



'*ResearchToday!*' in the Business School

**London Centre for Business and Entrepreneurship Research
Research Seminar Programme Summer 2020, Thursdays, 12-1 pm, MSTeams**

'*ResearchToday!*' is a research seminar series that shows the breadth of research in the Business School, and is a forum to foster the collaboration and exchange among interested colleagues. We meet weekly during teaching term times.

Interested guests are always welcome, from within or outside of the university! No registration is needed if you are internal; please join us. If you are external to the university, please send us an email to let us know you will be joining us, and we will inform our reception desk to expect you. Contact the Research Manager for the School of Business and further information email: busresearch@lsbu.ac.uk

7th May 2020 (Moderator: Dr Sara Hasani Darabani)

Usha Mistry, Senior Lecturer, LSBU

Curriculum Design from stakeholder's perspective

Abstract: Inclusive curriculum design focuses on student's progression, retention, satisfaction and produce graduates fit for the world of work. The study examines how the accounting degree course was designed following Biggs model of constructive alignment and stakeholders involvement. This research contributes to limited empirical study of curriculum design and how collaborative inclusive participation has led to a degree that embeds a diversity of viewpoints and experiences incorporated from all stakeholders. The study uses both quantitative and qualitative, interpretive approach to data collection using both online and paper-based questionnaires with 52 student's participants studying at Levels 4 – 6, eight academic community responses, as well as incorporating ACCA, CIMA, NHS, competitors and external academic response. The findings reveal how the feedback received from various stakeholders has enriched curriculum content and relevance in many ways such as: emphasis on ethics, digital technology, professional bodies exemptions and has highlighted the growing importance of employability skills recognitions.

14th May 2020 (Moderator: Dr Carrie Rutherford)

Dr Valerio Ficcadenti, Senior Lecturer, LSBU

The interconnectedness of the economic content in the speeches of the US Presidents

Abstract: "The speeches stated by influential politicians can have a decisive impact on the future of a country. In particular, the economic content of such speeches affects the economy of countries and their financial markets. For this reason, we examine a novel dataset containing the economic content of 951 speeches stated by 45 US Presidents from George Washington (April 1789) to Donald Trump (February 2017). In doing so, we use an economic glossary carried out by means of text mining techniques. The goal of our study is to examine the structure of significant interconnections within a network obtained from the economic content of presidential speeches. In such a network, nodes are represented by talks and links by values of cosine similarity, the latter computed using the occurrences of the economic terms in the speeches. The resulting network displays a peculiar structure made up of a core (i.e. a set of highly central and densely connected nodes) and a periphery (i.e. a set of non-central and sparsely connected nodes). The presence of different economic dictionaries employed by the Presidents characterize the core-periphery structure. The Presidents' talks belonging to the network's core share the usage of generic (non-technical) economic locutions like "interest" or "trade". While the use of more technical and less frequent terms characterizes the periphery (e.g. "yield"). Furthermore, the speeches close in time share a common economic dictionary. These results together with the economics glossary usages during the US periods of boom and crisis provide unique insights on the economic content relationships among Presidents' speeches."

21th May 2020 (Moderator: Professor Karin Moser)

Dr Sara Hasani Darabadi, Senior Lecturer, LSBU

The Evaluation of Risk Management Practices in Construction Sector

Abstract: Risk management is an integral part of modern project management, as it plays a significant role in managing risks in an uncertain & volatile environment. It also helps to achieve project deliverables by minimising the negative impact of threats to the projects. More importantly, it identifies, analyses and manages the risks during the project life cycle. Regardless of the scope, duration, nature & cost, RM is adopted by every organisation in developed and developing countries. Unfortunately, there are some misconceptions surrounding the concept of 'Risk', as it is interchangeably used with threat or danger, therefore only the negative aspects are considered risks to a project. Most of the organisations manage the risk traditionally and in informal manner, mostly unaware risks are being managed in their organisations, leaving a negative impact on the project objectives. This paper aimed to understand & assess the level of awareness, knowledge, practices, barriers and most importantly the perception about risk management in the construction sector. To reach the objective, a quantitative approach i.e. survey was designed and conducted and 132 valid responses were acquired from different construction organisations ranging from NGOs, public & private sector. The analysis results indicated that there is a very low-level implementation of the risk management system in the construction sector, and more than half of the respondents had studied project risk management. Lack of awareness & knowledge of risk management, lack of motivation, lack of government legislation & most



importantly resources required to implement the RM system were the prominent barriers to the implementation of risk management. Imperceptible risks such as lack of advanced construction technology, poor project management, unfairness in bidding, lack of skills-set and inefficient QC system were the critical risks affecting the construction projects. Furthermore, the results also indicated an association between studying PRM & RM implementation and years of experience & the level of RM implementation in organisations. Overall, the result showcased that risk management implementation in most organisations are informal & unstructured applying traditional methodologies of risks identification and the underlying obstacle of low-level implementation of risk management was the lack of awareness and knowledge, which certainly hindered the change in project management practices. The findings of this study shall provide an in-depth understanding and insight into the construction risk management practices, that can help the project stakeholders in understanding the current status quo & in developing an effective & feasible risk management framework by procuring the adequate resources required for systematic risk management implementation in the organisations.

