

## MESSAGE FROM THE STR DIVISION CHAIR



**Timothy B Folta**  
**STR Division Chair**  
**University of Connecticut**  
[timothy.folta@uconn.edu](mailto:timothy.folta@uconn.edu)

*"Walks have been my salvation during the pandemic. The routine of getting out the door, and the promise of warm tea and oatmeal upon return adds much-needed structure to the day. But, I enjoy the walks too. The rural Eastern-Connecticut setting, amidst the trees and rolling hills are a nice contrast to the virtual world in which I exist 8 hours a day. I relish the tingly feeling when spotting a family of White-tailed deer crossing the road, or glimpsing the grey fox that seemingly owns the square mileage around my home, or hearing a woodpecker or rooster or running stream break the silence. It is really my only time to see other people. I hardly ever see more than four, and I know them only by their muffled greetings. Little do they know that my sanity clings to their simple acknowledgement."*

*- Timothy B Folta (excerpt from short story written in January 2021)*

Just as the pandemic has spurred a torrent of research and new teaching approaches in our field, so it has inspired new creative works of the written word, the canvas, the recording, the act of kindness, the political will, the adventure ..... (Above, you see a little evidence of my inspiration). It has also caused STR division leadership to reconsider how the division might create value for its members, realizing that we need to contribute throughout the calendar year, and not just during the annual conference. A multitude of virtual efforts were launched in a flurry of activity beginning in April 2020, and captained by Samina Karim through August 2020. Since August 2020, we have worked to institutionalize these and additional efforts. A survey conducted of our membership in October 2020 revealed that, over 85 percent of respondents recommend we devote at least 25 percent of our resources to non-(annual) conference activities, and we are pursuing this vigorously by:

- institutionalizing a STRonger Together task force (Jiao Luo, Roberto Vassolo, Gwendolyn Lee), which assembled a tantalizingly interesting set of research symposia, Meet the Scholar sessions, and PhD Workshops.
- asking our Teaching Committee to help members adjust to the online environment, so they (John Mawdsley, Vijaya Narapareddy, Henning Piezunka, Giada di Stefano, Jenniver Knippen, and Peter Murrman) assembled a fabulous virtual panel of teachers in November.
- expanding the role of the Membership Engagement Committee to attend to the social, psychological, and physical needs of members throughout the year. They (Bilgehan Uzunca - Chair, Joao AlbinoPimentel, Caterina Moschieri, Lisa Tang, David Clough, Shelby Gai, Eunice Rhee, Andrea Contigiani, Vivian Guo, and Andy Wu) produced an abundance of life-giving activities, including many cultural conversations, writing retreats, fitness challenges, and virtual pub quizzes.

- liberating our [Global Representatives](#) to creatively attend to the needs of STR members within their regions. Under Elena Vidal's leadership they (Obi Damoah, Joon Mahn Lee, Remzi Gozubuyuk, Carlos Rodrigues, Weiting Zheng, and Michael Leatherbee) responded beautifully with a series of paper development workshops in Chile, Oceania, and Turkey, and a research series in Korea.
- unleashing our Communications team, led by Paolo Aversa, to grow our social media presence. We now have divisional accounts for [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#); an increasing portfolio of [YouTube](#) videos, including an STR Nuggets series featuring short bits of advice from leading scholars; and our own podcasts. Followers have risen rapidly. To stay informed, please visit our [webpage calendar](#), and/or sign up for social media.

We are immensely grateful to the many members contributing to these events. Indeed, it takes so many helpful hands and minds! Please look [here](#) for more detail of all the events.

### **Going Forward**

There is still much to anticipate on our STR schedule of events, listed below through July. Please register if interested.

- o May 18 – MTS: [Marvin Lieberman](#)
- o May 20 – Research Symposium: [Firm-State Ties: Addressing the Grand Challenges](#)
- o May 27 – MTS: [Nicolai Foss](#)
- o Jun 11 – MTS: [Tammy Madsen](#)
- o June 25-26 - [STR Paper Development Workshop for Turkey](#). Organizers: Remzi Gözübüyük, Elena Vidal. Host Institution: Sabanci Üniversitesi. Discussants: Isin Guler, Pinar Ozcan, Gokhan Ertug, Metin Sengul, Asli Colpan.
- o Jun 28 – MTS: [Carliss Baldwin](#)
- o Jul 14 – [Research Symposia: Editor Perspectives on Alternatives to the Hypo-Deductive Framework in Empirical Management Research](#)

Also, there will be new events not yet scheduled. Indeed, there is no shortage of opportunities. We are launching the STR Alternative Career Path Initiative aiming to illuminate and legitimize career paths alternative to one at an academic institution. Such alternatives include, but are not limited to, roles as consultants, policy makers, or strategists in firms, ventures, or non-governmental organizations.

