

Worth it! A Paper Development Workshop on Valuation for Early Career Scholars

*Taking Stock, Advancing Research, and Crafting Future Agendas for
the Study of Valuation in Organization and Management*

7-8 September 2023

Aalto University School of Business, Finland

Call for papers

Technological innovation, digital consumption, struggles of equality, and ecological crises challenge established ways of thinking about value in social and economic spheres, constituting phenomena of utmost importance in contemporary capitalism. How is value “established, assessed, negotiated, provoked, maintained, constructed and/or contested” (Doganova et al., 2014)? Such questions have gained increasing traction in organization and management studies (e.g., Kornberger, 2017; Kornberger et al. 2015; Mason et al., 2019; Orlikowski & Scott, 2014; Pollock et al., 2023; Sgourev, 2021).

For quite some time, the study of value in social sciences was governed by what Stark (2000) recalled as the “Parsons’ pact”: economists would study value—understood as financial value and measured by market price—and sociologists would study values—understood as abstract taken-for-granted socio-, cultural or moral assumptions within which markets would be embedded. Following Stark’s call to “break out” of such pact 23 years ago, social scientists have increasingly been investigating value-related phenomena. The launch of *Valuation Studies* in 2013, a cross-disciplinary journal, exemplifies this trend (Helgesson & Muniesa, 2013).

All these works depart from an understanding of value as an objective property or a subjective property (Kornberger, 2017), approaching value as a collective construction in perpetual flux. However, as a research field in-the-making, valuation research is fragmented. Research relies on a multiplicity of concepts, such as reactivity (i.e., “the idea that people change their behaviour in reaction to being evaluated”; Espeland & Sauder, 2007, p. 1) valuation entrepreneurship (referring to actors who contest an established value-regime and attempt to establish a new one; Sgourev, 2021) or evaluative spill overs (when a change regarding what is considered to be a reliable measure occurs in a context and alters what is considered to be a reliable measure outside that context; Bechky, 2020; Aranda, Conti & Wezel, 2021; Aranda et al., 2023). Moreover, scholars distinguish the neighbouring concepts of valuation, evaluation, and valorisation, but rarely agree on how to do so (e.g., Roulet, 2020; Gouvard & Durand, 2023; Lamont, 2012; Vatin, 2013). Existing works also draw on a variety of theoretical traditions, such as social evaluations (Bitektine, 2011; Shymko & Roulet, 2017), market categories (Paolella & Durand, 2016), power (Giamporcaro & Gond, 2016), temporality (Doganova, 2018, 2024) performativity (Orlikowski & Scott, 2014) or social movements (Lander et al., 2023). On top of that, these studies adopt various levels of analysis, including the organizational (Macatangay & Roscoe, 2022) and the field level (Barbe et al., 2023).

The aim of this Paper Development Workshop is to foster conversations across perspectives on valuation coexisting in organization and management studies. Taking stock of commonalities and divergences is a necessary step in developing a research field, either through integration of existing knowledge (Elsbach & van Knippenberg, 2020) or unveiling and problematization of divergent assumptions (Alvesson & Sandberg, 2020). In this view, we welcome papers studying valuation-related phenomena which may contribute to the emerging scholarly discussion. We invite theoretical and empirical research that may, for example:

- Investigate various types of valuation processes such as those related to the emergence, maintenance, or evolution of consensus or dissensus on valuation in a given context;
- Mobilize theories on valuation including—but not limited to—those mentioned above;
- Study *moments* (Berthoin Antal et al., 2015) of valuation, such as when valuation is emerging (Déjean et al., 2004) “rapidly changing” (Kjellberg et al. 2013; p. 25) or when valuation is stable for long (Espeland & Sauder, 2007);
- Explore *sites* of valuation including different market intermediaries (Sharkey, Kovacs & Hsu, 2023) and different markets such as artworks (Khaire & Wadhvani, 2010; Plante et al., 2021) higher education (Brankovic et al., 2018) or biofuels (Peixoto & Temmes, 2019);
- Qualitative and quantitative studies: submissions can build on any methodology including, e.g., ethnographic studies (Beunza & Stark, 2004) qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) (Slager et al., 2021) or experiments (Cudennec & Durand, 2023).

Practicalities

The workshop is held at Aalto University School of Business on September 7-8, 2023. The organizing team consists of Anne-Sophie Barbe and Inês Peixoto (postdoctoral researchers) and Kaja Lilleng (doctoral researcher) from the Department of Management Studies.

The event comprises keynote talks from Professor **Liliana Doganova** (Mines Paris, PSL) and Professor **Thomas Roulet** (University of Cambridge), panel discussion, and paper development roundtable sessions. The aim is to advance research on valuation studies and foster dialogue between different approaches to valuation and develop future research agendas.

We welcome submissions from early career scholars (doctoral researchers, postdoctoral researchers, and assistant professors). The number of participants is limited to 15. Participation is free of charge, but participants need to cover their own travel and accommodation.

Submission information

The selection of papers will be based on **extended abstracts of a maximum of 1500 words**. The **deadline for the submission is 15 May 2023**. Participants will be notified of decisions by 30 May 2023. **Full paper submissions** are expected by **25 August 2023** at the latest.

Please submit your extended abstract by email to tiia.melander@aalto.fi as a pdf or doc. file. In the abstract, include name, affiliation, and email of all authors. In your email, please indicate which author will attend the workshop and your current position (doctoral researcher, postdoctoral researcher, or early-stage assistant professor).

For further information please contact: kaja.lilleng@aalto.fi

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