

Call for Papers

Organization Studies Special Issue Call: Trust in Uncertain Times

Trust has become one of the most widely researched topics in organization studies. Often broadly understood as the willingness to make oneself vulnerable to the actions of another party, trust plays a central role in virtually all intra- and inter-organizational interactions. Prior research suggests that trust can alleviate concerns of opportunism, which reduces inter-partner conflict and transaction costs.

Although the study of trust represents a long-standing area of inquiry in organization studies, several recent technological advancements and geopolitical developments have dramatically changed the landscape in which trust is embedded, pointing to the need for a re-examination and extension of earlier accounts. Digital technologies are transforming the nature of human interactions, with profound impacts on organizations, organizing, and the organized. Specifically, there are reasons to believe that digital technologies may cause trust to become more institution-based.

These technological developments come amidst unprecedented levels of geopolitical uncertainty and an accelerated decline of trust in institutions. Thought of as a relic from the past, a new cold war seems to be possible again. The Russian invasion of Ukraine exemplifies how key tenets of the economic world order—such as globalisation, free trade, and democracy—are more fragile than many assumed. What is more, China has emerged as a new superpower that is increasingly demanding its share of the global system of power and influence, leading to tensions and new challenges. The world has been massively shaken by a pandemic that has demonstrated the instability of trust in the absence of strong institutions while highlighting the critical need for various forms of trust in times of distress.

Our theories of trust in organizations and processes of organizing need to reflect these transformative changes. Against this background, we believe it is both important and timely to reassess the role of trust in intra- and inter-organizational settings to better understand how relevant contemporary developments affect and are affected by trust.

The objective of this Special Issue is to serve as a focal point for theory development on and empirical insights into the various ways in which trust and uncertainty intersect, with a special emphasis on the role of institutions in explaining the interface between the two. The Special Issue invites submissions that make substantial contributions to our understanding of trust in organized settings. More information can be found in the full [Call for Papers](#).

Veröffentlichungen

Ulrich Dolata & Jan-Felix Schrape (Hrsg.), 2022: Internet, Big Data und digitale Plattformen: Politische Ökonomie – Kommunikation – Regulierung. Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie: Sonderheft 62-2022

Kürzlich ist das KZfSS-Sonderheft zum Thema „Internet, Big Data und digitale Plattformen: Politische Ökonomie – Kommunikation – Regulierung“ erschienen. Die 18 Aufsätze des Bandes bieten einen profunden Überblick über wesentliche Bereiche der aktuellen sozialwissenschaftlichen Internetforschung und sind als Open Access [hier](#) abrufbar.