### **5-Year Report**

This year, the division submitted its [5-year report](#) to AOM, thanks to the hard work of Metin Sengul and Ram Ranganathan, and all members taking the time to complete the October survey. We were approved for another 5 years! Yay! You can also find AOM feedback at the link noted above. I will send another email detailing some key takeaways from the 5-year report.

### **Annual Conference**

The annual conference is a division highlight, giving us a change to celebrate much great work by our members. It is being featured elsewhere by Program Chair Michael Leiblein and Assistant Program Chair Louise Mors. Many thanks to those two and their whole team. I want to draw particular attention to the STR Plenary on Monday, August 2, titled “*Managing Tensions between Stakeholder and Shareholder Objectives*”. There are increasing pressures for firm strategies to better balance tensions between markets and society, humans and nature, and the present and the future. These tensions introduce enormous complexity for CEOs and have huge implications for strategy research on firm performance. This plenary features a discussion between two leading CEOs who have effectively managed this complexity (Jim Snabe – Chairman of Maersk and Siemens, and Davis Smith – CEO of

startup Cotopaxi), and two leading scholars (Jay Barney and Subi Rangan) who push the boundary of our understanding of this topic.

Finally, I cannot tell you how many compliments I have gotten from members about how STR has responded to the pandemic. All of AOM has been witness to our efforts, and I think we can all be very proud of what we have accomplished during this crisis of significant magnitude. We are fortunate to be part of this community. Of course, special thanks to Past Division Chair Samina Karim for a quick and robust response last year. There remains much more we might do, and I invite you to dream with me here. Exercise your creative juices, and reach out to me with ideas you want to share. I am confident we will meet the enormous opportunities in front of us.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Gratefully,  
Tim

-----  
Timothy Folta  
STR Division Chair  
-----

## MESSAGE FROM THE STR PROGRAM CHAIR

**Michael Leiblein**  
**STR Program Chair**  
**The Ohio State University**  
([aomstr.michael.leiblein@gmail.com](mailto:aomstr.michael.leiblein@gmail.com))

**2021 AoM Annual Meeting**  
**July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>**

The AoM STR Program Team has been working hard during this very uncommon year to develop an exciting and thoughtful program that addresses the canonical problems in the strategic management field. While the AoM will not finalize the schedule for our virtual conference until mid-May, this message offers a reminder regarding the main program dates, updates on our activities building the main program, and some summary statistics regarding the 2021 STR program.

Prior to delving into the program data, it may be useful to reflect on the specific objectives for the main program. What is the purpose of this event? The AoM states several objectives for the main program including to "connect members of the global management and organization community," to "fundamentally advance knowledge creation and content dissemination," and to "champion the external standing of organization and management scientists" (see <https://aom.org/about-aom>). It is with these objectives in mind that the STR division develops its main program. In particular, we aim to create and facilitate connections between members of our division and to advance an understanding of the distinctive contributions of strategic management scholarship within our division and the broader academy.

At this time, I can share data about the main program and the team that has helped me pull together our 2021 program. As some may know, the STR program development process necessitates a massive effort. Given the magnitude of the effort, I would not have been able to develop the STR program without the assistance of three outstanding scholars and STR executive committee members. These individuals helped me to build our program by evaluating hundreds of proposal reviews, making recommendations on specific paper proposals, and identify proposals as candidates for our various award programs under severe time pressures. This year, those individuals were Felipe Csaszar (Michigan), Ha Hoang (ESSEC), and Sinziana Dorobantu (NYU). I owe a great debt to Felipe, Ha, and Sinzi and hope that many will join me in thanking them for sharing their insights while building the program.

Second, I want to offer my appreciation for the scholars who served as organizers for our eight topical tracks. This year, seven scholars helped me to organize our accepted papers into a set of cohesive sessions. These individuals were Felipe Csaszar, University of Michigan (Behavioral Strategy, Process, and Change Track); Andrew Boysen, University of North Carolina (Competitive Strategy and Heterogeneity Track); Arianna Marchetti, London Business School (Cooperative Strategy Track); Harsh Ketkar, Bocconi University (Corporate and International Strategy Track); Felipe Csaszar (again), University of Michigan (Knowledge, Innovation and Strategic Human Capital Track); Jin Hyung Kim, George Washington University (Stakeholder and Non-Market Strategy Track); Andrea Contigiani, Ohio State University (Strategic Entrepreneurship Track); and, Vivian Guo, CEIBS, (Strategic Leadership and Governance Track).

