

Research Group "Inter-firm Networks"

FOCUS OF RESEARCH

Inter-firm networks are a traditional and yet modern organisational form. In practice they appear as strategic alliances, regional and global networks, joint ventures, value-adding partnerships, and consortia. The Research Group aims at relating theoretical and empirical research on inter-firm networks. The focus of *theoretical research* is to develop a theory of inter-firm networking which is based upon the structuration theory of Anthony Giddens and which informs management practice as much as empirical research. *Empirical research* is oriented on the genesis and management of inter-firm networks, aiming to study their importance for economic performance and technological development.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Recent research activities focus on building a managerial concept of "reflexive network development", which relates the strategic conduct of firms in networks to the specific conditions of organisational fields, such as regions and industries. Special attention is paid to the impact of historical conditions on ongoing processes, for example on the development of organisational and technological paths. At the moment, this concept is being elaborated for the fields of the media industry and optical technologies.

MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP

Carolin Auschra, M.Sc. (FU)	Dr. Uli Meyer (associated)
Dr. Olivier Berthod (FU)	Prof. Dr. Guido Möllering (associated)
Dr. Timo Braun (associated)	Prof. Dr. Gordon Müller-Seitz (associated)
Prof. Dr. Leonhard Dobusch (FU)	Dipl.-Soz. Manuel Nicklich (FU)
Prof. Dr. Stephan Duschek (associated)	Dr. Thomas Schmidt (FU)
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Michael Grothe-Hammer, M.A. (FU)	Prof. Dr. Elke Schüßler (associated)
Prof. Dr. Markus Helfen (FU)	Ass. Prof. Dr. Miriam Wilhelm (associated)
Dr. Knut Lange (associated)	Prof. Dr. Carsten Wirth (associated)
Dr. Frank Lerch (associated)	Prof. Dr. Rainer Zeichhardt (associated)
Prof. Dr. Stephan Manning (associated)	

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS SINCE 2013 (others, see website)

P41: Research Unit "Organized Creativity – Practices for Inducing and Coping with Uncertainty"

The aim of this research unit is to examine different dimensions of uncertainty in several practice areas and investigate what role they play in creative processes in different contexts and over time. Therefore four different projects will be conducted in which the dynamics in both the music and pharma industries will be compared. The focus of all these projects will thereby be the creative process both in organizations and in interorganizational networks. For further information: <http://www.wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/forschung/organized-creativity/>

Commissioned by: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Bonn (FOR 2161)

Period: 06/2016 - 05/2019

Award Holder: Prof. Jörg Sydow in cooperation with Profs. Jana Costas (Viadrina), Leonhard Dobusch (Innsbruck), Gernot Grabher (HCU Hamburg), Oliver Ibert (FU/IRS Erkner), Gregory Jackson (FU), Sigrid Quack (Duisburg-Essen) and Elke Schüßler (Linz)

P.40: "Service Networks in the Aviation Industry"

The German aviation industry is in the headlines: Continued and repeated industrial disputes, security gaps and low cost carriers. At the same time, business research has revealed a considerable organizational fragmentation of Human Resource Management (HRM) within service production networks. Against this background, our research project examines the service networks in the German aviation industry by focusing on inter-organizational HRM practices and labor relations. Research questions include the following: How does management enact and shape the interorganizational dimension of work in networked value-creation? How do networked firms sustain the consistency of HR practices within the tension of collaboration and competition? What are the consequences for labor relations? With the aim of examining these questions empirically, the project deploys a qualitative approach to network research, in which data collection and analysis starts with the core firms of the service networks and then continues to include the typical business-to-business and management-labor relationships, to include the typical business-to-business and management-labor relationships. The German aviation industry is comprised of airport authorities, airlines, and various ground handling services from security to aircraft maintenance. The research basically aims at delivering insights into

the management of service networks by examining whether and how the various configurations of interorganizational value creation allow or constrain an interorganizational dimension of various HRM functions.

