

# CALL FOR PAPERS

The 10<sup>th</sup> Ratio Colloquium for Young Social Scientists

## Organizing for Digitalization

Stockholm, August 26-27, 2016

### *Highlights:*

- Cross-disciplinary social sciences colloquium focused on digitalization
- Collaborative and stimulating atmosphere for young scholars to develop papers
- Keynotes by J.P. Eggers (NYU) and Ola Henfridsson (Warwick)
- Accommodation and travel costs covered for participants with accepted full papers

The Ratio Institute hereby invites junior scholars in management, economics, economic history, sociology, etc. to submit proposals for a cross disciplinary research colloquium in Stockholm, Sweden. The aim of this Colloquium is to bring together researchers in different fields working on the emergence, effects, diffusion, organizing, and strategic management of digitalization.

While digitalization is by no means a recent phenomenon, the way it shapes business processes across industries (Greenstein, Lerner, & Stern, 2013) is expected to have tremendous impact on economic growth (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2014), competition (Porter & Heppelmann, 2014), and innovation (Dougherty & Dunne, 2012; Yoo *et al.*, 2012). Digital technologies are characterized by data homogenization and by their capacity to transform previously inaccessible data or data that has been hard to codify into useful information. In short, digital artifacts are “embedded in wider and constantly shifting ecosystems such that they become increasingly editable, interactive, reprogrammable, and distributable” (Kallinikos, Aaltonen, & Marton, 2013: 357). Given these features of digital technologies and their increasing diffusion and importance for various sectors of society, scholars predict “significant shifts in strategies for the organizational form for addressing market opportunities” (Greenstein, Lerner, & Stern, 2013: 119).

A common understanding of digitalization is that products, processes, services, and even strategies at various levels have become increasingly interconnected (Bharadwaj *et al.*, 2013), hence requiring significant shifts in firms’ business models (Björkdahl, 2009; Keen & Williams, 2013) and management practice innovations to cope with such changes (Khanagha *et al.*, 2013). In the related field of technological disruption, scholars have also addressed the need for studying managers’ cognitive representations of their firms’ capabilities as these are likely to play a role in the selection, adoption, and outcome of digital technologies in organizations (Benner & Tripsas, 2012). Thus, the managerial cognitive representations in directing search and adaptive processes (Eggers & Kaplan, 2009; Kaplan & Tripsas, 2008; Tripsas & Gavetti, 2000) in relation to digitalization of industries are important factors requiring deeper understanding.

In addressing these various aspects of digitalization, the ambition of this Colloquium is to advance a sophisticated perspective on the interplay between digitalization and management innovations. However, we especially welcome papers dealing with, but not limited to the following issues:

- What are the implications of digitalization on organizational design?
- How do organizations respond to the challenges and opportunities of digitalization in their business models?
- How do digitalization initiatives interplay with strategy practices and processes?
- What management practice innovations have resulted from digitalization?
- How does digitalization prompt shifts in capability cognition and vice versa, how does capability cognition interplay with digitalization efforts?
- How do firms capitalize on information imperfections in the face of digitalization?
- What new power and control mechanisms evolve from digitalization?

Submitted proposals (5 pages, see further details below) are expected to be work in progress: they should be developed into complete papers by *July 15* (see important dates below), but still be unpublished. We expect the submitted proposals to adopt multiple approaches, including process and variance studies, qualitative in-depth studies and quantitative studies, using data on single corporations, industries, or across countries. Proposals will be selected after a *double-blind review* process based on relevance for the Colloquium theme and potential for stimulating discussion. Around 20 papers are usually accepted, following review of submitted abstracts.

Senior PhD students, postdocs, and assistant professors are eligible for participation. *Discussants will be appointed to each accepted paper*; all participants are expected to read and comment on papers assigned to them. Both the *colloquium and hotel accommodation will be free of charge for participants*. Ratio will also reimburse reasonable budget travel expenses for all participants with full paper submissions.

RCYSS is renowned for offering participants the opportunity to interact in depth, exchange constructive comments, and share insights in a stimulating intellectual environment.