Third, I wish to thank all the reviewers who signed up to review for the STR division. This year, 1,077 individuals from 56 countries volunteered to review for the STR division. Perhaps more impressively, these individuals completed over 90% of the reviews assigned in time to provide feedback to our authors. I am deeply grateful to all of the new and continuing reviewers who gave their time and offered developmental and high-quality reviews, undertaking significant effort to serve our division in this important way. I am particularly thankful for the help of Eunice Rhee (Seattle), Vivian Guo (CEIBS), and Cathy Maritan (Syracuse). Eunice and Vivian organized a series of review

workshop and retreats where Cathy, division chair Tim Folta, and I offered tips on the reviewing process.

Fourth, I want to express my deep thanks to a select group of "trusted reviewers" who stepped up and provided many emergency reviews in a very short period. I considered these individuals my "secret advantage." These scholars gave me confidence that we would ultimately find a way to make good decisions even in instances where it was difficult to provide suitable reviews. My thanks to Vikas Aggarwal, INSEAD; Riitta Katila, Stanford; Hart Posen, Wisconsin; Daniel Albert, Drexel; Thomas Kiel, Zurich; Manav Raj, NYU; Elisa Alvarez-Garrido, S Carolina; Jin Hyung Kim, George Washington; Jeff Reuer, Colorado; Himanshu Bhatt, ESSEC; Catherine Maggelsen, LBS; Luke Rhee, UC Irvine; Julia Bodner, INSEAD; Cathy Maritan, Syracuse; Jan Ross, Imperial; Julien Clement, Stanford; Stanislav Markus, S Carolina; Jackson Nickerson, WUSTL; Andrea Contigiani, Ohio State; Xavier Martin, Tilburg; Arkadiy Sakhartov, Illinois; Nell Dutt, Bocconi; Brian McCann, Vanderbilt; Metin Sengul, Boston College; John Eklund, USC; Denisa Mindruta, HEC; Elie Sung, HEC; Claudine Gartenberg, Penn; Tomasz Obloj, HEC; Minyuan Zhao, WUSTL; Ashton Hawk, Colorado; Kate Odziemkowska, Rice; and Maggie Zhu, Michigan.

I will close this portion of my letter thanking Frank Geib, for his mastery of AOM's program developer and fantastic job as my assistant. I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention the AOM Staff, especially Gabe Bramson, for all of their assistance during the past year. And warm thanks to the other STR officers – Tim Folta, Heather Berry, and Louise Mors for fielding all of my inquiries throughout the year.

In the spirit of engaging in good corporate governance practices, I'd like to close this message with some data about the proposals submitted and accepted and the reviewer base for this year's program. The STR division received 681 papers and 59 symposium submissions in 2021. While these numbers represent a decline of about 25% from the immediately prior year, the STR division experienced a more modest decline in proposal submissions than experienced other divisions and the Academy as a whole. Thus, there continues to appear to be robust scholarly interest in good strategic management research. On par with recent years, the bulk of these submissions (64%) emanated from outside of the United States. Due to the pandemic, the AoM allowed us to accept a largely share of proposals received-our team accepted 59.5% of paper proposals and 72.8% of symposia proposals. As noted above, 1,077 individuals from 56 countries volunteered to review for the STR division in 2021. This represents a decline in the reviewer base from 2020 that is commensurate with the decline in paper submissions.

In closing, thank you for your contributions and efforts. I anticipate being able to release further data about the schedule of the 2021 program in May. Please take the time to thanks those who helped out building this program. And, above all, please stay well during the coming months.

-----  
Michael Leiblein  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus OH  
(614) 292-0071  
-----

## MESSAGE FROM THE STR ASSISTANT PROGRAM CHAIR

**Louise Mors**  
**STR Assistant Program Chair**  
**Copenhagen Business School**  
**([str@cbs.dk](mailto:str@cbs.dk))**

The past year has been different in many ways and most of us have faced challenges – big or small – in getting our work done and connecting with the academic community. In the past few weeks, I have observed that we are all getting much better at interacting in this new environment. We have all had to learn quickly by being forced to teach online, run seminars and recruitment activities in a new format and even had to forge new friendships and co-authorships without meeting in person. I hope that we will be able to bring these new interactive skills with us to the 2021 AoM virtual STR PDW program.