28th May 2020

**** Please note this workshop runs from 12-2pm ****

Professor Karin Moser, Director of Research, LSBU

WORKSHOP - How to line up a journal paper: A cookbook instruction

Abstract: This two hour journal publication workshop provides a simple and straight forward methodology on how to create the structure and narrative for a new journal publication in referred journals. The method has worked for myself and many others, both newcomers to the academic paper writing and 'old hands'. It also gives insight into the publication process as a whole and I am sharing some further tips and dos and don'ts based on my experience.

This workshop is open to all academic staff (permanent and associate) and all PhD students in the Business School. Please note that we cannot open this workshop to visitors or staff or students outside of the Business School.

4th June 2020 (Chair: Cherry Cheung)

Dr Craig Duckworth, Senior Lecturer, LSBU

Ethical Leadership, Dirty Hands & Anguished Choice

Abstract: On a standard reading, leaders have dirty hands (DH) when a decision, though morally justified, requires or entails an act that is morally wrong. This conflict, the literature recognizes, is a source of anguish, in both the uneasy deliberation and the rueful aftermath. However, focusing on the organisational context (rather than political or military settings), many of the choices that leaders make are permissible, in no way wrong, and yet evoke moral unease. This kind of anguish is irrational on the standard DH account, being associated with thoroughly permissible acts. I argue that these kinds of choices are cases of dirty hands and that a revision of the role of anguish in DH scenarios is required to see it. Attempts made by Martha Nussbaum and Jean-Paul Sartre to accommodate anguish in deliberation are considered, rejected and an alternative thesis offered.



11th June 2020 (Chair: Dr Craig Duckworth)

Dr Lekan Aladesamni, Lecturer, LSBU

Modelling Spillover Effects between the UK and US Stock Markets over the Period 1935 - 2020.

Abstract: This study investigates the spill-overs of shocks and volatilities between the UK and US stock markets over the period 1935-2020. The empirical analysis is carried out for the full sample and five subsample periods by applying the GARCH-BEKK and VIRF models. Based on the empirical results, the evidence shows that the US remains an epicentre for shock and volatility transmissions to the UK since 1935. The financial linkages between the two markets have become stronger since the commencement of EMU, which suggest that strong financial linkages could increase the vulnerabilities of domestic markets to any global shocks and reduce the potential benefit of portfolio diversification.

18th June 2020 (Chair: Dr Aidan McKearney)

Dr Rea Prouska, Associate Professor, LBSU

Voice in context: An internationally comparative study of determinants in small and medium enterprises.

Abstract: The study of employee voice in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across national contexts remains under-theorised and under-studied. This paper uses Kaufman's integrative model of employee voice, and an exploratory study of 30 interviews with employees in non-unionised SMEs in the United Kingdom, Thailand and Nigeria, to explore the impact of the role of the external environment, organisational configuration, governance structure and internal organisational and employee contingencies on employee voice in SMEs. We study voice from multi-level (institutional, organisational, individual) and internationally comparative perspectives. Findings show that the interaction between the external institutional context and internal SME context (organisational configuration, governance structure and internal contingencies) impacts voice systems and employee voice agency, and ultimately on perceived levels of voice outcome. The paper contributes to employee voice theory by offering an analysis of voice determinants specific to non-unionised SMEs from an internationally comparative perspective, presents these in a framework and explains how context affects employee voice practices in small workplaces.



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Seminar Programme Summer 2020, Thursday, 12-1 pm, MSTeams

The new season of 'ResearchToday!' seminars opens on Thursday, 7th May 2020!

Season ten of our 'ResearchToday!' seminars opens on 7th May 2020. If you haven't been to one before, these are short presentations of emerging or new research in the Business School, followed by an informal discussion. They last an hour, and they are happening every week from now until the end of term. Again, this season has great talks that cover a variety of interesting topics!

Who can attend? Anyone interested can attend! No registration is needed if you are internal; please join us. If you are external to the university, please send us an email to let us know you will be joining us, and we will inform our reception desk to expect you. Contact and further information: Research Manager for School of Business, email: busresearch@lsbu.ac.uk

Who can present? Researchers and doctoral students from the Business School and associated guests, visitors and collaborators. This is a research forum to exchange ideas, get to know each other's research and foster collaboration in a collegial and friendly environment. The season eleven programme is full, but you can still book a spot for season twelve in autumn, if you contact the Research Manager for School of Business.

What's in it for me if I come along? How long do you have! See new ways of presenting persuasively. Meet new colleagues. Discover things you have in common. Test new ideas and bring your best arguments. It could even lead to new research collaborations.

Great! Just remind me where and when? Room: Interact, School of Business, every Thursday from 12-1 pm. We continue informally until 2 pm for those who want to and have the time, or sometimes workshops will run for the full 2 hours. Bring your lunch or coffee and a sharp mind.

Any questions? Just send an email to busresearch@lsbu.ac.uk

Check the programme on what's on: <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/whats-on>

Business School Research pages: <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/schools/business/research>

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