

Call for Papers

RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF SUPPLY CHAINS

International Working Seminar at the University of Kassel, Germany

The International Center of Development and Decent Work (ICDD)

14-15 March 2019

There has been considerable interest in the concepts of responsibility and accountability, and their relationship with supply chains. Globalization and increased international business have created supply chains that are multifaceted and complex. Existing research shows that corporations often enjoy economic success at the expense of environmental and social costs that are not or insufficiently internalized and sometimes difficult to assess. Prevailing supply chain practices have aroused criticism. Many voices demand a system change in order to provide decent work and economic development along all steps of the supply chain and to fight resource depletion, biodiversity loss and climate change. In this context, companies are often compelled by stakeholders to demonstrate responsibility of their business conduct, and to give an account of their economic, environmental and social bottom line.

The working seminar addresses key areas of interest to academics and practitioners interested in supply chain management, accounting and accountability, corporate social responsibility, and development economics. We encourage submissions on the following indicative but not exhaustive list of topics:

- New and emerging forms of accountability, traceability, and transparency
- Accountability and transparency as contested and ambiguous concepts in supply chains
- The relationship between accountability and responsibility
- The possibilities and prospects of counter accounting
- Accountability and transparency of short/regional and in multi-tier supply chains
- Economic and social upgrading of production networks and supply chains
- Potential of new technologies to enhance traceability and accountability
- Responsibility in base-of-the-pyramid supply chains
- Accounting for social inclusion in supply chains

As part of the working seminar, we intend to focus on particular industries sensitive to environmental and social issues, such as the agriculture and food sectors and the mining industry. Whilst papers on these sectors are particularly welcome, we also appreciate research on other relevant industries, at the local, national or international level. Papers can be of empirical, theoretical, and conceptual nature, and can include case studies and experimental studies. Modelling research designs based on empirical data are welcome as well.

Overall, the working seminar's intention is to develop participants' research through critical discussion and to provide a forum for open and lively debate of emerging ideas and developments in research and practice. It will feature paper sessions and roundtables organized around relevant research areas and a plenary discussion. The workshop is limited to 40 participants. Preference will be given to those who submit an abstract or a paper. Remaining places will be allocated to interested participants on a first come, first served basis.

Submissions

Submissions can take the following formats: abstract, short paper or full paper. Abstracts (750 words) and short developmental papers (maximum of 4,000 words) will be discussed in roundtables (20 mins) or in paper sessions (30 mins). They provide an opportunity for dialogue and short-form presentations to discuss new ideas and on-going or planned research projects, PhD work, and other studies. Full papers (up to 10,000 words) will be given a 45 minutes slot for presentation including discussion.

Papers should be submitted via the working seminar's website: www.uni-kassel.de/go/rasc

Important Dates

Submission deadline: January 15th, 2019

Notification of acceptance: January 31st, 2019

Registration deadline: February 15th, 2019

Registration fee

Participation to the workshop is free of charge to participants presenting a paper or an abstract. The fee for all other attendees is 90 Euro. It includes lunches and refreshments during the event as well as the conference dinner on the evening of 13 March 2019. The pre-event get together is not included in the registration fee.

Venue and accommodation

The workshop will take place at the University of Kassel. A list of hotels is provided on the event's website and participants are requested to book directly with the hotel.

Team of organizers

The "Responsibility and Accountability in Supply Chain" (RASC) Working Group of the University of Kassel consists of four units:

Prof. Stefan Gold

Faculty of Economics
and Management

Prof. Christian Herzig

Faculty of Organic
Agricultural Sciences

Prof. Christoph Scherrer

Faculty of Social Sciences
and Management

Prof. Stefan Seuring

Faculty of Economics

The team of organizers include:

Jessica Amprako, Regina Maria Bach, Ruby Davila, Renee Hines

Please direct any inquiries about the working seminar to Jessica Amprako: rasc@uni-kassel.de

Programme

13 March 2019

19:00 Informal pre-event get together

14 March 2019

10:00 – 10:30 Registration

10:30 – 10:45 Welcome Address

10:45 – 11:15 Guest Talk

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 Paper Session

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Paper Session

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break (Coffee Tasting and Presentation)

16:00 – 17:30 “Thematic” Roundtables

19:00 Dinner

15 March 2019

09:00 – 10:30 Paper Session

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee Break

10:45 – 12:15 Paper Session

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:15 Plenary Discussion

14:15 – 14:30 Closing Remarks

Optional guided tours in the afternoon of 15 March 2019