

1. The aim of the project

The main objective of the proposed research is to build the model explaining the structure and relationships of social and information networks of the Polish management methodology scholars within the globally identified methodological approaches in management research. The methodological associations between researchers are interesting on their own, but inference based on the discovery of these relationships should help bring some unifying approaches to the management, making it easier for the scientists to communicate, both with other scholars, and practitioners, thus creating space for better research.

2. Research description

The majority of us are familiar with web services like Facebook or Twitter; we call them social media. Many of us communicate through them daily, creating vast amounts of data. Data that might be analyzed later, to explore patterns, seek similar communities, identify key people or most popular posts, tweets. Plenty of other characteristics might be explored, as well.

Researchers do not vary much from the situation above in terms of communication. Posts become publications, instead of tagging friends, scientists reference publications, which they find worth mentioning for some (hopefully positive) reason. The community of scientists who appreciate similar literature, follow the same rules, is said to share a common paradigm. Such a paradigm influences community choices on methods and research problems to solve.

What is done is a study of these paradigms among Polish methodology scholars in management sciences. The research is conducted using social network analysis, bibliometrics, scientometrics, and other novel methods. It should finally provide a model of the structure of discussed communities, as embedded within globally identified methodology approaches.

3. Reasons to conduct the study

To date, little is known about the methodology of management sciences, in Poland especially. Literature is committed mainly towards typology and explanation of methods and their pragmatic usability within management sciences. Much less attention is given to the circumstances affecting those typologies and explanations: to the structure of social and information networks of methodologists. Such networks are the backbone of the scientific community and science as well. They were discussed within the philosophy of science, with one term becoming the most outstanding buzzword: paradigm.

In management, using paradigm shapes reality accordingly to it, but despite that fact, paradigms rarely are analyzed or made explicit. Furthermore, paradigms might affect the relevance of management theory to the practice (sometimes in a bad way), through a selection of methods: both research and practical problem-solving. There are plenty of criteria for methods selection to solve managerial problems, and it might be the case to include paradigms as part of the methods selection model. Such dimension is needed, as, without explicit explanation of paradigms, managers might employ methods that conflict with their underlying assumptions about reality, and fail because of this misfit. The practical performance of methods employed under some specific paradigms is used later on as feedback for the further creation of management theory. Through this loop of knowledge creation, we might become prisoners of our methods that restrict us from creating practical and theoretically correct research at the same time. That is why a study like this is needed.

4. Anticipated effects

The essential anticipated effect of the research is the model presenting the structure of analyzed networks within the globally identified methodological approaches in management research. It will also provide a starting point for other effects, such as greater integration of the management research, and closing the rigor-relevance gap (that is, fostering practical research, but at the same time of significant theoretical impact).