

Call for Papers for an Interdisciplinary Workshop on
“Organizing Risk and Managing Supply Chains”

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While supply chain risk is well known and studied, what many organizations experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and are still experiencing today, notably aggravated by such things as climate change, modern slavery regulation, labour shortages, the energy crisis, and geopolitical disruptions – seems to be different and fundamentally more complex. Negative events increasingly arise from interdependencies among different supply chains, across industries and countries. Many of these interdependencies were deliberately cultivated or at least tolerated, yet somehow these risks feel novel.

Supply chains and their risks are not only a contemporary phenomenon of practical importance. They are also a fascinating topic for supply chain management scholars, as well as accountants, organisational theorists, science and technology scholars, and others. Actual mappings of supply chains tend to show much less linearity than the “chain” metaphor suggests, something that calls for new metaphors that foreground spatiality without being implicitly too linear (Stephens et al., 2022). Broadly speaking, what is at stake is the development of a vocabulary that expresses “practices of connectivity” that shape flows of material and information, as well as meanings constructed around these connections and flows – including risks – and puts them at centre stage as an analytical focus. This approach would force analysts to critically reflect on where and how supply chains get represented by organizations, and by whom (Wieland, 2021). For risk scholars (e.g., Hardy et al., 2020; Power, 2016), specifically, the theme of managing and being responsible for risk beyond organizational boundaries is of central interest. Responsibility expansion can be seen as a feature of an expanded critical consciousness about supply “chains”, something that the idea of “stakeholder pressure” may not fully capture (Schuessler et al., 2023).

In this workshop, we invite scholars from all disciplines to reflect on the complex relation between supply chains and risk management. The workshop builds on the EGOS series on “organizing risk” (2023, 2021, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012), which have led to the start of an international and interdisciplinary academic network of researchers in management and other social sciences interested in risk and risk management ([Organizing Risk Group](#)) covering a variety of topics including riskwork and risk management practices, crisis management and business continuity, internal controls and auditing, decision-making and risk regulation.

References

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