



# Research News



September  
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Vaasan yliopisto  
UNIVERSITY OF VAASA

The background of the entire page is a repeating geometric pattern of interlocking squares and triangles in shades of yellow and orange, creating a lattice-like effect. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper right quadrant, containing the table of contents.

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## New Funding, Grants and Research Projects (<10 000 €)

The Graduate School of the University of Vaasa granted several scholarships, donated by Evald and Hilda Nissi Foundation and Vaasa University Foundation as well as two-year doctoral student positions.

- ▶ Six scholarships (22 000 €) were donated by the Evald and Nissi Foundation to **Nelson Abila, Ismail Gölgeci, Yuqiuge Hao, Eija-Leena Kärkinen, Paula Makkonen** and **Salman Saleem**. Nissi Foundation gives grants for students engaging in commercial studies, post-graduate studies or research, and researchers, and to the promotion of commercial expertise in the Vaasa region.
- ▶ Three scholarships (22 000 €) were donated by Vaasa University Foundation to **Sanna Heittola, Outi Lundahl** and **Mike Mekkanen**. Vaasa University Foundation supports the development of the University of Vaasa as well as University's scientific research and teaching.
- ▶ Graduate school has also granted doctoral student positions to **Helmi-Nelli Körkkö, Ethelbert Nwokorie, Kati Saarenpää** and **Binod Timilsina**. These two-year positions started on 1.8.2014.
- ▶ **Laura Perttola** was granted 20 000 euros for the doctoral thesis from the *Foundation for Municipal Development*.
- ▶ The South Ostrobothnia Regional Fund, one of the Finnish Cultural Foundation's regional funds, granted to **Jaana Rahko** and **Jari-Pekka Välimaa** both 22 000 euros and **Mathias Holmqvist** 19 000 euros for the doctoral thesis. Also **Roman Kushnir, Sanna Machaal, Juha Mäki, Johanna Pihlajamaa, Anni Rajala, Terhi Tuokkola, Linda Turunen** and **Arttu Vainio** were granted 11 000 euros for the doctoral thesis.
- ▶ Professor **Siv Björklund**, 10 000 euros for planning a strategic project within the Special Program (*Ung på svenska*) by the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland.
- ▶ Professor **Riitta Viitala** and a team for research project *Human research management in SME's* total 129 000 euros from the Finnish Work Environment Fund (Työsuojelurahasto) 113 000 euros and Foundation for Economic Education (Liikesivistysrahasto) 16 000 euros.
- ▶ University lecturer **Olli-Pekka Viinamäki** project *Kuntaliitosten jälkeen* 45 000 euros from The Foundation for Municipal Development (Kunnallissalan kehittämissäätö).
- ▶ Professor **Jukka Vesalainen** research project *TOPNETS* 96 600 euros from Tekes, total budget 161 100 euros.

## Researcher in the Spotlight

Doctoral Student **Ethelbert Nwokorie's** doctoral thesis analyses barriers to effective public sector management in institutionally corrupt societies. It is a comparative analysis of Nigeria and Ghana.

– I wanted to know why the situation is so different in these two countries, although they have a lot in common: culture, location, economics and political aspects, Nwokorie explains.

– Those countries both have significant problems in their public sector organizations, mostly ineffectiveness. Transparency International study shows that Nigeria is more corrupt than Ghana. Also, Nigerian public sector organizations are more ineffective than Ghanaian public sector organizations. So the question is, what are they doing differently?

This summer, Nwokorie interviewed several officials in Ghana and Nigerian public organizations. The preliminary result shows that besides corruption, ineffectiveness is mostly due to recruitment policies, which are different in these two countries.

– Nigeria has about 250 different ethnic groups, 36 states and the federal capital territory. The difference between northern and southern Nigeria is huge in terms of culture, educational attainment and socio-economic developments.

– Officials of federal government ministries, departments and agencies are recruited or appointed based on Federal Character or quota system (equal representation of all regions and states), not based on merit and individual abilities. This leads to ineffectiveness.

Nwokorie has two year doctoral student position in the Faculty of philosophy, Public management unit. He hopes to finish his thesis next year.

– I am open to several possible career paths in the future. I would like to get international experience and maybe work in Nigeria as a university teacher, says Nwokorie, who enjoys discussing with his friends and colleagues.

Nwokorie himself is a Nigerian and has worked before his studies in Finland in National Orientation Agency, as Principal Orientation and Mobilization Officer in four different local government areas in Nigeria and as a Programmes Officer at Imo state headquarters of National Orientation Agency.

Nwokorie came to Finland in 2007 to study a master's degree in intercultural studies in communication and administration, in the University of Vaasa. He hopes that his study reduces these problems in his home country and offers a solution to public sector ineffectiveness for other societies that have similar problems.



## Recent Publications and Scientific Articles

Several high-quality articles have been published by the researchers of the university. Publications at level 2 or 3 in the Finnish Publication Forum classification are presented.

