participant observer hopes to experience. Whereas qualitative methods render rich description of human interaction, they can be unwieldy for studying complex formal and informal organizations that operate over great distances and through new media. Whereas social network analysis renders an overarching sketch of interaction, it will fail to capture detail on incommensurate yet meaningful relationships. Using social network analysis to justify case selection for ethnography, I propose 'network ethnography' as a synergistic research design for the study of the organizational forms built around new media.


Abstract

The world we live in is a complex socio-technical system. Although social, organizational and policy analysts have long recognized that groups, organizations, institutions and the societies in which they are embedded are complex systems; it is only recently that we have had the tools for systematically thinking about, representing, modeling and analyzing these systems. These tools include multi-agent computer models and the body of statistical tools and measures in social
networks. This paper uses social network analysis and multi-agent models to discuss how to destabilize networks. In addition, we illustrate the potential difficulty in destabilizing networks that are large, distributed, and composed of individuals linked on a number of socio-demographic dimensions. The specific results herein are generated, and our ability to think through such systems is enhanced, by using a multi-agent network approach to complex systems. Such an illustration is particularly salient in light of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.


Abstract

In this article, I analyze survey data from more than 1,000 financial services employees to understand how gender inequality manifests itself in employees' informal networks. I found that even when Black and white women had jobs in which they controlled organizational resources and had ties to powerful employees, they received less work-related help from their network members than did white men. Drawing on status characteristics theory, I explain that network members were less likely to invest in women than in white men because of cultural beliefs that rank women below that of white men. While past research has documented how employers use gender to rank workers and distribute rewards unequally, my research indicates that workers use gender to categorize and rank their network members as well.


Abstract

Managers invariably use their personal contacts when they need to, say, meet an impossible deadline or learn the truth about a new boss. Increasingly, it's through these informal networks--not just through traditional organizational hierarchies--that information is found and work gets done. But to many senior executives, informal networks are unobservable and ungovernable--and, therefore, not amenable to the tools of management. As a result, executives tend to work around informal networks or, worse, try to ignore them. When they do acknowledge the networks' existence, executives fall back on intuition--scarcely a dependable tool--to guide them in nurturing this social capital. It doesn't have to be that way. It is entirely possible to develop and manage informal networks systematically, say management experts Cross and Prusak. Specifically, senior executives need to focus their attention on four key role-players in informal networks: Central connectors link most employees in an informal network with one another; they provide the critical information or expertise that the entire network draws on to get work done. Boundary spanners connect an informal network with other parts of the company or with similar networks in other organizations. Information brokers link different subgroups in an informal network; if they didn't, the network would splinter into smaller, less effective segments. And finally, there are peripheral specialists, who anyone in an informal network can turn to for specialized expertise but who work
apart from most people in the network. The authors describe the four roles in detail, discuss the use of a well-established tool called social network analysis for determining who these role-players are in the network, and suggest ways that executives can transform ineffective informal networks into productive ones. Source: http://connectedness.blogspot.com/2005/05/annotated-bibliography-of-social.html


Abstract

Over the past decade, significant restructuring efforts have resulted in organizations with fewer hierarchical levels and more permeable internal and external boundaries. A byproduct of these restructuring efforts is that coordination and work increasingly occur through informal networks of relationships rather than through channels tightly prescribed by formal reporting structures or detailed work processes. For example, informal networks cutting across core work processes or holding together new product development initiatives are not found on formal organizational charts. However, these networks often promote organizational flexibility, innovation, and efficiency as well as quality of products or services by virtue of effectively pooling unique expertise. Supporting collaboration and work in these informal networks is increasingly important for organizations competing on knowledge and an ability to innovate and adapt. Source: http://connectedness.blogspot.com/2005/05/annotated-bibliography-of-social.html


Abstract

Network organizations have become commonplace in industrialized countries, for improving productivity and competitive strength. Their success depends to a large extent on the sharing of knowledge among participating organizations. However, due to the relative independence of component firms, successful knowledge management in network organizations presents significant challenges. In this paper, relevant issues and potential solutions are discussed.

Abstract

The expatriate social network is an under-emphasized area in expatriate literature. This article contributes to the expatriate adjustment literature by clarifying the relationships among the expatriate personal network, psychological well-being and performance with a testable conceptual model. After reviewing the expatriate adjustment literature and relevant sociology and psychology literature, a conceptual model is proposed that indicates the impact of the expatriate social network on expatriate psychological well-being. It further predicts that the expatriate social network will not only directly affect, but also interact with, other cultural, organizational and individual factors to influence expatriate psychological well-being. This article also highlights the importance of psychological well-being as an indicator of expatriate adjustment. It proposes that psychological well-being has a strong predicting effect on expatriate performance and will mediate the effects of other factors on expatriate performance. Propositions are developed to guide future empirical studies.