The aim of the STR PDW program is to provide consortia and workshops to help the STR community develop and update their theoretical, methodological, and teaching expertise. This year we will provide a full PDW program and I am excited to share more details with you. The program relies to a great extent on interaction, feedback and focus on development of the participants. Hence, in an effort to maintain the richness of dialogue in our PDW sessions, I have encouraged all organizers to develop synchronous PDW content.

The AoM virtual STR PDW program will start early this year on July 27 and 28 with the STR doctoral and dissertation consortia. The STR Doctoral consortium co-chairs are Isin Guler (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Metin Sengul (Boston College). The STR Dissertation consortium co-chairs are Luis Ballesteros (George Washington U) and Vanessa Burbano (Columbia U). The co-chairs have worked hard to put together an exciting program for interested doctoral students with the participation of faculty and students around the globe. The remaining consortia: The Junior Faculty, the Mid-Career Faculty, and Teaching consortia will all run on the AoM "Consortia Wednesday" on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The co-chairs of the Junior Faculty consortium are Kenneth Huang (National U. Singapore) and Mahka Moen (U. North Carolina). The Mid-Career consortium is organized by Daphne Yiu (U. Oklahoma) and Srikanth Paruchuri (Texas A&M). The STR Teaching consortium is this year run by Giada di Stefano (U. Bocconi) and John Mawdsley (HEC Paris). Please review application deadlines on the STR listserv. If you have the opportunity, please thank our co-organizers and panelists for their extraordinary service.

This year, STR will again offer several classic workshops including the Managing your Dissertation, Fostering Global Publications, Junior Faculty Paper Development, the Walk-In Strategy Teaching Clinic, and Creating and Curating your own Teaching Content Efficiently workshops. We will also offer a number of other PDWs related to STR theoretical perspectives such as Advancing Aspirations Research or Bridging Leadership Research on Boards of Directors and TMTs. The PDWs will also focus on phenomena such as Business Agility, Managing Remote Work, and Organizational Governance in Digitally Transformed World. A number of research methods PDWs will also be offered, including New Data & Methods in Strategy, Strategy & Innovation Field Experiments, as well as PDWs on Formal Modeling and Survey Methods. A PDW on Teaching Business Model Innovation will also feature. More highlights from the 2021 STR PDW Program are listed below. Please be on the lookout for additional information on the scheduling of (and application for) the workshops on the STR listserv.

Thank you to all the PDW and consortia organizers and committed panelists who submitted their ideas to this years' virtual PDW program. Let me also offer a special thanks to STR EC member Guoli Chen (INSEAD) and the Research Committee for invaluable support with our conference award process. Many thanks also to the other STR officers –Samina Karim, Tim Folta, Heather Berry, Michael Leiblein, and the STR Secretary - Michael Holmes - for all your help and support.

## Highlights of the STR Virtual PDW Program 2021

**The Role of Corporations in Governing the Commons.** Organizers: Leandro Simões Pongeluppe (U Toronto), Aline Gatignon (Wharton), Anita McGahan (U Toronto). Panelists: Olga Hawn (UNC), Ilze Kivleniece (INSEAD), Kate Odziemkowska (Rice U) Cheng Gao (U Michigan), Aseem Kaul (U Minnesota), Joseph T. Mahoney (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Michael Toffel (Harvard Business School), Ioannis Ioannou (London Business School), Akbar Zaheer (U Minnesota).

**Teaching Business Model Innovation: Tips, Techniques, and Tools.** Organizers: Yuliya Snihur (Toulouse Business School), Christoph Zott (IESE). Panelists: Raphael H Amit (U Pennsylvania), Constantinos Markides (London Business School), Kathleen Eisenhardt (Stanford U).

**Research Frontiers in Nonmarket Strategy.** Organizers: Christiane Bode (Imperial College Business School). Panelists: Daniel Blake (IE Business School), Jonathan P. Doh (Villanova U), John M De Figueiredo (Duke U), Witold Jerzy Henisz (U Pennsylvania), Srividya Jandhyala (Essec Business School), Andrew King (Boston U), Wesley Sine (Cornell U), Lori Qingyuan Yue (USC), Joao Albino Pimentel (Copenhagen Business School), Anne Jacqueminet (Bocconi U), Ivana Katic (Yale) Vontrese Deeds Pamphile (George Washington U)

**Fostering Publications form Around the World in Leading Organization and Strategy Journals.** Organizers: Remzi Gozubuyuk (Sabanci U), Obi Berko Damoah (U Ghana), Michael Leatherby (Pontificia U. Católica de Chile), Carlos Adrian Rodriguez (INCAE Business School), Weiting Zheng (UNSW). Panelists: Raffaele Conti (Catolica Lisbon School of Business and Economics), Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra (Northeastern U) Luis Diestre (IE Business School), Jiao Luo (U Minnesota) Francisco Polidoro (U Texas Austin), Ishtiaq Pasha Mahmood, Roberto Vassolo (IAE Business School, Argentina & Pontificia U. Católica de Chile), Ralf Wilden (Macquarie Business School), Basak Yakis-Douglas (King's Business School).