### Level 2 journals

- ▶ **Yohanes Kristianto** with **Angappa Gunasekaran** and **Jiaxin Jiao** an article *Logical reconfiguration of reconfigurable manufacturing systems with stream of variations modelling: a stochastic two-stage programming and shortest path model* in International Journal of Production Research.
- ▶ **Charles Osifo Omoregie** an article *An Ethical Governance Perspective on Anti-Corruption Policies and Procedures: Agencies and Trust in Cameroon, Ghana and Nigeria Evaluation* in International Journal of Public Administration.
- ▶ **Jukka Sihvonen** and **Sami Vähämaa** an article *Forward-Looking Monetary Policy Rules and Option-Implied Interest Rate Expectations* in Journal of Futures Markets.
- ▶ **Niina Koivunen** a book chapter *Tehtävä kulttuurille. Talouden ja kulttuurin muuttuvat suhteet* in the book *Paradoksi ja performanssi – Johtajuuskoulutusta luovan talouden tarpeisiin* published by the Vastapaino.
- ▶ **Niina Koivunen** with **Tamar Parush** an article *Paradoxes, double binds, and the construction of "creative" managerial selves in art-based leadership development* in Scandinavian Journal of Management.
- ▶ **Joakim Vincent** with **Anne Pierre** and **Yvonne Friedrichs** a book chapter *Entrepreneurship in Society: A Review and Definition of Community-Based Entrepreneurship Research* in the book *Societal Entrepreneurship: Leveraging Economic, Political, and Cultural Dimensions* published by the Springer.
- ▶ **Jukka-Pekka Heikkilä** and **Chris Brewster** with **Jaakko Mattila** a book chapter *Micro-Political Conflicts and Institutional Issues During E-HRM Implementation in MNC's: A Vendor View* in the book *Human Resources Management and the Technological Challenge* published by the Springer.
- ▶ **Chris Brewster** and **Vesa Suutari** with **Jaime Bonache** and **Jean-Luc Cerdin** an article *Exploring expatriate outcomes* in International Journal of Human Resource Management.

## Recent Publications and Scientific Articles

- ▶ **Liisa Mäkelä, Vesa Suutari** and **Chris Brewster** an article *The Factors Contributing to Work/Life Conflicts and Enrichment among Finnish Global Careeists* in Journal of Finnish Studies.
- ▶ **Kristiina Abdallah** a book chapter *The Interface between Bourdieu's Habitus and Latour's Agency: The Work Trajectories of Two Finnish Translators* in the book *Remapping Habitus in Translation Studies* published by the Rodopi.
- ▶ **Harri Raisio** and **Seija Ollila** with **Tuure Tammi** an article *Oppilaitokset deliberatiivisen demokratian reunaehdot: Opiskelijoiden kokemuksia kolmesta kansalaisraadista* in the journal *Kasvatus*.
- ▶ **Jussi Kantola** with **Dong Yn Lee** a book chapter *Design of an E-Learning System Based on the Socialization, Externalization, Combination, and Internationalization Model in the book Human Factors of a Global Society: A System of Systems Perspective* published by the CRC Press.
- ▶ **Emma-Riikka Myllymäki** an article *The Persistence in the Association between Section 404 Material Weakness and Finance Reporting Quality in Auditing* in Journal of Practice and Theory.
- ▶ **Raija Salomaa** a book chapter *Coaching of Key Talents in Multinational Companies* in the book *Global Talent Management, Challenges, Strategies, and Opportunities* published by the Springer.
- ▶ **Ahm Shamsuzzoha** and **Petri Helo** with **Simon Kuspert** and **Sven Abels** an article *Smart Collaborative Process Monitoring in Real-time Business Environment: Applications of Internet of Things and Cloud-data Repository* in the conference series *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems* published by the ICEIS.
- ▶ **Ahm Shamsuzzoha** and **Petri Helo** with **Filipe Ferreira, Sven Abels** and **Americo Azevedo** an article *Visualization Functionality of Virtual Factories: An Enhancement to Collaborative Business Process Management* in the conference series *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Enterprise Information Systems* published by the ICEIS.
- ▶ **Seppo Hassi** and **Rudi Wietsma** with **Jussi Behrndt** and **Henk de Snoo** an article *Antitonicity of the Inverse for Selfadjoint Matrices, Operators, and Relations* in *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*.