Commissioned by: Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (HBS), Düsseldorf

Period: 01/2015 bis 12/2016

Award Holders: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow, Prof. Dr. Markus Helfen (FU)

Researcher: PD Dr. Markus Helfen (FU)

Research Partner: Prof. Dr. Carsten Wirth (Hochschule Darmstadt)

P.39: Building the Technology Platform "Smart Transfer"

The technology platform "Smart Transfer" aims at the development and commercialization of products based on piezoelectric ceramics. Together with the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft (IKTS, IAP, IWU) and German SME's, the many ways of applying these materials as well as their high degree of technological maturity are to be turned into commercial opportunities. The research focuses on answering the following questions: 1) How ought conceptualize interorganizational capabilities be conceptualized and operationalized? 2) How can the emergence of interorganizational capabilities be systematically promoted?

Commissioned by: Federal Ministry of Education and Research (funding program „Zwanzig20 – Partnerschaft für Innovation“)

Period: 3/2014 – (expected) 12/2016

Award Holder: Prof. Jörg Sydow, Dr. Andreas Schönecker (Fraunhofer IKTS), in cooperation with Prof. Georg Schreyögg (FU)

Researchers: Dr. Waldemar Kremser, Claudia Walther

P.38: "Entrepreneurial Network University" (EXIST IV – Start-up support program)

With the concept "Entrepreneurial Network University", the Freie Universität and the Charité will jointly strengthen the start-up support as well as the teaching on entrepreneurship issues within the next 5 years. Prof. Dr. Sydow and Dr. Thomas Schmidt assume responsibility for the accompanying research and in particular coordinate the development and implementation of the networking concept.

Commissioned by: Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

Period: 4/2013 - 4/2018

Award Holder: Prof. Jörg Sydow

Researchers: Dr. Thomas Schmidt

P.37: "From HRO to HRN? Coordinating Organizations in the Face of Emergencies"

Unexpected emergencies like disease outbreaks or relief operations following a plane crash kindle in a renewed interest in how individuals, organizations and societies actually face such crises. For management and organizational researchers, this raises a crucial question: how can organizations effectively face challenges they have not been prepared for? In business research, studies on high reliability organizations (HRO) feature prominently and focus upon how organizations deal with crisis situations. This project builds on this ground and advances research on HRO in two ways. First, HRO studies have so far had a focus on single organizations. However, as large-scale emergencies illustrate, collaboration among HROs is frequently a vital requisite. Hence our first objective is: to explore the range of possible constellations of HROs in the face of significant emergencies towards the formation and coordination of High Reliability Networks (HRNs). The focus here is on forms of formal governance, including different forms of network governance. The second objective is to develop a practice-based framework informed by structuration theory that would take into account the peculiarities and contextualities of HROs/HRNs. Focusing in particular upon the actual coordinative practices in which actors engage across organizations, we aim at substantiating research on network genesis and evolution in settings with extreme uncertainties. In the last year of the project we will compare the implementation of the German and US incident control systems. In the final phase of the project we will compare the implementation of the DV 100 in Düsseldorf with the implementation of the ICS in the Office of Emergency Management in New York City.

Commissioned by: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

Period: 10/2013 - 9/2017

Award Holder: Prof. Jörg Sydow

Researchers: Dr. Olivier Berthod, Michael Grothe-Hammer, in cooperation with Prof. Gordon Müller-Seitz (TU Kaiserslautern)

PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

A. Books and Special Issues

- A.12. Bakker, R./DeFillippi, R.J./Schwab, A./Sydow, J. (2016) (Eds.): Temporary organizing. Special Issue der Zeitschrift "Organization Studies" 37 (12). Sage, London (in print).
- A.11. Sydow, J./Schüßler, E./Müller-Seitz, G. (2016): Managing interorganizational relations – Debates and cases. Palgrave-Macmillan, London.
- A.10. Lundin, R./Andvesson, N./Brady, T./Eksted, E./Midler, C./Sydow, J. (2015): Managing and working in project society – Institutional challenges of temporary organizations. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