### Understanding Organizational Governance in Digitally Transformed

**World.** Organizers: Richard Makadok (Purdue U). Panelists: Kevin Boudreau (Northeastern U), Gary Dushnitsky (London Business School), Anparasan Mahalingam (Purdue U), Frank Nagle (Harvard Business School), Hanna Halaburda (NYU), Tobias Kretschmer (LMU Munich), Geoffrey Parker (Dartmouth College), Brian Silverman (U Toronto).

**STR Junior Faculty Paper Development Workshop.** Organizers: Aharon Cohen Mohliver (London Business School), Srividya Jandhyala (ESSEC), Bruno Cirillo (SKEMA), Nilanjana Dutt (Bocconi). Panelists: Thorbjørn Knudsen (U Southern Denmark), Elisa Operti (ESSEC), Tomi MM Laamanen (U St Gallen), Sinziana Dorobantu (NYU), Luis Diestre (IE Business School), Gurneeta Vasudeva (U Minnesota), Tobias Kretschmer (LMU Munich), Christopher B Yenkey (USC), Paola Criscuolo (Imperial College London), Olivier Bertrand (Fundação Getúlio Vargas/EBAPE), Guoli Chen (INSEAD), Chris B Bingham (UNC), Filippo Carlo Wezel (USI Lugano), Donal Crilly (London Business School), Heli Wang (SMU), Kenneth Huang (National U Singapore), Anthea (Yan) Zhang (Rice U), Anupama Phene (George Washington U), Minyuan Zhao (Washington U St Louis).

**Creating and Curating your own Teaching Content Efficiently.** Organizers: Johann Peter Murmann (U St Gallen), Vijaya Narapareddy (U Denver). Panelists: Ron Adner (Dartmouth College), Melissa Graebner (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Mukti Khaire (Harvard U), David Kryscynski (Brigham Young U), Ithai Stern (INSEAD).

**Deciphering Managerial Cognition: New Methods and Opportunities for Studying Strategic Decision Making.** Organizers: Mana Heshmati (U Michigan), Carolyn Fu (MIT). Panelists: Felipe Csaszar (U Michigan), Jerker C. Denrell (U Warwick), J.P. Eggers (NYU), Elizabeth Pontikes (UC Davis), Mary Tripsas (UC Santa Barbara), Dennis A. Yao (Harvard U).

**STR Managing Your Dissertation Workshop.** Organizers: Marco Testoni (Tilburg U), Ankur Chavda (HEC Paris), Andrea Contigiani (Ohio State U), Trey Cummings (Johns Hopkins Carey Business School). Panelists: Pierre Azoulay (MIT), Giada di Stefano (Bocconi), Anne Marie Knott (Washington U, St Louis), Daniel Levinthal (U Penn), Marvin B Lieberman (UCLA), Scott Stern (MIT).

**Possibly the best Survey Methods PDW: Designing Surveys to collect Individual and Firm Level Data.** Organizers: Benjamin King (U Maryland). Panelists: Alfonso Gambardella (Bocconi), Kristina Steffenson McElheran (U Toronto), Michael Roach (Cornell U), Daniela Scur (MIT), Evan Penniman Starr (U Maryland).

**Strategy and Innovation Field Experiments: How to Design and Run Experiments with Firms.** Organizers: Hyunjin Kim (INSEAD), Rembrand Michael Koning (Harvard Business School). Panelists: Charlotte Blank, Eva Guinan (Harvard Medical School), Karim R. Lakhani (Harvard U), Grace Lee (AES), Lamar Pierce (Harvard Business School), Jasjit Singh (INSEAD), Nina Teng (London Business School).

