

Business Elites, Top Management and Governance Track
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Track chairs

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Description of the track

Keywords: Business elites, top management teams, chief executive officer, upper echelons, corporate governance.

The extent of corporations' impact on individual lives necessitates a careful investigation of business elites and upper echelons. There is an increasing interest in discussing the role of business elites and top managers in different facets of the global environment. Business elites and TMTs are among the most influential actors at both society and firm level.

In this track, we aim to build a platform that focuses on the discussion of issues related to different aspects of upper echelons at micro and macro level.

As important actors in the firms' struggle with the environment which has become more complex due to globalization, deregulation and technological advances, TMTs are expected to sense market signals and develop collectively appropriate responses to the changing environment. Therefore, papers investigating TMT motivational and cognitive bases, TMT dynamics and behavior, as well as the strategic and performance outcomes of TMT composition and processes are welcome. The study of

upper echelons may also contribute significantly to our understanding of governance by providing important feedback on how power is exercised in the corporations. For this reason, issues of power in TMT, TMT interaction with the board, executive compensation, executive turnover and succession might be other interesting topics. So far, there has been little work on the antecedents of TMTs. Hence, we also invite authors to submit papers about the dynamics behind the selection and formation of TMTs. Comparative papers that address the contextualization of upper echelons are also welcome.

Furthermore, we strongly encourage papers investigating the issue at macro level such as the change in and the characteristics of business elites. For instance historical and institutional influences on the backgrounds of business elites have received little attention despite the fact that they are closely related to governance. Therefore, formation of business elites and their interaction with different groups is a topic of interest. We are particularly interested in understanding the mechanisms behind the antecedents and outcomes of business elites and TMTs from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives.

Background of the track

We have been organizing Business Elites and Top Management Teams sub-track within the Corporate Governance track regularly since 2008 within the framework of EURAM conference. It has been quite successful. We expect that our track on Business Elites, Top Management and Governance will attract similar attention at IFSAM as well.

Short Bibliography

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Number of sessions and papers

We have more than 20 reviewers from all over Europe who have so far actively participated to our previous activities. A group of researchers are involved in the research project initiated by the track chairs. For that reason we expect to have at least 5 or 6 sessions at IFSAM.

Biographical note on each track chair

Sibel Yamak is professor of management at Galatasaray University. She has a doctorate in Organisation Theory from Bosphorous University. Her publications focus on business elites, top management teams, governance and corporate social performance. In 2007, she received Emerald LiteratiNetwork award. She has given courses and seminars at different universities such as the Panthéon Sorbonne University, Strasbourg Louis Pasteur University, Manouba University among others. She is a member of the editorial board of *Society and Business Review*. She has co-chaired Business elites and top management teams sub-track and Corporate Governance track at the European Academy of Management. She has been an Executive Committee member of the Academy of Management MED Division (USA) since 1999, as Country Liaison, International Membership Coordinator, Division Research Coordinator Elect, and Division Research Coordinator.

Sabina Nielsen is a Marie Curie post-doctoral research fellow at the Department of International Economics and Management, Copenhagen Business School. She received her Ph.D. from University of St. Gallen, Switzerland. Her dissertation won the European International Business Academy (EIBA) best dissertation proposal award in 2003 and was nominated for the Barry Richman Best Dissertation Award at the Academy of Management (AOM) in Philadelphia, USA and the Gunnar Hedlund Best Dissertation Award at the EIBA in Catania, Italy in 2007. Her research in the area of corporate governance and top management teams has been published in international scholarly journals and in Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management and the Academy of International Business. Her research interests include the composition, dynamics and decision-making of top management teams and boards of directors.

Alejandro Escriba-Esteve is associate professor of strategic management at the University of Valencia and he has worked as a visiting professor at HEC Montreal (Canada). He received his Ph.D. in management from the University of Valencia in 1999, and his current research is focused on the impact of TMT on firms' strategic choices, as well as partners' dynamics in strategic alliances. He has published his work in international peer reviewed journals such as *British Journal of Management*, *International Small Business Journal*, *International Marketing Review*, *Management International*, and *Journal of Knowledge Management*. He is member of the Board of ACEDE (Scientific Association of Economy and Business Management) since 2008 and has participated as co-chair of the TMT subtrack at the European Academy of Management.