

Main Page - Public

From Notes for Strategy

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STRATEGY DOCTORAL SEMINAR: DETERMINANTS OF FIRM HETEROGENEITY

Course Summary

This course considers explanations for performance differences among seemingly similar enterprises. In so doing, this course provides a brief survey of the Strategy research canon, while providing equal emphasis on sampling examples of contemporary works. It is therefore a course that is intended provide an understanding of the range of perspectives on this topic.

Half the sessions will be devoted to covering ideas in the literature and half will be devoted to looking at research now at the frontier.

Note. As a course focused on explanations for firm heterogeneity, this is not a course that covers the vast literature on corporate strategy (alliances, make or buy, firm scope, etc.).

Evaluation

The goal here to assure everyone gets a good foundation and understanding of the field – and a good grade. There is no final exam or project. Here is the recipe for doing well in the class:

Class participation, engagement and contribution (30%) Learning in graduate studies is in large part through interactions with peers and “learning together” in intelligent conversation and debate. To this end, the quality of contribution you bring to our sessions is an important component of the evaluation.

Class preparation notes (30%) Prior to each session, you will be given specific instructions on how to prepare and how to summarize your thoughts. This will generally take the form of a very brief note, on the order of one single page for each session. This is intended to provide some structure to your thinking before we engage in a conversation.

Paper mini-seminar presentations (30%). Discussions of contemporary papers will be structured as “mini-seminars”, with a student presenting. You will be given specific instructions on how to present a paper. In addition to animating our discussion of modern research, this structured approach is intended to teach you to be an excellent presenter and how to systematically digest and to rapidly and deeply understand others’ research papers. These sessions will also provide a virtual “introduction” to active scholars via their work and provide a sense of the kind of work that excels on the job market. You may be asked to present up to as many as five papers over the course. Details will be subject to finalizing logistics.

Wiki contributions (10%) There will be a wiki set up to support class interactions. Any contributions to this wiki, adding papers, discussion etc. are intended to support the collective learning of all students in the class. Wiki contributions will overlap with the content of class discussion and your class preparation notes, rather than necessarily constituting an independent work output.

Schedule

- Session 8 Monday 30th June, 9:00 - 11:45 in LH102
- Session 9 Monday 30th June, 15:45 – 18:30 in ALH304
- Session 10 Friday 4th July, 12:45 – 15:30 in A127

Strategy Foundations and Principles of Business Design

Instructions to Participants

Session 1

- *Required readings:* Review required readings, indicated by ***. Be prepared to discuss their content and main
- Wiki exercise 1 - post your class preparation note here

Session 2

- Pick one of the modern papers or choose an alternative paper you prefer that relates to the topic (and you ok with me)
- Present the paper in class. Here are some guidelines
- Wiki exercise 2 - i) building familiarity with the literature and; ii) distilling your understanding of contributions

The Practical Classroom "MBA Narrative"

- ***Porter, M. (1996). *What is Strategy?* "Harvard Business Review
- Markides, C. (1999). All the Right Moves: A Guide to Crafting Breakthrough Strategy. Ch. 1, 3-4
- Martin, R. (2009) *The Design of Business: Why Design Thinking is the Next Competitive Advantage*. Ch. 1-4
- ***Casadesus-Masanell R. and Enric Ricart, J. (2009). From Strategy to Business Models and to Tactics (http://www.businessmodelcommunity.com/fs/Root/8oex1-Casadesus_et_Ricart.pdf) . Sections I-V
- Rumelt, R. (2011). *Good Strategy, Bad Strategy*.
- Casadesus-Masanell, Ramon, and Joan E. Ricart. "How to Design a Winning Business Model." Harvard Business Review 89, nos. 1-2 (January–February 2011): 100–107.
- Zott, Chris, and Raphael Amit (2009). "Business Model Design: An Activity System Perspective". Long Range Planning.
- Teece, David J. (2010). "Business Models, Business Strategy, and Innovation". Long Range Planning

43: 172—194.

Background Ideas

Context and Historical Background

- Rumelt, Schendel & Teece, Fundamental Issues in Strategy (1994)
- Rumelt, Richard P., Dan Schendel, and David J. Teece (1991): “Strategic management and economics.” Strategic Management Journal, 12:5-29.
- Montgomery, Cynthia A., Birger Wernerfelt, and Srinivasan Balakrishnan (1989): “Strategy content and the research process: A critique and commentary.” Strategic Management Journal, 10:189-197.
- Carroll, Glenn R. (1993): “A sociological view on why firms differ.” Strategic Management Journal, 14:237-250.
- Syverson, C. "What Determines Productivity?" Journal of Economic Literature, June 2011.