- A.09. Mangematin, V./Sapsed, J./Schüßler, E. (2014): Disassembly and reassembly: An introduction to the Special Issue on digital technology and creative industries. In: Technological Forecasting and Social Change 83, 1-9.
- A.08. Schüßler, E./Grabher, G./Müller-Seitz, G. (2015): Field-configuring events: Arenas for innovation and learning? In: Industry & Innovation 22(3), 165-172.
- A.07. Fichter, M./Sydow, J. (2013) (Eds.): Temporary organization and workers' representation. Special Issue of "Industrielle Beziehungen - The German Journal of Industrial Relations" 20 (2). Hampp, München und Mering.
- A.06. Sydow, J./Schreyögg, G. (2013) (Eds.): Self-reinforcing processes in and among organizations. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- A.05. Schreyögg, G./Sydow, J. (2010) (Eds.): The hidden dynamics of path dependence. Palgrave Macmillan, London.
- A.04. Möllering, G. (2006): Trust: Reason, routine, reflexivity. Elsevier, Oxford.
- A.03. Möllering, G./Bachmann, R./Lee, S.H. (2004) (Eds.): The micro-foundations of organizational trust. In: Journal of Managerial Psychology 19 (6). Special Issue.
- A.02. Sydow, J./Lindkvist, L./DeFillippi, R. (2004) (Eds.): Project-based organizations, embeddedness and repositories of knowledge. In: Organization Studies 25 (9). Special Issue.
- A.01. Bachmann, R./Knights, D./Sydow, J. (2001) (Eds.): Trust and control in organizational relations. In: Organization Studies 22 (2). Special Issue.