**Walk-In Strategy Teaching Clinic.** Organizers: Johann Peter Murmann (U St Gallen), Vijaya Narapareddy (U Denver). Panelists: Joan Teresa Allatta (Temple U), Paolo Aversa (City U, London), Saikat Chaudhuri (UC Berkeley), Susan L. Cohen (U Georgia), Benjamin Hallen (U Washington, Seattle), Koen Heimeriks (Warwick Business School), Tomi MM Laamanen (U St Gallen), Derek Lehmberg (North Dakota State U), Michael J Leiblein (Ohio State U), Chengwei Liu (ESMT Berlin), Tammy L Madsen (Santa Clara U), Xavier Martin (Tilburg U), Nydia MacGregor (Santa Clara U), George A Shinkle (UNSW Sydney), Christopher W J Steele (U Alberta), Anu Wadhwa (Imperial College Business School), Pai-Ling Yin (USC).

**Knowledge Context of Entrepreneurship, Pre-Entry Capabilities, and New Ventures'**

**Outcomes.** Organizers: Aliasghar Bahoo Torodi (Bocconi), Roberto Fontana (U Pavia & Bocconi). Panelists: Bart Clarysse (ETH Zurich), Martin Ganco (Wisconsin School of Business), Sonali Shah (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign).

**Managing Remote Work.** Organizers: Viktorie Sevcenko (INSEAD), Prithwiraj Choudhury (Harvard U), Tarun Khanna (Harvard U). Panelists: Nicholas Bloom (Stanford U), Pamela Hinds (Stanford U), Phanish Puranam (INSEAD), Nancy Rothbard (U Pennsylvania).

**Adaptation, Learning, and Survival during an Unprecedented Shock: The Pandemic and Entrepreneurship.** Organizers: Andrea Contigiani (Ohio State U), Sunasir Dutta (U Minnesota). Panelists: Rajshree Argawal (U Maryland), Vibha Gaba (INSEAD), Constance E Helfat (Tuck School of Business, Dartmouth), Peter G Klein (Baylor U), Hayagreeva Rao (Stanford U), Kathleen M Sutcliffe (Johns Hopkins U), Charles Williams (Bocconi).

-----  
Marie Louise Mors  
Professor  
Copenhagen Business School  
Frederiksberg  
+4538154262  
-----



## MESSAGE FROM STR DIVISION CHAIR ELECT

**Heather Berry  
STR Division Chair Elect  
Cass Business School**

### **STR 2021 Irwin Outstanding Educator Award**

The Irwin Outstanding Educator Award recognizes an established strategy scholar who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to Ph.D. and doctoral education, and ongoing development of junior colleagues. The award recipient's contributions include dedication to PhD student development and curricula, involvement in dissertation committees, participation in doctoral consortia and workshops, and mentorship of junior faculty.

**The 2021 Irwin Outstanding Educator Award for Excellence in PhD Mentoring goes to Edward J. Zajac!**



Ed is the James F. Beré Professor of Management and Organizations at the Kellogg School of Management and a Professor of Sociology at the Weinberg College of Arts of Sciences, Northwestern University. He is an elected Fellow of both the Academy of Management and the Strategic Management Society, and the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the Free University of Berlin. Ed Zajac joined the faculty of the Kellogg School of Management after completing his Ph.D. in organization and strategy at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Cologne and a visiting scholar at

Erasmus University in Rotterdam, the Free University of Berlin, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Zurich. Ed's research contributions are in the areas of strategy, alliances and corporate governance and he has co-authored with many of his students.

The Awards Committee recognized Ed for his mentoring of PhD students, many of whom have also become top scholars themselves. Ed has been the Chair or Co-Chair of 20 dissertation committees (including Sekou Bermiss, Moshe Farjoun, Peer Fiss, Shelby Gai, James Gillespie, Simona Giorgi, Brian Golden, Stephen Hwang, Michael Jensen, Matthew Kraatz, Razvan Lungeanu, Cy Olsen, Ming Piao, Jo-Ellen Pozner, Lihua Wang, David Wang, Marvin Washington, Jim Westphal, Franz Wohlgezogen, Xiaoli Yin), in addition to being a committee member on a further 15 dissertation committees (including Pieter-Jan Bezemer, Dylan Boynton, Gary Gebhardt, Brian Golden, John Joseph, Mark Kennedy, Sookyoung Lee, Mae McDonnell, Ivana Naumovska, Thomas Ngo, Luke Rhee, Tony Simons, Chris Steele, Maxim Stych and Tracy Thompson).

