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CALL FOR PAPERS:

Sustainable Supply Chains in a Turbulent World: Challenges and Opportunities

Deadlines for Submissions: 30 June, 2021

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Firms are increasingly considered accountable for the environmental, social and economic outcomes caused by their suppliers' operations (Hartmann and Moeller, 2014). Over the past two decades, sustainable supply chain management (SSCM), which is concerned with integrating environmental, social and economic goals across a focal firm's supply chain processes, has emerged as an approach for firms to improve sustainable (i.e. environmental, social and economic) outcomes in their supply chains (Linton, Klassen, and Jayaraman, 2008; Zhu & Sarkis, 2004; Zhu, Sarkis, and Lai, 2007). To investigate the adoption, diffusion and outcomes of SSCM practices, scholars have adopted multiple theories (Golicic and Smith, 2013; Sarkis, Zhu, and Lai, 2011) with different research methods in different settings (Pagell and Wu, 2009).

Despite the fruitful research findings on the adoption, diffusion and outcomes of SSCM practices, new challenges and opportunities remain for both researchers and practitioners. Managing sustainability, however, continues to be challenging, especially when supply chains become more global while the world becomes more turbulent and unpredictable (e.g., the COVID-19) (Tong et al., 2018). From Nike struggling with child labor at supplier factories in the 1990's (Lim and Phillips, 2008) to Apple besieged by employee suicides at supplier Foxconn in the early 2000's (Clarke and Boersma, 2017) to pharmaceutical companies coming under pressure for the waste management practices of their Indian suppliers in 2016 (Marriage, 2016), supply chain-related sustainability scandals are recurring for firms with global supply chains. Furthermore, the more turbulent world where firms operate results in more disruptions in supply chains. As SSCM has gained prominent attention within

both academia and industry, it is imperative for firms to manage sustainable issues from their suppliers to avoid potential reputation losses and supply chain disruption; researchers have also been motivated to address the new challenges of SSCM, which provides opportunities to generate new knowledge in this research field.

This special issue attempts to address following research questions, but not limited to:

- 1) How to manage and rebuild global SSCMs for multinational enterprises (MNEs), especially when disruptions are incurred by unforeseen events such as COVID-19? What are the challenges faced by MNEs to manage and rebuild global SSCMs?
- 2) What kind of firms are able to maintain and rebuild global SSCMs? What resources and capabilities are needed to maintain and rebuild global SSCMs?
- 3) What are opportunities for potential local supplies when MNEs from developed economies encounter disruptions in their global SSCM? How can MNEs from developed economies help local suppliers to improve sustainability when their global supply chains are disrupted?
- 4) How do firms with previous SSCMs perform during unforeseen events such as COVID-19? Do firms with SSCMs perform better than those without SSCMs? How does COVID-19 impact SSCMs of those firms? What contributions can SSCMs make to stakeholders during COVID-19?
- 5) Emerging issues related to cold-chain are energy conservation and food security. Those issues become more prominent during COVID-19. How do those issues provide challenges and opportunities for researchers and practitioners of SSCM?
- 6) Studies regarding SSCM during public crises such as COVID-19. During public crises, do stakeholders, e.g., governments, customers, and NGOs, have different expectations on social and environmental responsibilities of a firm's supply chain practices? Do firms still need to operate their supply chains socially responsibly during public crises when firms may face financial difficulties? Do firms have extra expenses to maintain SSCM during public crises, and if so, how can firms balance costs and benefits of SSCM in short-term and in long-term?
- 7) Studies regarding Chinese suppliers' SSCMs. How do SSCMs enhance competitive advantages of Chinese suppliers? How do Chinese suppliers with SSCMs perform during COVID-19?
- 8) Is China a unique context for research on SSCMs? Is there a China-specific perspective of SSCMs? What can researchers and practitioners learn from SSCMs practices of Chinese firms?

Submission Instructions

Full papers on this subject can be submitted by June 30th 2021 through the ScholarOne system – see instructions below:

- If you do not yet have an account in the ScholarOne system, please use the following link: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ajm> and click “Create Account New Users”.
- Once registered, you should be able to login and enter the “author dashboard”. To submit a manuscript, click on the icon “click here to submit a new manuscript”.
- Please indicate in the appropriate drop-down menu that your paper is a candidate for the special issue and select as special issue: “Sustainable Supply Chains”.

Conference

Associated with the special issue, an online conference is planned to be hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University in September 2021. Details will be advertised in early 2021.

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