



Call for Papers – Special Issue

Management and Function: From Added Values to Augmented Realities

Guest Editor: Steffen Roth, ESC Rennes School of Business

Background

The distinction of function systems such as the political system, the economy, science, religion, or the legal system is considered a key principle of modern societies (Bergthaller and Schinko, 2011; Brier, 2006; Jönhill, 2012; Kjaer, 2010; Leydesdorff, 2002; Luhmann, 1977; Luhmann, 1990; Luhmann, 1997; Schoeneborn, 2011; Seidl, 2005; Tsivacou, 1996; Vanderstraeten, 2005; Wetzel and Van Gorp, 2014; Wolfgang Rennison, 2007). Modern man knows how to talk business and when to avoid politics or religion in conversations; considers the buying of votes as corruption; and differentiates show trials from normal cases. Though these and similar differentiations are naturally applied by a considerable part of the world population, the function system *science* applies rather than studies functional differentiation. Thus we already find countless definitions of contemporary societies as economized (Urry, 2010; Lash, 2007; Alexander, 1985; Blumler and Kavanagh, 1999; Wallerstein, 2004; Habermas and McCarthy, 1985; Altvater and Mahnkopf, 1996; Chomsky, 1999; Polanyi, 1957; Smart, 2003; Çalışkan and Callon, 2009; Çalışkan and Callon, 2010), politicized (Chomsky, 2000; Chomsky, 1997; Thompson, 2006; Blumler and Kavanagh, 1999), mediatized (Eaman, 1987; Castells, 1996; Mazzoleni, 2008; Hjarvard, 2008) or sometimes even aestheticized (Blumler and Kavanagh, 1999), while we still lack precise answers to the questions as to what a function system is and how many function systems exist.

What is known so far at least is that function systems emerge from the use of symbolically generalized communication media such as power, money, truth, or belief, whose application recodes communication according to the individual function system's function. Functional differentiation thus adds code values to almost every aspect of social life, hence multiplying social realities, and constantly re-/creating the augmented reality of modernity. Modern organizations are therefore being rediscovered as oscillating (Andersen and Born, 2000), polyphonic (Andersen, 2003), heterophonic (Andersen and Born, 2007), multifinal (Dzombak et al., 2013), or multifunctional organizations (Roth, 2013; Roth, 2012), the observation of which challenges monofunctional management concepts.

Possible Topics

The aim of the present special issue is a functional modernization of management theory and practice. Submissions will apply a new set of variables and open up a new dimension of diversity that complements existing research focused on gender, age, race, nationality, hierarchy, centrality or culture in management, organizations, and markets. In doing so, contributions ask as to how management can act on stages whose designs are set by functional rather than theatrical properties; how identities emerge as a climate of functionally differentiated opinions; and how the observation of constellations of function systems spans a multifunctional horizon for decision-making. The manuscripts' ambition is theoretical or conceptual, and yet they disclose how the observation of functional differentiation adds value to management theory and practice. Contributions that apply ambitious theoretical reasoning to management subfields are particularly welcome. Such ventures could debark or depart from the following list of starting points:

- Organization, identity, and functional differentiation
- Value creation in and between the function systems
- Business model generation by functional differentiation
- Multifunctional entrepreneurship and entrepreneuring
- Functional versus value-based management
- Time, function, and planning
- The management of (inter-) functional complexity
- New variables of market "segmentation"
- Communication media and competition
- The functional differentiation of strategy
- Multifunctional accounting

Proposed Key Dates

All submissions will undergo double-blind peer review by qualified scholars. Key dates for submitters are as follows:

- October 31, 2015:** Deadline to submit full papers
March 31, 2016: Notification of acceptance, rejection, or request for revision
July 31, 2016: Revisions due; Final issue submissions selected
December 31, 2016: Articles delivered to publisher for publication in March-April 2017

Contact/Submission Information

Submissions to this special issue should be between 4,000 and 8,000 words (including references, tables, figures, etc.). For further questions about the issue and the appropriateness of a potential submission, please feel free to contact the special issue editor Steffen Roth at steffen.roth@esc-rennes.fr or strot@me.com. To submit your work by the deadline, please follow [the guidelines](#) on the journal website.

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