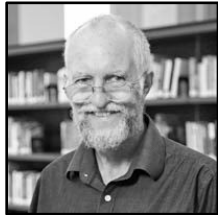
Ed's students were very enthusiastic in nominating him for this award. In support of this award, one of Ed's students wrote that Ed works with PhD students as a "two-way partnership between colleagues, rather than a one-way street." Another commented that "Ed contributed to the development of his students as scholars and human beings, as well as the total volume of his contributions to doctoral advising over the years." Across the nominations, Ed's students reflected on his huge investment in their development, providing valuable feedback and guidance across the range of dissertation topics he has supervised. Ed's students were unanimous in their appreciation for Ed's infectious enthusiasm and positive attitude about research. Ed also encourages his students to actively mentor others and many commented on how they have done their best to replicate Ed's example.

The STR Division congratulates Ed Zajac on being selected as the 2021 Irwin Outstanding Educator Award. We will be celebrating Ed at the August conference and we hope you will be part of that virtual award reception celebrating Ed!

### **STR 2021 Guth Distinguished Service Award**

The STR William D. Guth Distinguished Service Award recognizes an STR member with at least 15 years of service to the field, who has made significant contributions to activities within the STR Division, the Academy of Management, and/or to the broader field of strategic management. Award criteria include editorial contributions at journals or of edited volumes of strategy research, significant contributions to the Academy of Management, conference organizing, administrative roles, or textbook authorship.

#### **The 2021 STR Guth Distinguished Service Award goes to Will Mitchell!**



Will is a Professor of Strategic Management and Academic Director, Full-Time MBA Program at the University of Toronto where he holds the Anthony S. Fell Chair in New Technologies and Commercialization, in addition to being the Co-Director of the Rotman Global Executive MBA for Healthcare and the Life Sciences. Will studies business dynamics in developed and emerging markets, investigating how businesses change as their competitive environments change and, in turn, how the business changes contribute to ongoing corporate and social performance. Will is co-author of *Build, Borrow, or Buy: Solving the Growth Dilemma*, Harvard Business Review Press (with Professor Laurence Capron of INSEAD). He teaches courses in business strategy, emerging market and international strategy, entrepreneurship, and healthcare and life sciences strategy.

Will has been dedicated to all aspects of the field of strategy and the Awards Committee picked Will to receive the Guth Distinguished Service Award this year to recognize Will for his outstanding service to the field of strategic management. Will has been involved in many aspects of both the Academy of Management and Strategic Management Society organizations. Starting on the BPS Division Research Committee back in 1999, Will participated in many consortia and seminars for BPS/STR at annual conference meetings. He was elected to the Academy of Management Fellows Group in 2013. Will is currently serving as a Board Member at the Strategic Management Society (SMS) in his 2017-2021 term, in addition to serving as a Board Member at SMS from 2004-2008. Will is also a Program Chair for the 2021 SMS annual conference.

Among his many editorial positions, Will was Co-Editor at the Strategic Management Journal (SMJ) from 2007-2016 and is currently serving as a Consulting Editor at SMJ. Will is also currently the Co-Editor of Health and Management Policy & Innovation (and has been since 2016).

Will has served in many academic and corporate service positions. At the University of Toronto, Duke University and the University of Michigan, Will has served as Chair, Area Coordinator, Dean's Executive Committee Member, Diversity and Inclusion Committee member, PhD Program Advisor, Deputy Dean and Academic Director. In addition, Will has been the Chair or Co-Chair of over 38 dissertation committees, in addition to being a committee member on a further 32 dissertation committees. Will also serves on the CCC Advisory Board.

Please join us in congratulating Will for all he has done to make the field of strategy as vibrant as it is today!

### **2021 STR Emerging Scholar Award**

The STR Emerging Scholar Award recognizes a promising scholar who has established a research record of exceptional quality early in his/her career, has a notable publication record, and has already demonstrated an impact on the field of strategic management. Candidates were judged by the relevance, academic contribution, theoretical and methodological rigor and practical implications of their work. The award is bestowed upon a winner in odd numbered years (i.e., every other year).

The Emerging Scholar Award recipient is selected by a committee of former STR Division Chairs. The Division would like to thank this year's committee, including Tammy Madsen (Santa Clara University), Brian Silverman (University of Toronto) and Jim Westphal (University of Michigan).

### **The 2021 STR Emerging Scholar Award goes to Vanessa Burbano!**



Vanessa is an Assistant Professor of Management at Columbia Business School. She received her PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2015. Vanessa's research focus includes socially responsible and irresponsible business; the intersection between corporate strategy and the public good; as well as meaningfulness at work and human resource management and innovation. Vanessa has published several papers in top journals, including in *Management Science*, the *Strategic Management Journal* and *Organization Science*.

