

Call for papers

Fifth Seminar of the Nordic Research Network on Trust within and between Organizations

Theme: Trust as a Multilevel and Contextualized Phenomenon

May 14-15 2013, Roskilde, Denmark

Purpose and focus of the seminar

Interest in trust research has increased enormously in the past 20 years in several fields of social sciences. Paradoxically, although trust may be found at all levels of organizations and societies our understanding of the complex relationship between institutional context of trust on the one hand and interpersonal trust processes in and around organizations on the other hand, is still rather rudimentary. The seminar thus aims to advance our understanding of trust as a multilevel and contextualized phenomenon.

Recent studies (Dietz et.a. 2010) have pointed to trust as ‘fundamentally interpersonal, but shaped by latent and overt influences at multiple levels’. This perspective resonates with a growing body of studies that explore multilevel approaches to interpersonal, organizational and inter-organizational trust (Carral and Inkpen, 2002; Carral and Inkpen, 2006; Fulmer and Gelfand, 2012; Wang and Gordon, 2011). An important issue in studies of multilevel trust is to understand micro-level mechanisms which shape individual trust intentions and how these are conditioned by trust at other levels in organizations and societies. Wang and Gordon (2011) have pointed to the need for more knowledge of micro-level mechanisms shaping individual trust intentions. More generally studies of multilevel trust thus aim at understanding the interplay of interpersonal, intergroup and inter-organizational trust.

This perspective is particularly important for studying trust in the Nordic high-trust societies. It is still not clear how the high-trust context in the Nordic countries impact on the degree of interpersonal and intra- and inter-organizational trust in specific settings. We may expect a higher readiness to trust, as the generally higher general trust levels in the Nordic countries seems to indicate, and perhaps a greater potential for the mobilization of ‘swift trust’. But it may also lead to actors being more sceptical towards exchange partners or leaders who they do not find trustworthy. So the overall effect of the high trust context may not be clear.

The seminar aims to include both empirical and theoretical papers. Qualitative methodological approaches and methods are particularly welcome and we encourage multi-disciplinary papers aiming at integrating, contrasting and complementing different approaches, views and type of analyses of trust in different contexts (private, public and not-for-profit, third sector organizations).

Topics for papers may include (but are not limited to):

- How may trust be conceptualized as a multivocal phenomenon? Which approaches are particularly promising?
- How can the actor-dimension in institutional-based trust be conceptualized and understood?
- How do we describe, analyze and understand processes of trust building, trust maintenance, trust erosion and trust repair from multilevel perspectives?
- What are particularly important aspects of the dynamics of trust between actors in organization when models of organization and management change globally and in Nordic countries?
- How does the Nordic high-trust context condition trust in persons, groups and organizations?
- What are potential advantages and what may be potential problems for organizations working in high-trust context, as the Nordic countries?

The seminar is a publication seminar aiming at publishing a peer reviewed book, edited by Søren Jagd et al., by an international publisher, and a special issue. All members of the network can present papers that relate to the topic. In order to secure the planning of paper sessions participants should send a short abstract (by March 15) when you register for the seminar. You will need to upload your full paper by May 1.

Papers should explain the purpose of the paper, theoretical background, the research question, the approach taken and the methods of analyses (in empirical papers), main findings, and contributions as well as further developments (if in progress). In addition, it is useful to indicate how the paper links with the theme of the seminar.

Deadline for registration and for submission of abstract: March 15 2013.

Send an abstract of about 1000 words to the organizers by sending a mail to jagd@ruc.dk. We will plan the sessions based on these abstracts into different themes.

Venue and schedule

The seminar will take place at Roskilde University

Accommodation

To follow at <http://trust.ruc.dk/publication-seminar-at-ruc>.