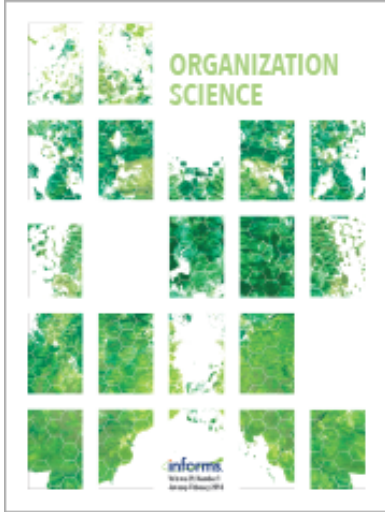




Organization Science

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From the Editor

Linda Argote,

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From the Editor

Linda Argote

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This editorial describes the objectives of *Organization Science* and the kind of manuscripts that we hope to attract to the journal. Previous Editors-in-Chief are acknowledged and thanked for the excellent jobs they have done and for the superb reputation that the journal developed under their leadership. Incoming Senior Editors and members of the Editorial Review Board are introduced and welcomed. Ideas for continuing the traditions of innovation and excellence at *Organization Science* are discussed.

Key words: statement of purpose; acknowledgments; editorial transition; innovation

Greetings! I am delighted to begin serving as Editor-in-Chief of *Organization Science*. *Organization Science* has a reputation for publishing high-quality, innovative research that has an impact. The previous Editors-in-Chief Dick Daft, Arie Lewin, and Kaye Schoonhoven deserve special recognition for the reputation the journal developed under their leadership. My goal for *Organization Science* is to build on the excellent foundation that my predecessors established for publishing exceptionally creative work that shaped the field of organizational studies.

Organization Science welcomes research from different disciplines and different levels of analysis. Research from the fields of organizational behavior and theory, strategic management, psychology, sociology, industrial relations, economics, political science, technology management, information systems, communication, and cognitive science can increase our understanding of organizations. Knowledge about organizations is also likely to be advanced by research on the groups, departments, and communities that compose organizations, as well as the interorganizational networks in which organizations are embedded.

Organization Science also welcomes research using different methodological approaches, including qualitative methods, field studies, archival analyses, surveys, observational methods, computational modeling, and laboratory experiments that are grounded in organizational phenomena. Research is evaluated according to the care with which the method is used and its ability to yield insights about an important research question.

In addition to the unsolicited research articles that are the core of the journal, *Organization Science* also occasionally publishes articles in the “Perspectives” and “Crossroads” categories as well as special issues. Perspectives articles are essays that direct attention to important new phenomena or redirect lines of research. Articles appearing in the Crossroads category capture a current debate about organizations. Special issues are

typically about new and emerging issues that are important for organizations. Through special issues and special articles, *Organization Science* can provide leadership in shaping (or reshaping) the development of the field.

Colleagues have been asking me about how we evaluate work for publication in *Organization Science*. In thinking about how to answer that question, I find myself returning to the two overarching criteria that our late colleague Herb Simon used to evaluate research. Herb said that he asked two questions about research: Is it interesting? Does it show what it says it shows? Our editors and reviewers use these two general criteria at *Organization Science*. We want to publish interesting work that has an impact. We also expect that interesting ideas will be supported by evidence. We are open to different forms of evidence. For example, the evidence could be new empirical evidence (either qualitative or quantitative), an insightful integration of evidence existing in the literature, or a mathematical proof of a proposition.

We aim to publish a mix of papers that “explore” new knowledge and “exploit” existing knowledge (March 1991) at *Organization Science*. Papers that explore fundamentally new knowledge are critical to the long-run success of a field. We aim to foster exploration by the diversity of our Senior Editors and Editorial Review Board and by the identity of the journal. We also aim to publish papers that create new knowledge by exploiting or recombining existing knowledge. Significant developments can be achieved by exploiting current knowledge to determine what it has to offer and what its limits are. Both exploration and exploitation are critical to the vitality of a field.

A change that we will be making at *Organization Science* this year is introducing a new online submission system. I have been working with the staff at INFORMS to tailor the Manuscript Central system used by several INFORMS journals to the special needs of *Organization Science*. We expect that the online system will enable us to be more responsive to authors and to reduce the burden on editors and reviewers.