Fit

- Toward a unifying framework for exploring fit and flexibility in strategic human resource management PM Wright, SA Snell - Academy of management review, 1998 - amr.aom.org
- Exploring the concept of “fit” in strategic management N Venkatraman, JC Camillus - Academy of Management Review, 1984
- Modeling the dynamics of strategic fit: A normative approach to strategic change EJ Zajac, MS Kraatz... - Strategic management ..., 2000
- ***Siggelkow, Nicolaj. "Change in the presence of fit: The rise, the fall, and the renaissance of Liz Claiborne." Academy of Management Journal 44 (2001): 838-857.
- Christoph Zott and Raphael Amit, 2007. The fit between product market strategy and business model: implications for firm performance, Strategic Management Journal Volume 29, Issue 1, January 2008, Pages: 1–26 <*Pascal presenting*>

N-K Models

- ***Levinthal, D. A. (1997). Adaptation on rugged landscapes. Management Science.
- Rivkin, J, Siggelkow, N. (2002). Balancing Search and Stability: Interdependencies Among Elements of Organizational Design. Management Science

Businesses and System Dynamics

- Sterman, J. (2000) Business dynamics: systems thinking and modeling for a complex world.

Complementarities

- ***Milgrom, P. and Roberts, J. (1990). The Economics of Modern Manufacturing. American Economic Review
- Roberts and Saloner (2013) "Strategy and Organization", in R. Gibbons and J. Roberts (eds.), The Handbook of Organizational Economics. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- P Milgrom, Y Qian, J Roberts (1991) Complementarities, momentum, and the evolution of modern manufacturing, American Economic Review, (1991)
- P Milgrom, J Roberts (1995) Complementarities and fit strategy, structure, and organizational change in manufacturing, Journal of accounting and economics

- Brynjolfsson, Erik and Paul Milgrom. (2013) “Complementarity in Organizations.” in R. Gibbons and J. Roberts (eds.), *The Handbook of Organizational Economics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Athey and Stern, An Empirical Framework for Testing Theories About Complementarity in Organizational Design
- Ichniowski, Casey, Kathryn Shaw, and Giovanna Prennushi. 1997. “The Effects of Human Resource Management Practices on Productivity: A Study of Steel Finishing Lines.” *American Economic Review* 87: 291-313.

The Firm as System of Incentives, as Regulated Subeconomy

- Holmstrom, Bengt and Paul Milgrom. 1994. “The Firm as an Incentive System.” *American Economic Review* 84: 972-91.
- ***The Firm as a Subeconomy Bengt Holmström 1999, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 15 (1): 74-102.

Contemporary Research

- Van den Steen, Eric. A Theory of Explicitly Formulated Strategy Harvard Business School Working Paper, No. 12–102, May 2012.
- Aral, S., Brynjolfsson, E and Wu, L. (2012). Testing Three-Way Complementarities: Performance Pay, Human Resource Analytics and Information Technology. *Management Science*
- Cassiman, Veugelers 2006. In search of complementarity in innovation strategy: internal R&D and external knowledge acquisition <*Joao presenting*>
- Casadesus-Masanell and Feng Zhu, Business model innovation and competitive imitation: The case of sponsor-based business models
- Bloom, Nicholas, Luis Garicano, Raffaella Sadun, and John Van Reenen. "The Distinct Effects of Information Technology and Communication Technology on Firm Organization." *Management Science* (forthcoming).
- Lenox, Rockart, and Lewin, 2006. Interdependency, Competition, and the Distribution of Firm and Industry Profits. *Management Science*
- Novak, S, S. Stern, 2009. Complementarity Among Vertical Integration Decisions: Evidence from Automobile Product Development
- Zajac and Kraatz Modeling the dynamics of strategic fit: A normative approach to strategic change - *Strategic Management Journal*, 2000 <*Jimmy presenting*>

Industry-Level Analysis

Instructions to Participants

Session 3

- *Required readings*: Review required readings, indicated by ***. Be prepared to discuss their content and main
- Wiki exercise 3 - post your class preparation note here

Session 4

- Pick one of the modern papers or choose an alternative paper you prefer that relates to the topic (and you ok with me)
- Present the paper in class. Here are some guidelines
- Wiki exercise 4 - i) building familiarity with the literature and; ii) distilling your understanding of contributions

The Practical Classroom "MBA Narrative"

