

PhD Course: Innovation in Projects and Networks

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Faculty



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Course faculty

- Jonas Söderlund, Professor, BI Norwegian Business School
- Andrew Davies, Professor, University College London
- Amir Sasson, Professor, BI Norwegian Business School
- Hans Georg Gemünden, Professor II, BI Norwegian Business School



Background

- Projectification of society, projectification of firms, projectification of innovation
- Innovation in context
- Innovation in projects and project-based firms
- The role of networks
- Combined analysis of project and networks
- Projects, networks, and innovation

Aim of the course

- The participant should have a good understanding of:
- classic and recent literature on projects with a particular focus on innovation.
 - classic and recent literature on networks with a particular focus on innovation.
 - the role that projects have for the development of innovation.
 - different kinds of innovation projects.
 - the role that various kinds of inter-organizational networks have for the development of innovation.
 - different kinds of inter-organizational networks in an innovation context.
 - how networks and projects interact to shape and drive innovation.

Examination

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A paper of 15 to 25 pages (approx. 6000-8000 words) is required in addition to active participation in the seminars. The evaluation will be based on the student's participation in the seminar as well as the submitted paper.

The paper should be original work, and be written specifically for this course.

Topic must be approved by the course director.

Course design

Design of the course

➤ Part I: Innovation in Projects

- Host: BI Norwegian Business School
- Faculty: Andrew Davies and Jonas Söderlund
- Dates: September 4-6, 2017

➤ Part II: Innovation in Networks

- Host: BI Norwegian Business School
- Faculty: Amir Sasson, Hans Georg Gemünden, Jonas Söderlund
- Dates: September 25-27, 2017

Part I: Innovation in Projects

Part I: Day 1

I: 10-12 Introduction and overview of the field

- Presentation of the course
- Presentation of faculty
- Presentation of participants
- Introduction to the field

II: 13-17 Overview of the field and the contexts of innovation

- Overview of the field of projects and innovation
- Seminar on innovation contexts and projects
- Group work
- Presentations

Part I: Day 2

III: 9-12 The nature and dynamics of vanguard projects

- Lecture on vanguard projects
- What is the nature and dynamics of vanguard projects?
- Case discussion about selected projects
- Assignment to analyze the nature and process in-depth
- Exercise in single case analysis

IV: 13-17 Innovation in megaprojects

- Introduction to megaprojects
- How does innovation occur in mega projects?
- Selected cases: a comparison
- Group work
- Exercise in multiple case analysis

Part I: Day 3

V: 9-12 *Project-based firms and project capabilities*

- Lecture on project-based organized firms
- What is the nature of project-based firms?
- What is innovation in project-based firms and industries?
- Literature seminar

VI: 13-16 *Analyzing innovation research*

- Publishing in innovation
- Paper introduction
- Reviewing workshop
- Comparing reviews
- Lessons learned

Part II: Innovation in Networks

Part II: Day 1

I: 10-12 *Network research and network approaches*

- Introduction to network theories and the classic readings
- Inside the firm: innovation and networks
- The role of geography
- Good ideas and patents

II: 13-16 *Challenges associated with networks and innovation*

Part II: Day 2

IIIa: The informal side of innovation and networks, i.e. key individual roles in innovation networks, champions, relationship promoters, and technological gatekeepers, and project managers as networkers.

IIIb: The organizational side of innovation and networks, i.e. network competence, and its antecedents and performance effects.

Iva: The role or project and program characteristics in managing networks, the ability and limitations to control international R&D programs by means of a design structure matrix, the usefulness of combining weak and strong ties.

IVb: Innovation networks and open innovation in project-based settings

Part II: Day 3

V: 9-12 *Implications for research and emerging insights*

- Literature seminar
- Sharing lessons learned
- Discussion about implications on PhD work

VI: 13-15 *Future research and research questions*

- Literature seminar
- What's interesting!?
- Discussion about research questions
- Future research in the area of Innovation in Projects

Readings
