

The Journal of Supply Chain Management

Special Topic Forum on Supply Networks

Guest Editors:

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Supply Networks: Theories and Models

There is growing realization that a firm's supply network (i.e. a firm's suppliers, their supplier's suppliers, etc.) is critical to the success of the firm but difficult to control. Whereas supply chain research has emphasized the buyer-supplier dyad, supply network research strives to examine the network beyond the dyad, from triads to the extended network. Supply network research is nascent, however, lacking both the agreed-upon constructs and theoretical frameworks which are necessary to move forward. The purpose of this special issue is to provide a forum for cutting-edge theories and models of supply networks that will serve as a baseline for future research and practice.

When managers make supply network related decisions, they must consider the part of the network that the firm can "visibly" design (e.g., supplier selection) and the part of the network that is "invisible" to the firm whose design simply emerges (e.g., a supplier selecting its suppliers). Clearly, there is tension between what can be controlled and what cannot be controlled by the focal firm. We are looking for manuscripts that address this tension and how to cope with the portions of the supply network that emerge from beyond the purview or control of the focal company, or simply that take us beyond the buyer-supplier dyad.

We welcome manuscripts that are conceptually and methodologically innovative, risk-taking, and experimental. These manuscripts would push the boundaries of our thinking and offer directions for future studies. Given such nature of the topic for this special issue, we are open to different methodological approaches: theory building using the existing literature and theories from other academic disciplines (e.g., complex adaptive systems, social network, agency theory, etc.); inductive theory-building studies; econometric studies using primary or secondary data; analytical models; and simulation models (e.g. agent-based models or cellular automata). Consistent with *JSCM's* editorial policy, we encourage empirical studies using surveys, case studies, archival data, and/or other behavioral research methods.

Examples of appropriate topics include but are not limited to:

- Buyer-supplier relationships embedded in a larger network;

- Supplier-supplier relationships, framed as a link that exists between control and emergence;
- Triads in supply networks (e.g., buyer-supplier-supplier, buyer-buyer-supplier, buyer-supplier-buyer's customer);
- Tetrads in supply networks (e.g., buyer, its dual sources, and buyer's customer);
- Rigidity versus flexibility in supply networks;
- Other network-level issues (e.g., stability, resiliency, complexity);
- Supply network risks, especially those risks that are part of their extended network;
- Supply network opportunities (i.e. how a firm gains competitive advantage from better knowledge of and interaction with its supply network);
- Supply network collaboration, both formal and informal;
- Supply network competition; and
- Novel research methods for supply network research.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS JULY 1, 2008.

Manuscripts must conform to *JSCM* style guidelines and submission requirements. Early submissions are welcome and the review process will be initiated when papers are received.

An electronic copy of the manuscript that conforms to *JSCM's* format (see www.ism.ws/pubs/journalscm) should be submitted via e-mail to: Nancy Finger, Editorial Assistant, at nfinger@ism.ws. Please note in the comments to the editors that the submission is for the **Special Topics Forum on Supply Networks**.

Questions can be addressed to either of the guest editors:
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