Key Words: expatriate performance • expatriate psychological well-being • expatriate social network


Abstract:

Debates have again resurfaced in Canada over the hiring of foreign academics to work in Canadian universities. Many are predicting a shortage of qualified Canadian graduates able to cope with the expected influx of echo generation students. In the face of such a crisis, some are calling for the elimination of the Canadians First policy now in place to limit the number of foreign academics taking jobs in Canada. This situation is not new. This article looks past traditional discussions of the Canadianization movement of the 1960s and 1970s, which tend to focus on epistemological issues, and examines it as a social movement. From this perspective, Canadian sociologists and anthropologists contributed significantly to the movement to Canadianization sociology and anthropology in Canada, as well as other disciplines. The hope here is that a proper historical understanding of the Canadianization movement, and its successes, will help us in evaluating possible solutions to the coming crisis.

Abstract

The importance of interorganizational networks in supporting or hindering the achievement of organizational objectives is now widely acknowledged. Network research is directed at understanding network processes and structures, and their impact upon performance. A key process is learning. The concepts of individual, group and organizational learning are long established. This article argues that learning might also usefully be regarded as occurring at a fourth system level, the interorganizational network. The concept of network learning - learning by a group of organizations as a group - is presented, and differentiated from other types of learning, notably interorganizational learning (learning in interorganizational contexts). Four cases of network learning are identified and analyzed to provide insights into network learning processes and outcomes. It is proposed that 'network learning episode' offers a suitable unit of analysis for the empirical research needed to develop our understanding of this potentially important concept.

Key Words: interorganizational learning j learning episode j network learning

Abstract

This paper explores how the social relationships employees have with peers and managers are associated with perceptions of organizational justice. These relationships are theoretically modelled as the conduits for social comparison, social cues, and social identification, which are sources of sense making about fairness “in the eyes of the beholder.” It is argued that perceptions of procedural and interactional justice are affected by this type of social information processing because: (1) uncertainty exists about organizational procedures; (2) norms of interpersonal treatment vary between organizational cultures; and (3) interpersonal relationships symbolize membership in the organization. A structural equations model of data from workers in a telecommunications company showed that an employee's perceptions of both procedural and interactional fairness were significantly associated with the interactional fairness perceptions of a peer. In addition, employees' social capital, conceived as the number of relationships with managers, was positively associated with perceptions of interactional fairness. In the structural model, both procedural and interactional justice were themselves significant predictors of satisfaction with managerial maintenance of the employment relationship. The discussion highlights the key role which the fairness of interpersonal treatment appears to play in the formation of justice judgements. Copyright © 2001 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.


Abstract

How does the Internet affect social capital? Do the communication possibilities of the Internet increase, decrease, or supplement interpersonal contact, participation, and community commitment? This evidence comes from a 1998 survey of 39,211 visitors to the National Geographic Society Web site, one of the first large-scale Web surveys. The authors find that people's interaction online supplements their face-to-face and telephone communication without increasing or decreasing it. However, heavy Internet use is associated with increased participation in voluntary organizations and politics. Further support for this effect is the positive association between offline and online participation in voluntary organizations and politics. However, the effects of the Internet are not only positive: The heaviest users of the Internet are the least committed to online community. Taken together, this evidence suggests that the Internet is becoming normalized as it is incorporated into the routine practices of everyday life.

Abstract

Although cooperative, interorganizational networks have become a common mechanism for delivery of public services, evaluating their effectiveness is extremely complex and has generally been neglected. To help resolve this problem, we discuss the evaluation of networks of community-based, mostly publicly funded health, human service, and public welfare organizations. Consistent with pressures to perform effectively from a broad range of key stakeholders, we argue that networks must be evaluated at three levels of analysis: community, network, and organization/participant levels. While the three levels are related, each has its own set of effectiveness criteria that must be considered. The article offers a general discussion of network effectiveness, followed by arguments explaining effectiveness criteria and stakeholders at each level of analysis. Finally, the article examines how effectiveness at one level of network analysis may or may not match effectiveness criteria at another level and the extent to which integration across levels may be possible.