- ***Porter M, How Competitive Forces Shape Strategy, Harvard Business Review (1996)
- Porter, Michael E. (1985). Competitive Advantage. Free Press.
- Chan Kim W; Mauborgne R, Value Innovation: The Strategic Logic of High Growth, Harvard Business Review (1997)
- Saloner G., A. Shepherd, J. Podolny. (2000). Strategic Management. Ch. 6 External Analysis: Industry Analysis.
- Grant, R. (2009). Contemporary Strategy Analysis. Ch. 3 Industry Analysis: The Fundamentals
- Adner, R. (2012). The Wide Lens. Ch. 4 Mapping the Ecosystem: Identifying Pieces and Places
- Iansiti, M. and Levien, R. (2004). The Keystone Advantage. The Ecosystem Framework: Ch. 2 Shared Fat
- Brandenburger, A. and Nalebuff, B. (1997) Co-opetition : A Revolution Mindset That Combines Competition and Cooperation
- Brandenburger, A. and Nalebuff, B. HBR Article
- Rivkin, J. and Cullen, A. Finding Information for Industry Analysis. HBS Study Note 708481-PDF-ENG
- Shapiro, C. and H. Varian (1999). Information Rules. Harvard Business School Press.
- Thomas Eisenmann and Geoffrey Parker and Marshall Van Alstyne (October 2006). "Strategies for Two Sided Markets". Harvard Business Review. Retrieved 2011-06-21.
- Brian Arthur, "Increasing Returns and the New World of Business," Harvard Business Review,
- Yoffie, D., MA Cusumano, Judo strategy. The competitive dynamics of Internet time. Harvard Business Review, 1998
- DB Yoffie, M Kwak, Judo strategy: 10 techniques for beating a stronger opponent, Business Strategy Review, 2002

Background Ideas

Classic Microeconomic Models of Competition, Positioning and Definition of the Product Space

- Cournot, A.A., 1838, Researches into the Mathematical Principles of the Theory of Wealth, N.T. Bacon trans., Macmillan.
- Marshall, Alfred (1890). Principles of Economics 1 (First Edition ed.). London: Macmillan.
- Chamberlain, Edward. 1933. The Theory of Monopolistic Competition. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Robinson, Joan. 1933. The Economics of Imperfect Competition. New York: MacMillan.
- Lancaster, K. 1966. A New Approach to Consumer Theory. Journal of Political Economy, 82: 134-157.

Early Industrial Economics and Cross-Industry Studies

- Bain, Joe S. 1951. "Relation of Profit Rate to Industry Concentration: American Manufacturing, 1936–1940." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 65(3): 293–324.
- Bain, Joe S. 1956. *Barriers to New Competition*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Caves & Porter. 1977. *From Entry Barriers to Mobility Barriers*. QJE.
- Schmalensee, Richard. 1989. "Inter-Industry Studies of Structure and Performance." In *Handbook of Industrial Organization*, vol. 2, ed. Richard Schmalensee and Robert D. Willig, 951–1010. Amsterdam: North Holland.

Industrial Economics, Game Theory, Strategic Incentives and Interactions

- Ghemawat, P (1991), *Commitment: The Dynamic of Strategy* (Free Press)
- ***Tirole, J. (1988). Chapter 2 and Chapter 5. *The theory of industrial organization*. MIT Press. (Read models of perfect competition, monopoly, duopoly, monopolistic competition, Cournot competition)
- Baumol, W. J., Panzar, J. C., & Willig, R. D. (1988). *Contestable markets and the theory of industry structure*. Harcourt College Pub.
- Bresnahan, T. F., & Reiss, P. C. (1991). Entry and competition in concentrated markets. *Journal of Political Economy*.
- Sutton, John. 1991. *Sunk Costs and Market Structure*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Saloner, Garth. 1991. Modeling, Game Theory, and Strategic Management. *Strategic Management Journal*, 12: 119-136.
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- Saloner. 1994. Game Theory and Strategic Management. In *Fundamental Issues in Strategy*
- Saloner, G. (1991). "Modeling, game theory, and strategic management." *Strategic Management Journal* 12: 119.
- Fisher, Franklin M. 1989. "Games Economists Play: A Noncooperative View." *RAND Journal of Economics*, 20(1): 113–24.