### **Important dates and deadlines**

March 31	Deadline for submission of proposals
April 29	Applicants will be notified of whether they have been accepted or not
June 30	Last date for registration
July 15	Deadline for submission of full papers

### **Guidelines**

- Proposals should not exceed a total of 5 pages and 3000 words, including charts, graphs, diagrams, and references.
- Abstract of 125 words.
- Only electronic submissions to [karl.axelsson@ratio.se](mailto:karl.axelsson@ratio.se) will be accepted.
- Maximum of one (1) proposal, either as an author or a co-author, may be submitted.

### **Applications should include the following**

- A research proposal
- A one page summary of your *research interests* and a CV

### **Venue**

The Colloquium will be held at Ratio Institute, Sveavägen 59 in central Stockholm.

### **Conveners**

**Robert Demir**, PhD, Lancaster University and Ratio Institute ([robert.demir@ratio.se](mailto:robert.demir@ratio.se))

**Karl Wennberg**, Professor, Linköping University and Ratio Institute ([karl.wennberg@liu.se](mailto:karl.wennberg@liu.se))

**Magnus Mähring**, Professor, Stockholm School of Economics ([magnus.mahring@hhs.se](mailto:magnus.mahring@hhs.se))

**Submission and inquiries:** **Karl Axelsson**, Ratio Institute ([karl.axelsson@ratio.se](mailto:karl.axelsson@ratio.se))

### **Keynote speakers**

**J.P. Eggers** is an Associate Professor of Management & Organizations at NYU's Stern School of Business. His research primarily focuses on the overlap between two domains – the evolution of technologies and industries, and the cognitive decision making process of managers. He has explored how the failure of technological investments affects subsequent organizational decision making, how managerial attention shapes firm strategy, and how managers make decisions about where and how to grow their firm. His research has been published in leading outlets, such as *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Organization Science*, and *Strategic Management Journal*, and has received multiple awards from conferences and professional organizations. At NYU he teaches the core MBA strategy class, a capstone strategic elective for MBAs, and in the Business Analytics program. J.P. received his PhD from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, his MBA from Emory University, and his BA from Amherst College.

**Ola Henfridsson** is a Professor of Information Systems and Management at Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, UK. His research interests relate to digital innovation, digital infrastructure, platforms, technology management, and the transformative potential of digital technology as it pervades modern business and entrepreneurship. He has, among other things, explored the nature of technological innovation trajectories among institutional entrepreneurs. His work has been published in leading journals such as *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, and *Organization Science*. He is a Senior Editor of *Information Systems Research* (2015-2017) and *Journal of Information Technology*. He is a former Associate Editor (2006-2008) and Senior Editor (2008-2011) of the *MIS Quarterly*. He is also an external expert for the Information Systems and Innovation Group, Department of Management at the London School of Economics. Ola teaches digital business strategy and digital innovation at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Ola earned his PhD at Umeå University, Sweden, and has been a professor at Chalmers University of Technology, part-time

faculty member at Halmstad University and Jönköping International Business School, and visiting professor at University of Oslo and Georgia State University. He has worked and consulted with leading companies such as General Motors, Mecel, Volvo Cars, Volvo Trucks, and many more.

## Organization

The Ratio institute is an independent multidisciplinary research institute based in Stockholm, Sweden. Researchers have a background in academic disciplines such as Business History, Economics, Economic Geography, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Management, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology.

The aim of the Ratio Colloquium for Social Scientists (RCSS) is to consolidate, integrate, and further develop ongoing efforts in understanding the interplay between institutions and corporations in economic growth. RCSS is an annual event organized in conjunction with ongoing research projects at the Ratio Institute. Topics in the last three years have included: "Skills for Growth", "Financing Innovations", and "Technological Discontinuities and Industrial Transformation". The Ratio Institute has previously attracted distinguished scholars such as Howard Aldrich (University of North Carolina), Richard N. Langlois (University of Connecticut), Deidre McCloskey (University of Illinois), and Mary Tripsas (Carroll School of Management, Boston College) to its scholarly events.

## References

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