Abstract

This study examines how external network ties determine the board’s ability to contribute to the strategic decision making process. While the simple number of director appointments to other boards does not affect board monitoring or advice-giving on strategy, appointments that can provide directors with relevant strategic knowledge and perspective do predict such involvement. In effect, the strategic context of network ties, not simply the number of ties, is an important influence on corporate governance.


Abstract

The role that causality can play in social network analysis is unclear. The author provides a broad characterization of social network analysis before considering the nature of causality. He distinguishes four types of causality: system causality, statistical causality, mechanism causality, and algorithmic causality. Their potential places in network analysis are discussed. Understanding generative mechanisms—be they system, mechanism, or algorithmic—seems the most promising way to proceed. The role of statistical causality is a source of potential data analytic tools that can be mobilized within analyses conducted in the spirit of the other three types of causality.

Abstract

This paper focuses on the utilization of guanxi, which is an important cultural and social element in China, and the impact of guanxi on firm performance. Although guanxi is embedded in every aspect of Chinese social life, companies demonstrate different needs and capacity for guanxi cultivation. Chinese firms develop guanxi as a strategic mechanism to overcome competitive and resource disadvantages by cooperating and exchanging favors with competitive forces and government authorities. We develop an integrative framework theorizing guanxi utilization according to institutional, strategic, and organizational factors, and we explore the impact of guanxi on firm performance, primarily sales growth and net profit growth. Our findings, based on a survey of 128 firms in central China, provide strong support that institutional, strategic, and organizational factors are critical determinants of guanxi with competitive forces. However, only institutional and strategic factors are significant for guanxi utilization with government authorities. In general, guanxi leads to higher firm performance, but is limited to increased sales growth, and has little impact on profit growth. Guanxi benefits market expansion and competitive positioning of firms, but does not enhance internal operations. Copyright © 2001 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.


Abstract

To study decay in attachment to an organization, I analyse data on women who obtained an MBA from the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business (GSB). I measure attachment in terms of network embedding: an alumna is attached to the GSB to the extent that people close to her graduated from the GSB. Behavioral data corroborate the network data in that alumnae measured to be more attached are more likely to have joined an alumni club and made a financial contribution to the school. The hypothesis is that alumnae attachment will decay over time, more slowly when the school is deeply embedded in an alumna's network, more quickly when disruptive events compete for the alumna's time and energy. As expected, attachment declines across the years after graduation (linearly for the first 20 years to about half its initial level), and decay is inhibited when connections with GSB graduates are embedded in stable relations of family, work, or long-term friendship. Decay is remarkably robust to events after graduation (which account for only 2 per cent of explained variance in attachment). In other words, an alumna's attachment today was largely determined while she was in school. The results should be of practical value to people who design programmes to build personal attachment to organizations, and of theoretical interest to scholars who study such connections. Copyright © 2001 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Abstract

Recently, viewpoint resolution methods which make conflicts productive have gained popularity in requirements engineering for organizational information systems. However, when extending such methods beyond organizational boundaries to social networks, sociological research indicates that a delicate balance of trust in individuals, confidence in the network as a whole, and watchful distrust becomes a key success factor. We capture these relationships in the so-called TCD (Trust-Confidence- Distrust) approach and demonstrate how this approach can be supported by a dynamic requirements engineering environment that combines the structural analysis of strategic dependencies and rationales, with the interaction between planning, tracing, and communicative action. An example drawn from an ongoing case study in entrepreneurship networks illustrates our approach.


Abstract

In this paper, we report the result of a research project investigating social aspects of knowledge sharing and development. Prior research in a consulting firm revealed that respondents recognized five kinds of informational benefits when consulting others: solutions, meta-knowledge, problem reformulation, validation and legitimation. We employed these dimensions in a systematic network analysis of a different sample of people (human resource managers in a large conglomerate), using each of the five benefits as kinds of social relations. Two general research questions guided the analysis. First, how are these relations related to each other (multiplexity)? Do individuals obtain all of the benefits from the same individuals, or do they create balanced portfolios of complementary contacts that provide different benefits? Second, what properties and shapes do the networks induced by these relations form (structure)? What is the basis for who is tied to whom on each relation? The fundamental result emerging from both research questions is that the five relations seem to form a unidimensional scale such that a contact who provides any given benefit is also very likely to provide all the benefits that are lower on the scale. Position on this scale seems to index underlying dimensions of social solidarity rather than individual attributes such as status. Consequently, relations at the end of the scale (e.g. legitimation) were more homophilous and proved to be strongly diagnostic of subgroup boundaries, a fact which could be quite useful in consulting or other applied contexts. This research contributes to the literature on knowledge management by revealing diverse ways that consulting others facilitates knowledge creation and utilization. The research also contributes to social network analysis by examining meanings and relationships among social relations, an area that is understudied. We found that the five benefits, treated as social relations, formed an entailment structure consistent with a Guttman scale. We also found that relations lower in the scale flowed smoothly across historical organizational boundaries whereas relations higher in the scale did not. © 2001 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved. Keywords: Problem reformulation; Guttman scale; Advice network

