

Path Community Newsletter



History matters! Paying tribute to this statement, the concept of path dependence models the way by which small events generate patterns of positive feedback that cause the actors to stick to the old way. It promotes the occurrence of lock-in situations, where the exploration of other options becomes increasingly difficult, if not impossible.

Even though the theory was born in the field of economics, concepts of path dependence, path creation, and path breaking have met with grounded interest in a diversity of disciplines, from sociology and political sciences to management and organization studies.

Dedicated to paths-related research, this newsletter is issued three times a year by the [Pfadkolleg](#) Research Center at the Freie Universität Berlin, the first interdisciplinary research institute devoted to the study of paths.

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General Announcements

This newsletter on Path Dependence Research is the first of its kind and we hope it will fulfil your expectations. If you want us to announce any event (call for papers, publications, conferences, lectures, awards, etc.) feel free to send us your content (check our guidelines for submissions below first). Of course we remain at your disposal for any information, criticism, or comments.

We hope to hear from you!

Jörg Sydow (chief-editor)

Olivier Berthod (editor)

Jutta Becker-Ritterspach, Thomas Blanchet, Eva Seidel (editorial team)

Calls for Contributions

Conferences

At the EGOS Conference 2010 taking place in Lisbon, Georg Schreyögg, Martin Stack and Jörg Sydow will be organizing a track on historical imprinting and path dependence. This track will give scholars the opportunity to discuss theoretical and/or empirical contributions dealing with the role of history in and between organizations. More details on the track and the related issues can be found [here](#)

In Press

Books

Edquist, C., Hommen, L. (eds.) (2009): [Small Country Innovation Systems: Globalization, Change, and Policy in Asia and Europe](#). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Fagerberg, J., Mowery, D., Verspagen, B. (2009): [Innovation, Path Dependency, and Policy: The Norwegian Case](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Magnusson, L., Ottosson, J. (eds.) (2009): [The evolution of path dependence](#). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

A selection of interesting papers on organizational and institutional path dependence presented at former conferences (e.g. AOM, EGOS, EIASM) will be published shortly by Palgrave-Macmillian in a volume edited by Georg Schreyögg & Jörg Sydow. The book "The Hidden Dynamics of Path Dependence" will be out by early December.

Papers

Dobusch, L., Kapeller, J. (2009): Why is Economics not an Evolutionary Science? New Answers to Veblen's old Question. In: [Journal of Economic Issues](#) 43 (4): 867-898

Dobusch, L. (2008): Migration Discourse Structures: Escaping Microsoft's Desktop Path. In: Russo, B., Damiani, E., Hissam, S., Lundell, B., Succi, G. (eds.): [Open Source Development, Communities and Quality](#), Series: IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Vol. 275, 223-235.

Gruber, M. (forthcoming): Exploring the Origins of Organizational Paths: Empirical Evidence from Newly Founded Firms. In: [Journal of Management](#).

Heron T., Richardson B. (2008): Path Dependency and the Politics of Liberalisation in the Textiles and Clothings Industry. In: [New Political Economy](#) 13 (1): 1-18.

Koch, J. (2008): Strategic Paths and Media Management: A Path Dependency Analysis of the German Newspaper Branch of High Quality Journalism. In: [Schmalenbach Business Review](#) 60 (1): 51-74.

Koch, J., Eisend, M., Petermann, A. (2009): Path Dependence in Decision-Making Processes: Exploring the Impact of Complexity under Increasing Returns. In: [Business Research](#) 2 (1): 67-84.

Schüßler, E. S. (2008): Implementing E-HRM. A Structural Approach to Investigating Technological and Organisational Change. In: Martin, G., Reddington, M., Alexander, H. (eds.) [Technology, Outsourcing and Transforming Human Resource](#). Oxford: Elsevier: 257-287.

Sehring, J. (2009): Path Dependencies and Institutional Bricolage in Post-Soviet Water Governance. In: [Water Alternatives](#) 2 (1): 61-81.

Storz, C. (2008): Dynamics in Innovation Systems: Evidence from Japan's Game Software Industry. In: [Research Policy](#) 37(9): 1480-1491.

Sydow, J. (2009): Path Dependencies in Project-Based Organizing - Evidence from Television Production in Germany. In: [Journal of Media Business Studies](#) 6 (4) (in print).

Sydow, J., Schreyögg, G., Koch, J. (2009): Organizational Path Dependence: Opening the Black Box. In: [Academy of Management Review](#) 34 (4): 689-709 .

Tepe, M., Vanhuyse, P. (2009): Are Aging OECD Welfare States on the Path to the Politics of Gerontocracy? Evidence from 18 Democracies, 1980 - 2002. In: [Journal of Public Policy](#) 29 (1): 1-28.

Working papers

Botzem, S., Dobusch, L. (2009): The Rule of Standards: Codifying Power in the Transnational Arena. Paper presented at the 25th EGOS Colloquium, Barcelona, 2-4 July 2009. ([Available online](#))

News from the Path Community

News about people

Dr Leonhard Dobusch -from the Freie Universität Berlin- has received an award for his dissertation: "Weg vom Windows-Pfad: Vier Stadtverwaltungen zwischen Markt, Technologie und Organisation". The prize was conferred in Stuttgart by the [Alcatel-Lucent Stiftung für Kommunikationsforschung](#) on 9th october, 2009.

Jochen Koch and Martin Eisend -from the Europa-Universität Viadrina- and Arne Petermann - from the Freie Universität Berlin- received the Best Track Paper Award from the American Marketing Association for their paper: "The Impact of Complexity on Path Dependent Decision Making", presented at the Summer Marketing Educators Conference in 2008 in San Diego.

Other news

Since 2005 the Pfadkolleg at Freie Universität Berlin has been exploring the formation of organizational paths. The underlying self-reinforcing mechanisms have been analysed from micro to macro levels, thus providing a detailed picture of the causes and consequences of paths. Information and digital copies of the completed dissertations of the first cohort of students can be found [here](#).

Building on these results, the projects of the second cohort (16 PhD candidates) are currently in progress and will contribute to areas such as possibilities for path breaking and ways of creating paths purposefully. You can find summaries of the ongoing projects [here](#).

Contact & Comments

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You want us to announce an event, or a publication, or feel you have information that would interest the path-community? Please send an email to:
pathnews@fu-berlin.de

Thank you for your cooperation!

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, you can reply and indicate "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Contributions to Path Community Newsletter - Guidelines

For calls for papers, conferences, and workshops: please send a summary of max. 200 words, including:

Name of conference/workshop

Time and place

Contact person, email

Deadline for submissions (participants and panel organizer)

Link to relevant homepage

For news, books, or awards announcements: please send a summary of max. 100 words.