B. Journal Articles

- B.97. Bakker, R./DeFillippi, R.J./Schwab, A./Sydow, J. (2016): Temporary organizing: Promises, processes, problems. In: Organization Studies 37 (12) (in print).
- B.96. Berthod, O./Grothe-Hammer, M./Sydow, J. (2016): Network ethnography: A mixed-method approach for the study of practices in interorganizational settings. In: Organizational Research Methods 19 (in print).
- B.95. Manning, S./Bejarano, T.A. (2016): Convincing the crowd: Entrepreneurial storytelling in crowdfunding campaigns. In: Strategic Organization (in print).
- B.94. Levy, D.L./Reinecke, J./Manning, S. (2016): The political dynamics of sustainable coffee: Contested value regimes and the transformation of sustainability. In: Journal of Management Studies 53 (3), S. 364-401.
- B.93. Helfen, M./Schüßler, E./Stevic, D. (2016): Translating European labor relations to the US through global framework agreements? A comparative analysis of German and Swedish MNEs. In: Industrial and Labor Relations Review 69 (3), 631-655.
- B.92. Manning, S./Larsen, M.M./Bharati, P. (2015): Global delivery models: The role of talent, speed and time zones in the global outsourcing industry. In: Journal of International Business Studies 46 (7), 850-877.
- B.91. Dobusch, L./Schoeneborn, D. (2015): Fluidity, identity, and organizationality: The communicative constitution of anonymous. In: Journal of Management Studies 52 (8), 1005-1035.
- B.90. Schmidt, T./Braun, T. (2015): When cospecialization leads to rigidity: Path dependence in successful strategic networks. In: Schmalenbach Business Review 67 (4), 489-515.
- B.89. Helfen, M. (2015): Institutionalizing precariousness? The politics of boundary work in legalizing agency work in Germany, 1949-2004. In: Organization Studies 36 (10), 1387-1422.
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- B.87. Berthod, O./Grothe-Hammer, M./Sydow, J. (2015): Some characteristics of high-reliability networks. In: Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management 23 (1), 24-28.
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- B.85. Helfen, M./Schüßler, E./Botzem, S. (2015): Legitimation strategies of corporate elites in the field of labor regulation: Changing responses to global framework agreements. In: Research in the Sociology of Organizations 43, 243-268.
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- B.74. Dobusch, L./Schüßler, E. (2014): Copyright reform and business model innovation: Regulatory propaganda at German music industry conferences. In: Technological Forecasting and Social Change 83, 24–39.
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- B.68. Braun, T./Ferreira, A./Sydow, J. (2013): Citizenship behaviour and effectiveness in temporary organizations. In: International Journal of Project Management 31 (6), 862–876.
- B.67. Dobusch, L./Schüßler, E. (2013): Theorizing path dependence: A review of positive feedback mechanisms in technology markets, regional clusters and organizations. In: Industrial and Corporate Change 22 (3), 617–648.
- B.66. Lange, K./Müller-Seitz, G./Sydow, J./Windeler, A. (2013): Financing innovations in uncertain networks – Filling in roadmap gaps in the semiconductor industry. In: Research Policy 42 (3), 647–661.
- B.65. Manning, S. (2013): New Silicon Valleys or a new species? Commoditization of knowledge work and the rise of knowledge services clusters. In: Research Policy 42 (2), 379–390.
- B.64. Sydow, J./Fichter, M. (2012): Global production networks – Organizing work with international framework agreements? In: Journal of Sociology and Social Anthropology 15 (5), 169–185.
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- B.55. Schüßler, E./Wessel, L./Gersch, M. (2012): Taking stock: Capability development in inter-organizational projects. In: Schmalenbach Business Review 64 (3), 171–186.
- B.54. Müller-Seitz, G. (2012): Leadership in interorganizational networks – A literature review and suggestions for future research. In: International Journal of Management Reviews 14 (4), 428–443.
- B.53. Dobusch, L./Müller-Seitz, G. (2012): Serial singularities: Developing a network organization by organizing events. In: Schmalenbach Business Review 64 (3), 204–229.
- B.52. Manning, S./Sydow, J./Windeler, A. (2012): Securing access to lower-cost talent globally: The dynamics of active embedding and field structuration. In: Regional Studies 46, 1201–1218.
- B.51. Müller-Seitz, G./Sydow, J. (2011): Terminating institutionalized termination: Why SEMATECH became more than a temporary system. In: Cattani, G./Ferriani, S./Frederikson, L./Taube, F. (Eds.): Advances in Strategic Management 28: Project-Based Organizing and Strategic Management. Emerald. Bingley, U.K., 147–186.
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- B.47. Wilhelm, M. (2011): Managing cooperation through horizontal supply chain relations: Linking dyadic and network levels of analysis. In: Journal of Operations Management 29 (7–8), 663–676.
- B.46. Sydow, J./Müller-Seitz, G. (2011): Practicing uncertainty in R&D networks - explorative evidence from a semiconductor industry network. In: Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings, San Antonio, Texas.
- B.45. Manning, S./Lewin, A. Y./Schuerch, M. (2011): The stability of offshore out-sourcing relationships: The role of relation specificity and client control. In: Management International Review 51 (3), 381–406.
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- B.43. Fichter, M./Helfen, M./Sydow, J. (2011): Employment relations in global production networks: Initiating transfer of practices via union involvement. In: Human Relations 63 (4), 599–624.
- B.42. Manning, S./Sydow, J. (2011): Projects, paths, practices: Sustaining and leveraging project-based relationships. In: Industrial & Corporate Change 20 (5), 1369–1402.
- B.41. Schreyögg, G./Sydow, J./Holtmann, P. (2011): How history matters in organizations – The case of path dependence. In: Management & Organization History 6 (1), 81–100.
- B.40. Sydow, J./Lerch, F./Huxham, C./Hibbert, P. (2011): A silent cry for leadership: Organizing for leading (in) clusters. In: Leadership Quarterly 22 (2), 328–334.
- B.39. Fichter, M./Helfen, M./Sydow, J. (2011): Regulating labor relations in global production networks: Insights on international framework agreements. In: Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft (2), 69–86.
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- B.37. Manning, S./von Hagen, O. (2010): Linking local experiments to global standards: How project networks promote global institution-building. In: Scandinavian Journal of Management 26 (4), 398–416.
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- B.35. Sydow, J./Windeler, A./Wirth, C./Staber, U. (2010): Foreign market entry as network entry: A relational-structuration perspective on internationalization in television content production. In: Scandinavian Journal of Management 26 (1), 13–24.
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- B.32. Sydow, J./Lerch, F./Staber, U. (2010): Planning for path dependence? The case of a network in the Berlin-Brandenburg optics cluster. In: Economic Geography 85 (2), 173–195.
- B.31. Sydow, J. (2009): Path dependencies in project-based organizing – Evidence from television production in Germany. In: Journal of Media Business Studies 6 (4), 123–139.
- B.30. Sydow, J./Schreyögg, G./Koch, J. (2009): Organizational path dependence: Opening the black box. In: Academy of Management Review 34 (4), 689–709.
- B.29. Müller-Seitz, G. (2009): The open source software phenomenon as a role model for networked innovations in biotechnology: An exploratory study. In: International Journal of Web Based Communities 5 (2), 212–237.
- B.28. Müller-Seitz, G./Reger, G. (2009): Any lessons to be learned? Insights for open innovation management from two open source software-inspired networks. In: R&D Management 39 (4), 372–381.
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- B.26. Manning, S./Massini, S./Lewin, A. (2008): Dynamic perspective on next-generation offshoring: The global sourcing of science and engineering talent. In: Academy of Management Perspectives 22 (3), 35–54.
- B.25. Manning, S. (2008): Embedding projects in multiple contexts – A structuration perspective. In: International Journal of Project Management 26 (1), 30–37.
- B.24. Kaiser, S./Müller-Seitz, G. (2008): Leveraging lead user knowledge in software development – The case of weblog technology economics of open-source collaboration. In: Industry & Innovation 15 (2), 199–221.

