Introduction to the Minitrack on Knowledge Flows: Knowledge Transfer, Sharing and Exchange in Organizations

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Abstract

This short paper serves to introduce the minitrack on knowledge flows and to summarize its constituent proceedings articles.

1. Introduction

Most practitioners and researchers recognize that knowledge flows are extremely important, especially in the current age where organizations have to learn and innovate continually in order to remain competitive. Given that knowledge is distributed unevenly through the enterprise, rapid and reliable knowledge flows are essential for organizations’ sustainable competitive advantage.

Knowledge flows across people, organizations, places and times of creation, sharing and application. Knowledge flows are dynamic. And in order to harness the competitive power of this dynamic phenomenon, it is imperative to understand and manage effectively the associated knowledge-flow processes.

This minitrack examines the nature and role of knowledge flows (e.g., knowledge transfer, sharing and exchange) in the organizational context. The Call for Papers welcomed theoretical and empirical pieces addressing technical, managerial, behavioral, organizational, and economic perspectives on knowledge flows.

2. Summary of Articles

Eight papers are presented as a part of this mini-track. We introduce them briefly below.

von der Trenck et al., in their paper titled, “What’s in it for me? Conceptualizing the perceived value of knowledge sharing,” develop the perceived value of information sharing as a multidimensional construct that is grounded in consumer research and information sharing literature. Kwahk and Park, in their paper titled, “Network Sharing beyond Knowledge Sharing: The Mediating Role of Tertius Iungens Orientation in Social Media contexts,” examine the influences of knowledge-sharing activities and tertius iungens orientation on job performance within social media environments. David Holford in his paper titled, “Knowledge construction as movement via boundary constructions and dialogue,” characterize knowledge construction across both verbal and non-verbal interactions between group members observed within an ethnographic case study. Dozier and Chang, in their paper titled, “A Collaborative Manufacturing Collective,” illustrate that the extent of collaboration among the companies in a manufacturing network impacts the parametric fluctuations in the network. Basten et al., in their paper titled, “How Knowledge Management Systems Support Organisational Knowledge Creation: An In-depth Case Study,” analyze how organizational knowledge creation is supported by knowledge management (KM) systems. Wagner and Moos, in their paper titled, “Social capital and usefulness of external knowledge: The moderating role of group affiliation,” show how social capital facilitates access to internal and external knowledge. Hafner in her paper titled, “Computer System Unlearning in Individuals,” characterize unlearning in routinized actions. Gasson, in her paper titled, “Knowledge-Mediation and Boundary-Spanning In Global IS Change Projects,” develop a systematic understanding of how organizational knowledge is brokered and becomes embedded in the social network structures of boundary-spanning change projects.

3. Publication Opportunities

The minitrack papers published in this part of the proceedings will be considered further for adaptation into journal-length and – quality articles. Two established knowledge management journals have expressed interest: Knowledge Management Research & Practice [1] and the International Journal of Knowledge Management [2].

4. References