Increasing Returns & "Positive Feedback"

- Gowrisankaran, Gautam, Vivian Ho, and Robert Town, "Causality and the Volume-Outcome Relationship in Surgery," April 5 2004. unpublished manuscript, University of Minnesota.
- Lieberman, Marvin B. 1984. The Learning Curve and Pricing in the Chemical Processing Industries. *RAND Journal of Economics*, 15, 213–228.
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- Parker, G. and M. Van Alstyne. "Two Sided Networks: A Theory of Information Product Design". *Management Science* 51 (10). Retrieved 2011-06-21.
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- Arthur, W. B. 1989. Competing technologies, increasing returns, and lock-in by historical events. *Economic Journal* 99: 116-131.
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- Besen, S. M. and Farrel, J. 1994. Choosing how to compete: Strategies and tactics in standardization. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8: 117-31.
- Farrell J. and Saloner, G. 1985 Standardization, compatibility, and innovation *Rand Journal* 16: 70-83.
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- Katz, M. L. and Shapiro, C. 1994. Systems competition and network effects. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8: 93-115.
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- Liebowitz, S. J. and Margolis, S. E. 1995a. Path dependence, lock-in and history. *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 11: 205-226.
- ***Bikhchandani, S., Hirshleifer, D. and I. Welch. A Theory of Fads, Fashion, Custom, and Cultural Change as Informational Cascades, *Journal of Political Economy*

Vol. 100, No. 5 (Oct., 1992), pp. 992-1026

Information & Signaling

- Spence, Michael 2002. Signaling in Retrospect and the Informational Structure of Markets. *The American Economic Review*, 92(3): 434-459.
- Cooper, Russell, Douglas V. DeJong, Robert Forsythe, and Thomas W. Ross. 1992. Communication in Coordination Games. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 107:739-771.
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- Spence, Michael. 1973. Job Market Signaling. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 87(3): 355-374. *
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The New Empirical Industrial Economics

- Athey, Susan, and Philip A. Haile. 2006. "Empirical Models of Auctions." In *Advances in Economics and Econometrics: Theory and Applications*, Ninth World Congress, vol. 2, ed. Richard Blundell, Whitney K. Newey, and Torsten Persson
- Berry, Steven. 1992. "Estimation of a Model of Entry in the Airline Industry." *Econometrica*, 60(4): 889-917
- Berry, Steven, James Levinsohn, and Ariel Pakes. 1995. "Automobile Prices in Market Equilibrium." *Econometrica*, 63(4): 841-90.
- Berry, Steven, and Elie Tamer. 2006. "Identification in Models of Oligopoly Entry." In *Advances in Economics and Econometrics: Theory and Applications*, Ninth World Congress, vol. 2, ed. Richard Blundell, Whitney K. Newey, and Torsten Persson, 46-85. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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The Industry versus Organisation Debate

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- Rumelt, R. (1991): "How much does industry matter?" *Strategic Management Journal*, 12:167- 185
- Waring, Geoffrey F. (1996): "Industry differences in the persistence of firm-specific returns." *American Economic Review*, 86:1253-1265.
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- Roquebert, J.A., Phillips, R.L., and P.A. Westfall (1996): "Markets versus management: What 'drives' profitability?" *Strategic Management Journal*, 17:653-664.
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Strategic Management & Industrial Organization

- Peteraf, Margaret and Mark Shanley. 1997. "Getting to know you: A theory of strategic group identity." *Strategic Management Journal* 18:165-186.
- Gimeno J. 1999. Reciprocal threats in multimarket rivalry: Staking out spheres of influence in the U.S. airline industry. *Strategic Management Journal*, 20(2): 101-128
- Dyer, J. H. and H. Singh (1998). "The relational view: Cooperative strategy and sources of interorganizational competitive advantage." *Academy of Management Review* 23(4): 660.
- ***Schilling, M. A. and C. C. Phelps (2007). "Interfirm Collaboration Networks: The Impact of Large-Scale Network Structure on Firm Innovation." *Management Science* 53(7): 1113-1126.
- Ferrier WJ, Smith KG, Grimm CM. 1999. The role of competitive action in market share erosion and industry dethronement: A study of industry leaders and challengers. *Academy of Management Journal* 42: 372-388
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Biform Games, Power, Appropriation, Coopetition and Value Capture Problems

- Brandenburger, A. M. and H. W. Stuart (1996). "Value-based business strategy." *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy* 5: 5-24.

