



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 26th biennial NFF Conference in Örebro. We are looking forward to receiving your submissions.

Track 9.1 – Issues in Contemporary Supply Chain Management

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Description:

Although the benefits of effective Supply Chain Management (SCM) have been widely recognised by organisations and academia, there are more recent significant changes that are affecting the field, which has led to an increasing focus by both practice and academia on these challenges and opportunities. Emerging technologies such as blockchain present contemporary SCM with many opportunities in reducing transaction costs, facilitating transparency and eliminating the need for trusted intermediaries in supply chains (e.g. Schmidt & Wagner, 2019). As part of the wider drive towards Industry 4.0, the adoption of other technologies such as artificial intelligence or machine learning is also becoming an area of increasing focus (e.g. Hartley & Sawaya, 2019). The topic of SC finance (e.g. Xu et al., 2018) covers ways of lowering SC costs and increasing efficiency, including sub-topics such as inventory and resupply models, and SC financing services. Although the topic of supply chain resilience has already received notable academic interest during the past decade (e.g. Pettit et al., 2019), its key role will undoubtedly be strengthened by the COVID-19 pandemic. This has required a wide range of different organisations to re-evaluate their supply chains, as demand for products increases, supplying organisations are restricted in international logistics endeavours and greater levels of health and safety requirements come into force. Sustainability in SCM has received significant attention from a wide range of perspectives over recent years and a continued focus on this area is to be expected in the future. This will be particularly important in supporting how economies are rebuilt in a post-COVID-19 environment.

In order to meet the challenges and opportunities outlined above, these industrial changes also coincide with an increasing academic focus on identifying and analysing the competencies and skills required in current and future SCM (Bals et al., 2019). For example, a shift towards machine to machine communication may bring about the need for different skills and competencies and result in significant changes in SCM job roles in the future. The increased use and heightened importance of big data

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analysis will mean that SCM practitioners will need to be equipped with the skills to manage this and also involve the development of systems to provide it. As more and more operational jobs become potentially automated, the need for more strategic SCM skills and competencies becomes important and these will need to be tied into an increased focus on sustainability, within a post-Covid-19 environment and being more closely tied to the overall aims and objectives of organisations.

This focus on developing skills also highlights the role of SC educators in both higher education and practice settings and has resulted in a consideration of appropriate teaching methods and learning technologies to support this process. For example, the potential for integrating gamification into SCM education is an exciting development and can build on oft-used examples such as the beer distribution game.

Keywords:

Supply Chain Finance, Supply Chain Education and Skills, Supply Chain Risk Management and Resilience, Emerging Technology in Supply Chains, Sustainable Supply Chain and Business, Sustainable Value Chains

References:

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Author guidelines:

Go to 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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