SIG 12 - RM&RP - Research Methods and Research Practice

We invite you to submit your research to explore the theme of *The Business of Now: the future starts here* for the EURAM 20th Conference. We look forward to receiving your submissions.

ST12_01 - Coevolution, Ecosystems and Evolutionary Approaches in Management Research

**Proponents:**
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**Short description:**
Complex and adaptive ecosystems and networks constitute both the context and the substance of organizational and inter-organizational structures and interactions. To understand the functioning and evolution of these systems and networks we need to identify, categorize and analyze the connections between their key elements, such as the resources they involve and how these are combined and mutually adapt over time. This track addresses these issues through various methods – qualitative, quantitative, simulation (e.g., agent-based modelling), hybrid, mixed – and various perspectives, such as coevolution, ecosystems, systems thinking, the Industrial Marketing and Purchasing view, Actor-Network Theory, the Resource-Based View, Service-Dominant Logic and Servitization.

**Long description:**
How do open, adaptive systems in socio-economic contexts, such as firms, business ecosystems and industrial networks, evolve? The proponents of evolutionary, coevolutionary, ecosystem-based and Darwinian-inspired theorizing in management research argue that it can meet a need to contribute answers to the escalating call for dynamism, process-orientation and systems thinking approaches to cope with uncertainty and disruption in business contexts.

With origins in Evolutionary and Generalized Darwinist approaches to organization research, this standing track in the Research Methods and Research Practice SIG seeks to contribute to the lively discussion about the possibility and opportunity to develop (co-) evolutionary thinking within management research. Since the conception of this track in 2010, scholars from across the EURAM community have debated common features and differences in how socio-economic entities at various levels behave and co-evolve. Thus, as in the previous years, the 2020 track aims to attract papers interested in making theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions to our understanding of coevolving organizations and ecosystems.

The track aims to build on a constantly growing body of coevolution/evolution-based research within

a wide range of disciplines such as management, strategy, business history, marketing, decision making, entrepreneurship, innovation, economic geography, philosophy and psychology. As we believe methods are complementary to each other in the production of knowledge regarding the (co-) evolution of socio-economic systems, we encourage the exploration of a wide range of methods, as well as discussions on how these can advance (co-) evolutionary-oriented management research. Thus, perspectives based on multi-level coevolution, ecosystems, system thinking, ecology, memetics, or agent-based modeling, constitute only examples of the welcomed submissions. Related efforts to capture the evolutionary processes and open, adaptive system dynamics with proper concepts and methods, as well as empirical studies based on coevolutionary, evolutionary and ecosystem approaches, and informed contributions on limitations or overt simplifications of the (co-) evolutionary, ecosystem, and related approaches, are also very much warranted.

**Keywords:**
Organizational Adaptation and Open, Adaptive Systems
Ecosystems
Routines, Memetics and Cultural Evolution
Coevolution
Systems Thinking and Complexity Theory
Generalised Darwinism

**UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):**

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