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- ***Brandenburger & Stuart 2007. Biform Games. MS
- Bakos, Yannis. and Brynjolfsson, Erik (December 1993) From Vendors to Partners: Information Technology and Incomplete Contracts in Buyer-Supplier Relationships. Journal of Organizational Computing, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 301-328.
- M.G. Jacobides, T. Knudsen and M. Augier, 2006. "Benefiting from Innovation: Value Creation, Value Appropriation and the Role of Industry Architectures", Research Policy, Vol. 35, pp. 1200–21
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Sociological Perspectives - Networks, Embeddedness, Relationships, Trust

- Ingram, Paul, and Peter W. Roberts. "Friendships among Competitors in the Sydney Hotel Industry." American Journal of Sociology 106 (2000): 387-423.
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- Robinson, David T., and Toby E. Stuart. "Just How Incomplete Are Incomplete Contracts? Evidence from Biotech Strategic Alliances." Unpublished manuscript, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, 2002.
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- Uzzi, Brian. "The Sources and Consequences of Embeddedness for the Economic Performance of Organizations: The Network Effect." American Sociological Review 61 (1996): 674-698.
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 - Simcoe, T. & Waguespack, D.M. Status, Quality and Attention: What's in a (Missing) Name? Management Science, 57(2): 274-290
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Industry Dynamics

Instructions to Participants

Session 5

- *Required readings:* Review required readings, indicated by ***. Be prepared to discuss their content and main
- Wiki exercise 5 - post your class preparation note here

Session 6

- Pick one of the modern papers or choose an alternative paper you prefer that relates to the topic (and you ok with me)
- Present the paper in class. Here are some guidelines

The Practical Classroom "MBA Narrative"

- Utterback (1994) Mastering the Dynamics of Innovation
- Christensen (1997) Innovator's Dilemma: When New Technologies Cause Great Firms to Fail
- Moore (1991) Crossing the Chasm
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- Anderson P; Tushman M, Technological Discontinuities and Dominant Designs: A Cyclical Model of Technological Change, *Administrative Science Quarterly* (35) 4, 604– 633 (1990)

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- Bijker, W. E., Hughes, T. P., & Pinch, T. J. (Eds.). 1987. *The Social construction of technological systems : new directions in the sociology and history of technology*.

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neo-Schumpeterian Debate: Market Structure and Innovation Incentives

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Other Organizational Sociology

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Organization-Level Analysis

Instructions to Participants

Session 7

- *Required readings*: Review required readings, indicated by ***. Be prepared to discuss their content and main
- Wiki exercise 7 - post your class preparation note here

Session 8

- Pick one of the modern papers or choose an alternative paper you prefer that relates to the topic (and you ok with me)
- Present the paper in class. Here are some guidelines

The Practical Classroom "MBA Narrative"

- *** Barney J, Looking inside for competitive advantage, Academy of Management Executive (9) 4, 49-61 (1995)
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Human Assets and Organizational Assets

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- ***Bertrand, M. and A. Schoar *Managing with Style: The Effect of Managers on Firm Policies*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
- Cannella, A. A., & Hambrick, D. C. 1993. Effects of executive departures on the performance of acquired firms. *Strategic Management Journal*, 14: 137–152
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Culture & Leadership

- Sorensen, Jesper B. "The strength of corporate culture and the reliability of firm performance." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 47 (2002): 70-91
- Hermalin, Benjamin. 2012a. "Leadership and Corporate Culture." Forthcoming in R. Gibbons and J. Roberts (eds.), *Handbook of Organizational Economics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
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also see NK-Perspective

Behavioural Theory of the Firm and Carnegie School

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See also non-monetary sources of motivation

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Organizational Dynamics

Instructions to Participants

Session 9

- *Required readings:* Review required readings, indicated by ***. Be prepared to discuss their content and main
- Wiki exercise 9 - post your class preparation note here

Session 10

- Pick one of the modern papers or choose an alternative paper you prefer that relates to the topic (and you ok with me)
- Present the paper in class. Here are some guidelines

The Practical Classroom "MBA Narrative"

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- Ries E, The Lean Startup: How Constant Innovation Creates Radically Successful Businesses, Part One (2011)
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Background Ideas

Time Compression Diseconomies

Amabile, T. , J. Mueller , W. Simpson , C. Hadley , S. Kramer , L. Fleming Time Pressure and Creativity in Organizations

(<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download;jsessionid=AAA1B02E7FFA55A32D1AB22C049F931D?doi=10.1.1.197.599&rep=rep1&type=pdf>)

Learning by Doing

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Adaptation & Managing Uncertainty

- Jarzabkowski, P. 2004. Strategy as practice: recursiveness, adaptation, and practices-in-use Organization studies
- Mintzberg, H. Patterns in Strategy Formation. Management Science (1978)
- March, J. 1991. Exploration and exploitation in organizational learning. Organization science
- He, Z., PK Wong. 2004. Exploration vs. exploitation: An empirical test of the ambidexterity hypothesis. Organization science
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Organizational Adaptation and Rigidities During Technical Discontinuities

- Christensen, Clayton. "How Can Great Firms Fail? Insights From the Hard Disk Industry." Chapter 1 in The Innovator's Dilemma. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Business School Press, 1997, pp. 3-28.
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