

# CALL FOR PAPERS

Supply networks consist of “agents” (firms, people, institutions, etc.) that engage via “links” (buyer-supplier relationships, joint ventures, etc.) in interactions across different organizational, spatial, and temporal levels. These interactions often involve complex dynamics that give rise to a system that organizes itself without a single entity necessarily managing or controlling it.

This special issue addresses research questions related to the broad topic of supply chain management and takes the perspective of a decision maker. Typically, managers focus their control efforts on top-tier suppliers or possibly subtier suppliers. However, beyond this span of control, the actual behavior of the supply network simply emerges. In a global supply network, unintended events may elicit unexpected responses for individual or groups of agents within the network. For example, a disruptive event in the socioeconomic environment (e.g., change in regulation or market conditions) may lead to a temporary change in operational practices of a few organizations or lead to a longer-term strategic change that completely reconfigures the supply network topology. Given the evolutionary nature of a supply network, managers need to understand how specific events may impact the individual organizations within the network and the effect of the interplay of independent actions on the overall network. Therefore, managers not only need to understand the potential impacts associated with various levels of control related to their top-tier and subtier suppliers, but also need to understand how trade-offs between emergence and control might influence the overarching behavior and ultimately the performance of the supply network and of the decision maker’s own organization embedded in that supply network.

Each submitted paper should highlight complexity at its core and the complexity-focused methodologies that are used. Submissions can be empirical or theoretical. An empirical approach may employ various methods such as case studies, event history, simulation, and network analysis. Authors are welcome to employ different levels of analysis—an individual organization’s or focal firm’s perspective or the perspective of a subset of supply networks (i.e., dyads, triads, tetrads, etc.). Authors may also employ the supply network as the unit of analysis, in which case the term “supply networks” should be defined. In all cases, the managerial implications and contributions to complexity science should be articulated clearly.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Supply chain security and cybersecurity
- ▶ Emerging technologies and supply chain visibility
- ▶ Block chain and supply chain control
- ▶ Link between local-scale resilience and global-scale resilience
- ▶ Supply chain governance mechanisms and structural patterns
- ▶ Supply chain infrastructure and disruption
- ▶ Green supply chains and environmental interdependencies
- ▶ Sustainable economic growth and socioeconomic impact

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/complexity/cesn/>.

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