Source: http://connectedness.blogspot.com/2005/05/annotated-bibliography-of-social.html

Abstract:

This article aims at proposing some elements for a grounded theory of the network society. The network society is the social structure characteristic of the Information Age, as tentatively identified by empirical, cross-cultural investigation. It permeates most societies in the world, in various cultural and institutional manifestations, as the industrial society characterized the social structure of both capitalism and statism for most of the twentieth century. Social structures are organized around relationships of production/consumption, power, and experience, whose spatio-temporal configurations constitute cultures. They are enacted, reproduced, and ultimately transformed by social actors, rooted in the social structure, yet freely engaging in conflictive social practices, with unpredictable outcomes. A fundamental feature of social structure in the Information Age is its reliance on networks as the key feature of social morphology. While networks are old forms of social organization, they are now empowered by new information/communication technologies, so that they become able to cope at the same time with flexible decentralization, and with focused decision-making. The article examines the specific interaction between network morphology and relationships of production/consumption, power, experience, and culture, in the historical making of the emerging social structure at the turn of the Millennium.


Abstract:

Recently, it has been suggested that we are witnessing the emergence of post-bureaucratic forms of organization, including the 'network' organization. The emergence of such new forms is seen to be closely tied to developments in the provision of computer-based technologies. In this paper, assumed links between new ways of organizing and new technologies are critically assessed, through an analysis of the empirical and theoretical literature. This analysis reveals a more complex picture than is usually presented and highlights weaknesses in some of the underlying conceptualization. In particular, it is not clear that new technologies are either able to support the new ways of working envisaged or that they herald a transformation in working practices. In conclusion, it is argued that insightful and useful research questions are waiting to be addressed by occupational psychologists who adopt a more critical and analytical perspective.

Abstract:

This article seeks to develop a manifesto for a sociology concerned with the diverse mobilities of peoples, objects, images, information, and wastes; and of the complex interdependencies between, and social consequences of, such diverse motilities. A number of key concepts relevant for such sociology are elaborated: 'gamekeeping', networks, fluids, scapes, flows, complexity and iteration. The article concludes by suggesting that a 'global civil society' might constitute the social base of sociology of motilities as we move into the twenty-first century.


Abstract

Discusses the growth of inter-firm logistics networks. Inter-firm network denotes a complex arrangement of reciprocal, cooperative rather than competitive, relationships between legally independent but economically interdependent firms. Asserts that the organization of the inter-firm logistics network is influenced by the organization of the network itself. Analyses the respective requirements of the inter-organizational logistics system. Focuses on the question of which specific logistics-related capabilities firms operating in production networks have to develop depending on the respective network type. Presents a qualitative study of a production network of a German car manufacturer to identify organizational capabilities and describe possible systemic development.


Abstract

A key impact of organizational systems and new information technologies is that they enable new organizational form—the structural features or patterns of relationships and information flows of an organization. Consequently, research on organization systems can benefit from methods that are explicitly directed toward describing and measuring organizational forms and structures. This article proposes social network analysis as a highly appropriate and useful method for framing and describing the effects of organizational systems on organizational forms and structures. It discusses the concept of representing organizations as social structures and how network analysis is an appropriate method given that representation. The article draws several implications of examining the impact of organizational systems from a network view, and reviews three examples of using network analysis to examine the impact of information technology.
Abstract

A significant yet often overlooked component of people’s information environments is composed of the relationships that they use to acquire information and knowledge. Social network analysis (SNA) allows managers to visualize and understand the myriad of relationships that can either facilitate or impede knowledge creation and transfer. In research conducted by the IBM Institute for Knowledge-Based Organizations, we discovered four different relationship dimensions which are important for effective learning. By analyzing and applying these dimensions to important groups of people within an organization, we can improve knowledge creation and sharing.

Source: http://connectedness.blogspot.com/2005/05/annotated-bibliography-of-social.html