

Montpellier Business School
Management & Organization for Sustainable Transformations (MOST)
Research Theme Seminar Series

Invites you to the following event:

Bridging Natural and Social Sciences in Management & Organization Studies

Taking place on:

May 15th, 2022, from 12.30 to 14.00 CET
Online MS Teams – Link available through calendar invitation
Register [here](#) if you are not a MOST member

We invite you to participate in our quest of developing practices, and reflecting on the challenges and opportunities, of bridging natural and social sciences to confront some of the most complex issues of our times, such as biodiversity loss, water scarcity, and agricultural adaptation and transformation in the face of climate change. As management and organization scholars, and as social scientists more in general, we pose ourselves a number of questions on the epistemological and methodological dimensions, but also institutional and political dimensions, of building these bridges. This event will be an opportunity to share these questions and hopefully, as a result, also to build some generative bridges among us as participants. You are all invited to attend and participate! With this purpose, after three triggers from discussants at different European schools and research institutes, we are leaving a large time for an open floor discussion.

Program:

- 12.30-12.35 Welcome and introduction, by [Domenico Dentoni](#) and [Lucie Baudoin](#)
- 12.35-13.05 Dive into three initiatives bridging natural, social and organization science:
- Bridging sciences to tackle biodiversity issues (see more next page)
by [Fay Kahane](#) and [Stefano Pascucci](#), University of Exeter
 - Bridging sciences to address water issues
by [Lucie Baudoin](#), Excelia Business School
 - Bridging sciences to confront agricultural issues
By [Louis Tessier](#), ILVO and [Domenico Dentoni](#), Montpellier Business School
- 13.05-14.00 Open floor for conversation among discussants and participants

Bridging sciences to tackle biodiversity issues

by Stefano Pascucci and Fay Kahane, University of Exeter

From 'natural' to 'industrial', a diversity of honeybee management practices exist worldwide despite calls for coordinated management of this ecologically, economically and culturally critical pollinator. Multiple stressors including pests, disease, unsuitable land management and adverse weather interact to cause honeybee colony losses, along with global declines in wild pollinator species. With increasing interest in how different honeybee management practices can impact honeybees, crops, wild pollinators and landscapes, we will undertake a collaborative, solution-focussed exploration of what 'sustainable beekeeping' means, and how we can translate this into action. Using methods from across disciplines, we seek to understand different beekeeping knowledges - and power dynamics around these knowledges – to explore epistemologies, values, equity and pragmatism, and consider what sustainable beekeeping looks like from a variety of human and nonhuman perspectives. Building a researcher-beekeeper partnership, we will co-design, undertake and analyse ecological fieldwork; subsequently evaluating the 'successes' and 'failures' of the fieldwork and partnership - for bees, beekeepers and sustainability.

Project website: [link here](#)

Description of Fay Kahane's research: [link here](#)

Bridging sciences to address water issues

by Lucie Baudoin, Pôle Stratégie d'Excelia

Water issues need to be approached collaboratively to enhance adaptive governance and ensure long-term resilience of water systems. But water issues are also notoriously embedded in Social-Ecological Systems. Hence to study water governance and conflicts, one needs to understand both social and ecological dynamics that underpin water systems. Many questions remain unresolved: what is the influence of the biophysical conditions of water systems on governance processes? Also, what are the ecological outcomes of difference governance dynamics? Such research is necessary to go beyond recommending collaboration as a simplistic “panacea”. For this seminar, I offer to present some of the possibilities, but also the struggles, when pursuing such research.

Example of research done on the ecological outcomes of governance: [link here](#)

Bridging sciences to confront agricultural issues

By Louis Tessier, ILVO and Domenico Dentoni, Montpellier Business School

Today's farmers find it difficult to deal with the several barriers within food systems that keep them from transitioning to sustainable farming systems. Policies, together with business models and social innovations, need to be strengthened or changed to overcome these barriers. The European Union funded ENFASYS (ENcouraging Farmers towards sustainable farming SYstems through policy and business Strategies) project aims to better understand barriers and levers in farming and food systems, as well as factors stemming from the behaviour of farmers, consumers, and other food chain stakeholders. It will use systems mapping approaches to understand the complementary and antagonistic effects of policy, business and civil society interventions across 160 current intervention cases in transforming their production systems.

Project website: [link here](#)

Example of systems mapping approach used in the project: [link here](#)