



NORDISK FÖRETAGSEKONOMISK FÖRENING • NORDIC ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT



**The 26th Nordic Academy of Management Conference**  
Bringing Research Together  
**24-26 August 2022**  
Örebro University School of Business, Sweden

**Call for Papers**

We invite you to submit your research to explore the theme of “*Bringing Research Together*” for the 26<sup>th</sup> biennial NFF Conference in Örebro. We are looking forward to receiving your submissions.

**Track 9.2 – Collaboration in Temporary Inter-organizational Projects**

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**Co-Chairs:**

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**Description:**

Approximately 40% of global gross domestic product alone is produced in temporary inter-organizational projects (IOPs) and through project-based work. Large infrastructure renewals and initiatives, such as Slussen project in Stockholm, Sweden and Western Metro project in Helsinki, Finland, are examples of temporary IOPs that are imperative for the society at large and have various influences on the public sector, the private sector and individuals who use the services that are made available by these projects (Jones & Lichtenstein, 2008). In addition to traditional project-based industries (e.g., construction, marine, software, film, and gaming), projects are used to organize work in companies and public organizations in relation to strategic renewal and change initiatives (Burke & Morley, 2016). Recent research estimates that the relevance of project-based work will likely increase in the future, as the value of project oriented economic activity worldwide will grow from \$12 trillion in 2013 to \$20 trillion in 2027.

Governing these IOPs is a significant managerial challenge. IOPs bring together several organizations with diverse institutional backgrounds, different resources, specialized knowledge, conflicting interests, and limited prior co-operation, but regardless of these characteristics, the organizations have to work together toward a shared and unique project objective for a restricted time and with limited resources (Bakker, 2010). Organizations’ different and even diverging objectives, resources, knowledge, and activities need to be integrated and coordinated efficiently to create value in IOPs (Jones & Lichtenstein, 2008). However, efficient integration and coordination are difficult and require effective collaboration.

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Research in project and operations management and organization studies has introduced different types of collaborative approaches focusing on collaborative governance solutions, multi-party contractual arrangements, coordination and integration mechanisms, and relational practices and arrangements (e.g., Aaltonen & Turkulainen, 2018; Chakkol et al., 2018; Clegg et al., 2002). However, further research into collaboration is required to better understand how to govern and manage IOPs in various contexts.

This track invites both empirical and theoretical studies and welcomes submissions from a variety of disciplines, ranging, e.g., from organization studies and strategic management to project and operations management. Specific themes include but are not limited to:

-Contractual versus relational governance. Example questions: How do different organizations jointly design collaborative approaches that integrate contractual and relational governance practices in IOPs? How does the interplay of contractual and relational governance unfold in IOPs? What is the role of collaborative multi-party contracts and how are relational governance practices included in such contracts?

-Collaboration as practice. Example questions: How does collaboration unfold at the grass roots level of IOPs? How are collaborative contracts implemented in the daily practices of IOPs? How and by whom are collaborative contracts interpreted in the daily life of IOPs, and what kinds of direct and indirect effects they have on the behaviors and spontaneous activities of actors who are and are not part of the collaborative contract?

-Coordination and integration mechanisms. Example questions: How do multiple autonomous organizations jointly coordinate project activities efficiently/effectively to create value? What kinds of coordination activities are effective, and why? What kinds of roles and resources exist/are required in joint coordination? How, e.g., through what kinds of mechanisms, are multiple autonomous organizations integrated efficiently/effectively?

-Collaboration and contracts. Example questions: What kinds of implications do collaborative multi-party contracts have on our understanding of the construct of contract that is based on bi-lateral agreements? How are contract clauses included related to implementing relational governance practices? How do organizations enforce these types of contract clauses in practice, and how do they confirm breach of contract in relation to these clauses and arbitrate disputes?

**Keywords:**

Inter-organizational projects, Temporary organizing, Temporary organization, Collaboration, Project governance, Project management

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**Author guidelines:**

Go to [www.oru.se/NFF2022](http://www.oru.se/NFF2022) for more information about how to submit a paper. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 January 2022. Full paper due: 20 June 2022.

***We very much look forward to welcoming you in Örebro!***

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