



NORDISK FÖRETAGSEKONOMISK FÖRENING • NORDIC ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT



## The 26th Nordic Academy of Management Conference

Bringing Research Together

25-27 August 2021

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 11.2 – *Paper Development Workshop: Advancing Theory with Literature Reviews*

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**Co-Chair:** Dermot Breslin, University of Sheffield, UK, Editor-in-Chief for *International Journal of Management Reviews* ([d.breslin@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.breslin@sheffield.ac.uk))

#### Description:

A number of scholars have recently highlighted the important role played by literature reviews in developing knowledge, shaping new debates and shifting research directions (Hoon & Baluch, 2019; Kunisch et al., 2018). Hoon & Baluch (2019) for example define theorizing from reviews as “activities of conceiving and constructing out of the phenomenal world – as represented in the review data – with extant theory to inform subsequent work”. Post et al. (2020) define a review paper as one which “analyses and synthesizes an existing body of literature by identifying, challenging, and advancing the building blocks of a theory through an examination of a body (or several bodies) of prior work”.

In developing theory, authors adopt a wide range of approaches when completing literature reviews. A common approach is to organise a body of literature into antecedents-process-outcomes, with many doctoral programs promoting such approaches as “low risk” in terms of getting work published. Arguably, however, the insights emerging from such activities may not result in contributions which are sufficiently novel to be published in high-impact journals, where strong conceptual contributions are key. After all, high-impact journals search for papers which “make significant conceptual contributions, offering a strategic platform for new directions in research, and making a difference to how scholars might conceptualise research in their respective fields” (Gatrell & Breslin, 2017, p.1). Other authors adopt more adventurous styles, moving outside disciplinary boundaries and tapping into knowledge across disciplinary domains, thereby taking risks which might result in a stronger theoretical approach than the “low risk” reviews, offering a strategic platform which will make scholars think differently about their research (Breslin & Gatrell, 2020). Yet despite this growing diversity, methodological advice on how to actually conduct a literature review, and especially a review which leads to the development of theory, is limited (Kunisch et al., 2018).

[www.oru.se/NFF2021](http://www.oru.se/NFF2021)





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This workshop session seeks to support scholars in navigating paths to theory development, by exploring ways in which scholars can develop theory through literature reviews. A range of review methods will be presented and discussed by leading literature review authors and editors. Advice will be given to participants on how they might develop the contributions of their review papers. This paper development workshop therefore invites literature review papers on a wide range of topics, spanning across all the sub-disciplines embraced by the *Nordic Academy of Management*. The session will be developmental and interactive, and the goal is to be inspirational and friendly, rather than prescriptive. We intend to offer take-aways so that participating scholars leave the workshop and the conference with a range of new ideas for what theory-building reviews might look like, and how to apply these ideas to their specific research topics.

Please note that this track is not going to be organized as paper presentation sessions. Instead it is organized as an interactive paper development workshop session, where a set of senior scholars discuss paper ideas with a plenary and round-table setup.

**Keywords:**

Literature Review, Theorizing, Conceptual Paper

**References:**

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- Kunisch, S., Menz, M., Bartunek, J. M., Cardinal, L. B., & Denyer, D. (2018). Feature topic at organizational research methods: How to conduct rigorous and impactful literature reviews. *Organizational Research Methods*, 21(3), 519-523.
- Post, C., Sarala, R., Gatrell, C., & Prescott, J. E. (2020). Advancing theory with review articles. *Journal of Management Studies*, 57(2), 351-376.

**Author guidelines:**

Go to [www.oru.se/NFF2021](http://www.oru.se/NFF2021) for more information about how to submit a paper. The deadline for abstract submission is 30 January 2021. Full paper due: 21 June 2021.

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

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