Real-time foresight : preparedness for dynamic innovation networks

Weber, C.R.M.

Collaborative innovation processes in unpredictable environments are a challenge for traditional management. But new demands in a global digital society push public and corporate leadership to collaborate ad hoc, without predictable goals and planned working rules. In this thesis, an original ANT (actor-network theory) study combined with critical incident technique (CIT), the author elaborates dynamic principles for a new real-time foresight (RTF). It replaces traditional planning and strategic management in ad hoc multi-sector collaborations. Although ANT originates from science and technologies studies, it is here applied to a management problem due to its ability to merge voluntaristic and evolutionary managerial components and micro- and macro perspectives.

From process analysis and comparison of three dynamic innovation networks that emerged around Indian coastal villages after Tsunami 2004, five dynamic network patterns are obtained which underly successful collaborative innovation processes. These dynamic structures build the agenda for a new real-time foresight and for an instrument for real-time evaluation of dynamic innovation networks (DINs).

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Christina Weber studied sociology at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. She worked for GESIS (Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences), Mannheim, and KKS (Karl Kuebel Foundation for the Child and Family), Bensheim. She is today head of research at the Strascheg Centre for Entrepreneurship (SCE), Munich, and researches dynamic innovation networks in cooperation with LIACS, Leiden University.

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