C. Book Chapters

- C.28. Sydow, J./Koll, F. (2016): Platforming for path-breaking? The case of regional electromobility initiatives. In: Glücker, J./Lazega E./Hammer, I. (Eds.): Knowledge and networks. Knowledge and space 11. Berlin. Springer (forthcoming).
- C.27. Findeisen, H./Sydow, J. (2016): Star Alliance: Adapting the management institutions of an interorganizational network. In: Sydow, J./Schüßler, E./Müller-Seitz, G.: Managing interorganizational relations – Debates and cases. Palgrave-Macmillan. London, 67–74.
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- C.24. Schüßler, E./Sydow, J. (2015): Organized events at the front- and backstage of the creative industries. In: Jones, C./Lorenzen, M./Sapsed, J. (Eds.): Oxford Handbook of Creative Industries. OUP. Oxford, 284–300.
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- C.18. Berthod, O./Sydow, J. (2013): Looked in the iron cage? When institutionalization is (not) a path-dependent process. In: Sydow, J./Schreyögg, G. (Eds.): Self-reinforcing dynamics in and among organizations. Palgrave MacMillan- London, 204–229.
- C.17. Frenkel, S./Sydow, J. (2011): Institutional conditions for organizing decent Work in global production networks: The case of china. In: Sheldon P./Klim, S./Li, Y./Warner, M. (Eds.): China's changing workplace. Routledge. London, 241–258.
- C.16. Lerch, F./Sydow, J./Duschek, S. (2011): Beyond the organizational focus: Network consulting in regional clusters. In: Buono, A. F./Grossman, R./Lobnig, H./Mayer, K. (Eds.): The changing paradigm of consulting. Greenwich, Conn., 185–209.
- C.15. Möllering, G./Stache, F. (2010): Trust development in German-Ukrainian business relationships: Dealing with cultural differences in an uncertain institutional context. In: Saunders, M.N.K./Lewicki, R.J./Skinner, D./Gillespie, N./Dietz, G. (Eds.): Organizational trust: A cultural perspective. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, 205–226.
- C.14. Provan, K.G./Sydow, J. (2008): Evaluating interorganizational relations. In: Copper, S./Ebers, M./Huxham, C./Ring, P.S. (Eds.): The Oxford Handbook of Interorganizational Relations. Oxford University Press. Oxford, 691–716.

D. Working Papers

- D.15. Dobusch, L./Sydow, J. (2011): The role of platforms for enterprise ecosystems. Paper presented at the workshop for the 41st annual GI conference Informatik 2011, October 04–07.
- D.14. Sydow, J./Lerch, F. (2007): Developing photonic clusters – Commonalities, contrasts and contradictions. AIM White paper. Advanced Institute of Management Research. London.

Papers on organizational and interorganizational path dependence are available at
<http://www.pfadkolleg.de>

For further information please visit

<http://www.network-research.de>
<http://www.wiwiwss.fu-berlin.de/fachbereich/bwl/management/sydow>
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