Much of *Organization Science*'s vibrancy comes from the exceptionally talented and generous individuals who serve as Senior Editors. Our Senior Editors strive to cultivate new ideas and perspectives, to maintain the highest standards of scholarship, and to provide constructive feedback to authors. I am pleased to announce the addition of new Senior Editors Gautam Ahuja (University of Michigan), Richard Burton (Duke University), Deborah Dougherty (Rutgers University), Paul Ingram (Columbia University and the University of Toronto), Bill McEvily (Carnegie Mellon University), Ann Majchrzak (University of Southern California), Greg Northcraft (University of Illinois), and Susan Taylor (University of Maryland). These individuals were chosen because they are superb researchers who have excellent judgment. Along with our exceptionally talented and committed returning Senior Editors, Kim Elsbach (University of California, Davis), Javier Gimeno (INSEAD), Henrich Greve (Norwegian School of Management BI), Terri Griffith (Santa Clara University), Sim Sitkin (Duke University), Jim Wade (University of Wisconsin–Madison), and Axel von Werder (Technische Universität Berlin), the new Senior Editors represent an impressive range of research expertise.

I would also like to acknowledge the outgoing Senior Editors:

David Courpasson (École de Management Lyon, France), Marlana Fiol (University of Colorado at Denver), William H. Glick (Arizona State University), Barbara S. Lawrence (University of California, Los Angeles), Alan Meyer (Associate Editor-in-Chief, University of Oregon), Wanda Orlikowski (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and James P. Walsh (Associate Editor-in-Chief, University of Michigan). I want to thank these individuals for the wonderful job that they have done and for the tradition of excellence and innovation that they nurtured at the journal. As Associate Editors-in-Chief, Alan Meyer and Jim Walsh deserve special acknowledgment for the leadership they provided *Organization Science*.

Two other individuals deserve special thanks and recognition: Arie Lewin and Kaye Schoonhoven. Arie's entrepreneurial energy created *Organization Science*. The organizational community is indebted to him for creating such an important institution for our field. On a personal note, I wish to thank him for asking me to serve on *Organization Science*'s initial Editorial Review Board and later as a Senior Editor.

Transitions from founders to subsequent leaders are critical for an institution's success. Kaye Schoonhoven handled the transition beautifully and put her own stamp of the highest standards of scholarship on the journal. The journal prospered under Kaye's leadership. I would like to thank Kaye for the extraordinary job she did at *Organization Science* and for her generosity and advice to me during the journal's second transition. We will be

recognizing Kaye Schoonhoven for her leadership and celebrating her important contributions to *Organization Science* at the next Academy of Management meeting.

I also want to thank the members of the Editorial Review Board. The members of our board give generously to help authors develop their ideas and to help Senior Editors select the manuscripts that make the most significant contributions for publication. Many members of the board are returning for another term, and many new members have graciously agreed to serve on the board. I would like to thank the outgoing board members and acknowledge members of the incoming board. The incoming *Organization Science* Editorial Review Board is listed at the end of this note.

Reviewers and authors also make important contributions to *Organization Science*. Reviewers provide helpful feedback to authors and editors. Authors entrust us with their work. We hope that they feel that the review process at *Organization Science* enables them to strengthen their research.

The decentralized editorial structure at *Organization Science* has important advantages. It allows us to match manuscripts to Senior Editors who have expertise in the theory and methods of the manuscript. The decentralized structure also enables us to be responsive to changes in organizational research trends. As new areas emerge, new Senior Editors with relevant expertise can be added quickly.

Organization Science would not be possible without the capable work of its Managing Editor. Former Managing Editor Ann Clark has served the journal for more than two years and is to be commended for her professionalism and helpfulness to authors, Senior Editors, members of the Editorial Review Board, and of course to the Editor-in-Chief Emeritus Kaye Schoonhoven at the University of California, Irvine. Ann will continue to manage the Irvine *OS* office until May 2004. During this period of transition, she will be handling papers that were received before December 31, 2003. At this point, I would like to introduce Jennifer Kukawa, the new Managing Editor for *Organization Science*. Jennifer has significant editorial experience. She was an administrative assistant for *Management Science*'s Department of Organizational Performance, Strategy, and Design. Jennifer is exceptionally capable and helpful. I am confident that you will find working with her to be a pleasant and productive experience.

I would like to thank the committee that recommended me: Rebecca Henderson, Bruce Kogut (Chair), Christine Oliver, and Todd Zenger, as well as the INFORMS Publications Committee, which was chaired by Bill Pieraskalla, that selected me. I am honored and pleased that these individuals entrusted the editorship of *Organization Science* to me. I would also like to thank Ken Dunn, Dean of the Graduate School of Industrial Administration of Carnegie Mellon University, for his enthusiasm

for hosting *Organization Science* at Carnegie Mellon University and for his support of my serving as Editor-in-Chief. In addition, I would like to thank INFORMS staff members Patricia Shaffer, Molly O'Donnell, and Midori Baer-Price for their support during the transition.

Please send us your research, and let us know your ideas for strengthening the journal. I look forward to working with you to continue the tradition of excellence and innovation at *Organization Science*.

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