

An exploration of the relationship between identity and ethics in inter-organisational collaborations

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Project description:

Many organizations form inter-organizational collaborations (IOCs) in order to respond to a demanding and unstable environment, achieve their aims, innovate, expand and become competitive. However, despite their importance, many IOCs either fail or underperform. Key themes in IOC research focus on the frustrations related to collaborative working and factors/practices that may increase collaboration performance (e.g. Hibbert et al., 2008; Olson, 2012; Vangen, 2017). A minor element of this research analyses the role of identities in collaborative work and suggests that in order to accomplish a successful collaboration members need to identify with it (Koschmann, 2012). Yet IOC members have available multiple (collaborative and non-collaborative) identities which may obstruct or facilitate the development of a common collaborative identity (Kourti, 2017). The ethics of these (potentially conflicting) identities have not been explored in IOC studies (Winchester, 2016).

This PhD research project aims to explore collaborative ethics, understood as the relationship between ethics and identity in collaborative IOC contexts. Potential areas of focus include:

- The impact of collaborative ethics on the development or obstruction of collaborative identity in IOCs
- The way collaborative ethics may affect the identities that IOC partners bring forward when working together
- The impact that partners' identities have on the development and embracement of collaborative ethics in IOCs

Proposed Methodology:

The successful candidate will adopt an appropriate qualitative research methodology, incorporating fieldwork. Given the topic, an ethnographic approach is encouraged.

References:

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