



INTERSECTIONS OF STRATEGY PROCESSES AND STRATEGY PRACTICES

Conference Information AND Call for Proposals

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The Strategic Management Society (SMS) is pleased to announce a special conference in Finland. The SMS brings together scholars, executives, and innovative policymakers in advancing state of the art research and practice in a unique mini-conference organized for the first time in Finland.

In a fast changing global economy there is an increasing need to understand how strategic decisions are made, how strategy emerges in an organization in practice, who gets involved in strategy processes and how strategy changes over time. It is increasingly important to bring together varying perspectives of strategy processes and strategy. The emerging interest in the practice perspective to strategic management during the past decade makes it particularly interesting for us to reflect on the intersections between the process and practice perspectives of strategic management. By doing this our further aim is to link these two research streams to the recent developments in the fields of managerial and organization cognition, organizational and management innovations, and dynamic capabilities and strategic agility.

SMS Special Conference Finland: Theme Tracks



The SMS Special Conference in Finland invites contributions that represent original, interesting, and theoretically bold research, as well as innovative empirical studies. As reflected in the themes of the conference tracks below, there are numerous potential questions that can be addressed.

- **Intersections of Strategy Process and Strategy Practice Research**

Strategy process and strategy practice research areas have evolved as separate research streams during the past decade. This has provided a major boost to both research areas, but it now also provides an exciting opportunity to take stock and look back to see what the intersections between these areas are. In this topic area, we address the following questions: What are the intersections of strategy process and strategy practice research? What are the future research directions in these two areas? How should we proceed in these two research areas in order to fully benefit from what we have learned? What are the main prescriptions offered by our research for executives?

- **Managerial and Organizational Cognition in Strategy Processes and Practices**

Research on cognition is entering the mainstream in the field of strategic management research. Moving beyond decision biases and basic cognitive maps, this research area provides a window into the cognitions of strategists, creativity in the strategy process, and the origins of dynamic capabilities. In this topic area, we address the following questions: What have we learned from three decades of work on managerial and organizational cognition in connection with strategy processes and strategy practices? How can we better integrate cognition research to our research on strategy processes and strategy practices? Where do we see the most important potential future areas?

- **Organizational and Management Innovations in Strategy Processes and Practices**

Organizational and management innovations are the result of creativity of executives in their strategy practices. In this topic area we address the following questions: How do we innovate our strategy processes and practices? What are some of the innovations that different firms have developed? How should we enhance an organization's ability to develop management innovations? How do process and practice related management innovations relate to the notion of dynamic capabilities?

- **Dynamic Capabilities and Strategic Agility and Strategy Processes and Practices**

The importance of organizations' abilities to transform themselves even during the most difficult economic times has become increasingly important during the drastic changes in the business environment in the past few years. Multiple concepts have been developed and discussed outside the core strategy process and practice research streams for creating the required strategic flexibility for change. In this topic area we discuss the recent developments in the areas of dynamic capabilities and strategic agility.

- **Collaborative Strategizing for the Future**

How can strategy researchers and executives create a research agenda for the future together? What kinds of strategy practices emerge from collaboration between managers and researchers? What methods of inquiry and analysis would be best suitable for collaborative research? What kinds of working methods can be created for co-creation and sharing of leading edge knowledge? How can we better link executives to become a reflective collaborative community for our strategy process and practice development?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Invited are **proposals** (5-7 pages, for paper and panel sessions) relating to the conference theme and theme tracks. Only original, unpublished work is sought.

Deadline for Submission of Proposals: November 1, 2009

To learn more about the
SMS Special Conference in Finland
and about the submission process, please go to:

<http://finland.strategicmanagement.net>

SMS Special Conference Finland: Specifics

Over the years, it has been a tradition for Finnish companies to gather top management teams in northern Lapland. The surrounding nature serves as the perfect environment to create innovative strategies for the future. Following this tradition, the Levi resort has been chosen for the event. Situated 170 km north of the Arctic Circle, Levi is Finland's most famous resort. It boasts a brand new Conference and Exhibition Center which offers a unique setting for meetings and conferences. Multipurpose facilities and high tech equipment make Levi Summit a first-class venue for the SMS Special Conference.



Conference Committee Members:

Robert Burgelman - Stanford University

Tomi Laamanen – Helsinki University of Technology

Steve Floyd – University of St. Gallen

Hanna Lehtimäki – Life Works Consulting, Ltd

Richard Whittington – University of Oxford

Conference Review Committee:

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Sari Stenfors - Stanford University

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Liisa Välikangas - Aalto University

Conference Fees: The conference fees have yet to be finalized due to current negotiations with additional sponsors. We are working hard to get the conference fees for submitting authors and SMS members below €350. Conference fees will include:

- Unlimited access to plenaries, parallel paper sessions, and workshops
- Welcome reception on the 17th
- Lunch on 18th, 19th, and 20th
- Finnish evening with dinner on the 19th

About TEKES, the main sponsor of this event



The Finnish Agency for Technology and Innovation Foundation (Tekes) is helping make this unique event possible through their generous support. Tekes is the main government financing and expert organization for research and technological development in Finland. Tekes finances industrial R&D projects as well as projects in universities and research institutes.

Among the 26 funding programs, Tekes is running a program for Innovative Business Competence and Management (Liito) between 2006-2010. The Liito program provides funding for the development of innovative operating models and builds networks between enterprises striving to develop new businesses. Tekes finances industrial R&D projects as well as projects in universities and research institutes. Tekes especially promotes innovative, risk-intensive projects.



TIMELINE:

- July 1, 2009** Submission System Opens
- Nov. 2, 2009** Submission Deadline
- Dec. 1, 2009** Announcement of Accepted Proposals
- Jan. 15, 2010** Early Registration and Presenter Registration Deadline
- Mar. 17, 2010** SMS Special Conference in Finland begins

**a professional society for the
advancement of strategic management**

The Strategic Management Society (SMS) is unique in bringing together the worlds of reflective practice and thoughtful scholarship. The Society consists of more than 2,000 members representing over 50 different countries. Membership, composed of academics, business practitioners, and consultants, focuses its attention on the development and dissemination of insights on the strategic management process, as well as fostering contacts and interchange around the world.

The Society is probably best known through the Strategic Management Journal (SMJ) published by John Wiley & Sons. The SMJ has become the leading scholarly publication in the field of Strategic Management. Since its inception it has sought to promote the development of advances in the field by maintaining the highest standards of intellectual thought combined with practical relevance.



Interested? Visit www.strategicmanagement.net

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