One of Vanessa's supporters offered the following comment: "Vanessa is at the forefront of young scholars using experimental methods in strategy and she has raised the bar of empirical evidence in nonmarket strategy research."

Please join the STR Division in congratulating Vanessa for the Emerging Scholar Award!

-----  
Heather Berry  
STR Division Chair Elect  
-----

## MESSAGE FROM COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

**Paolo Aversa**  
**STR Communication Director**  
**Cass Business School**  
**City, University of London**  
([paolo.aversa.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:paolo.aversa.1@city.ac.uk))

It has been a long winter but we enjoyed each other's company through the various #STRongerTogether initiatives of the STR Strategic Management Division.

As volunteers of the STR Communications Team, we have tried to overcome physical distance among our members by expanding our range of communication channels to engage with our division members, and beyond.

### Media content updates

The great majority of our live division event (e.g., Virtual PDWs, Virtual Symposia, Meet the Scholar) are recorded and uploaded in our [YouTube Channel](#). Started in July 2020 has totaled: 75 videos; 650 subscribers; 3,3k hours of watch time and 262k impressions.

Since January 2021, the Meet the Scholar interviews are also available as audio podcast on [our website](#); and in podcast repositories such as [PodBean](#), [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcast](#) and [Google Podcast](#). The YouTube Channel has also started featuring a playlist of the "[STR Nuggets](#)" where our members share short (ca. 5 min) personal and scholarly tips to the wider community.

Finally, remember to download the new [STR Virtual Backgrounds](#) for your video calls in our Media Library.

### Social media

We are enjoying increasing engagement with our [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) profiles. We have also recently started our own [LinkedIn](#) channel, for which we will soon create a series of special initiatives dedicated to engaging with industry experts and practitioners. Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)!

### Calendars

To stay updated with our events and activities please check our [event list](#) and calendar in our [website homepage](#). The latter can be synchronized with your personal calendar. How? Under the calendar box in our home page we have added two links to some short video tutorials to explain you how to sync the STR calendar with your [Apple iCal](#) or [Google Calendar](#).

### Communication Team

Please join me in thanking [the volunteers](#) of the STR Communications Team, which offer their time and energy to create an engaging communication plan across a variety of media channels to cater all sorts of needs and preferences (see full team names below).

Zeke Hernandez (U Pennsylvania): Twitter Manager  
Pinar Ozcan (U Oxford): Twitter Manager  
Robert Seamans (New York U): Twitter Manager  
Ralf Wilden (Macquarie U): Twitter Manager  
Scott Johnson (Iowa State U): Discussion Moderator  
Madeleine Rausch (Copenhagen Business School): Instagram Manager  
Maria Rita Micheli (IESEG): LinkedIn Manager  
Cecilia (Qian) Gu (Georgia State U): YouTube Manager  
Luigi Mosca (Imperial College London): YouTube Manager  
Aldona Kapacinskaite (London Business School): Calendar Manager  
Christopher Sabel (BI Norwegian Business School): Calendar Manager  
Miros Zohrehvand (Leiden U): Calendar Manager

**Team departures:** we would like to thank [Sarosh Asad](#) (CBS) who has run (with Madeleine Rauch, CBS) the inaugural year of our Instagram account. Sarosh is stepping down to focus on her PhD dissertation, and we wish her the best of luck!

**Team arrivals:** please join me in welcoming Luigi Mosca (Imperial College) which has joined Cecilia Gu (Georgia State U.) in managing our YouTube channel. Maria Rita Micheli (IESEG) has instead joined the Communication team and launched our new STR LinkedIn channel. Please help her reach strong followership by following us on [LinkedIn](#) too!

**Always looking for new help!** We are looking for new volunteers to join the STR Communications Team. Particularly, we are now in need of:

- A team member dedicated to optimize our **SEO and social media strategy** through some media analytics.
- A team member interested in developing our **STR Podcast**.
- A team member willing to help us with **graphic design** tasks (basic knowledge of bitmap and vector graphic design is required; e.g., Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign).
- A team member who will help us develop a **STR Video Channel** for our members in **China**. Knowledge of Chinese is needed for this position.

If you are interested in helping with any of these positions, please send me an email: [paolo.aversa.1@city.ac.uk](mailto:paolo.aversa.1@city.ac.uk).

Thanks for being #STRongerTogether!

**Paolo**

-----  
Paolo Aversa  
Associate Professor of Strategy  
Cass Business School, City, University of London  
STR Communications Director and Officer  
-----