## Recent Publications and Scientific Articles

- ▶ **Maria Eronen** an article *Moral argumentation as a rhetorical practice in popular on-line discourse: Examples from online comment sections of celebrity gossip* in *Discourse & Communication*.
- ▶ **Omid Palizdan** and **Kimmo Kauhaniemi** with **Josep M. Guerrero** an article *Microgrids in active network management – Part 1: Hierarchical control, energy storage, virtual power plants, and market participation* in *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*.
- ▶ **Omid Palizdan** and **Kimmo Kauhaniemi** with **Josep M. Guerrero** an article *Microgrids in active network management – Part 2: System operation, power quality and protection* in *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*.
- ▶ **Siv Björklund** and **Marita Mård-Miettinen** a book chapter *Established and emerging perspectives on immersion education* in *The Routledge Handbook of Educational Linguistics*, published by Routledge.
- ▶ **Riikka Nissi** with **Aila Mielikäinen** a book chapter *Teksti ja kieliasu yhteisen huumorin lähteenä nuorten aikuisten raamattupiirikeskusteluissa* in the book *Sanaa tutkimassa. Näkökulmia uskonnolliseen kieleen ja sen käyttöön*. Published by the Finnish Literature Society.
- ▶ **Yohanes Kristianto** and **Petri Helo** an article *Product architecture modularity implications for operations economy of green supply chains* in *Transportation Research Part E*.
- ▶ **Esa Lehtinen** a book chapter *Uskonnollisen vuorovaikutuksen monet kontekstit* in the book *Sanaa tutkimassa. Näkökulmia uskonnolliseen kieleen ja sen käyttöön*. Published by the Finnish Literature Society.
- ▶ **Liting Liang** with **Yang Liu** an article *Evaluating and developing resource-based operations strategy for competitive advantage: an explanatory study of Finnish high-tech manufacturing industries* in *International Journal of Production Research*.
- ▶ **Seppo Hassi** with **Henk de Snoo**, **Anders Fleige** and **Henrik Winkler** an article *Non-semi-bounded close symmetric forms associated with a generalized Friedrichs extension* in *Proceeding of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*.
- ▶ **Peter Gabrielsson** with **Mika Gabrielsson** and **Pavlos Dimitratos** an article *International Entrepreneurial Culture and Growth of International New Ventures* in *Management International Review*.

## Recent Publications and Scientific Articles

- ▶ **Tommi Sottinen** and **Adil Yazigi** an article *Generalized Gaussian bridges* in Stochastic Processes and their Applications.
- ▶ **Nelson Abila** an article *Biofuels adoption in Nigeria: Attaining a balance in the food, fuel, feed and fibre objectives* in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews.
- ▶ **Nelson Abila** an article *Managing municipal wastes for energy generation in Nigeria* in Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews.
- ▶ **Panu Kalmi** with **Giovanni Ferri** a book Chapter *Co-operative Banks: Their Contributions to the Sustainability and Diversity of the Financial System* in the book *Co-operative Innovations in China and the West*. Published by Palgrave MacMillan.
- ▶ **Seija Ollila** and **Pirkko Vartiainen** a book chapter *Strategic competence-based management in Finnish health-care services* in Strategic Management in Public Services. Published by Routledge.

### Level 3 journals

- ▶ **Jukka Vesalainen** and **Henri Hakala** an article *Strategic capability architecture: The role of Network capability* in Industrial Marketing Management.
- ▶ **Harri Raisio** and **Niklas Lundström** an article *Managing Chaos: Lessons From Movies on Chaos Theory* in Administration & Society.
- ▶ **Annika Tidström** an article *Managing tensions in coopetition* in Industrial Marketing Management.
- ▶ **Juho Ylimäki** an article *A dynamic model of supplier-customer product development collaboration strategies* in Industrial Marketing Management.



## Recent Publications and Scientific Articles

Level 3  
journal

- ▶ **Stefan Sundgren** and **Tobias Svanström** an article *Auditor-in-Charge Characteristics and Going Concern Reporting* in the level 3 journal *Contemporary Accounting Research*.

– The primary object of our paper is to study how audit quality in private companies is associated with the number of assignments held by the auditor-in-charge and his or her age, Sundgren explains.

In this study Sundgren and Svanström use the propensity to issue a going-concern opinion prior to bankruptcy as the measure of audit quality and examine whether audit quality varies with auditor-in-charge variables.

– We find a negative association between the number of audit assignments and the likelihood of a going-concern opinion. Our findings imply that regulators should pay attention to these quality concerns and evaluate whether an upper limit on the number of assignments held would be an effective way of improving audit quality.

– We also find that older auditors are less likely to issue a going-concern opinion, Sundgren tells.

Overall, the findings strongly suggest that auditor characteristics are associated with reporting behavior and audit quality. Although firm- and office-level characteristics are important in determining audit quality, reported findings advocate a shift of focus to partner and audit team level and encourage researchers to investigate further the link between various auditor characteristics and audit quality in different jurisdictions.

– In future research it might be beneficial to investigate how these partner characteristics relate to the quality of decisions taken at different stages of the audit process.



## Dissertations

5.9. **Nestori Siponkoski**, *English language*

Translation Under Negotiation. The Textual Interplay of Shakespeare Translation.

29.8.2014 **Richard Addo-Tenkorang**, *Industrial Management*

Conceptual Framework for Large-Scale Complex Engineering-Design & Delivery Processes: A Case of Enterprise SCM Network Activities and Analysis. Acta Wasaensia 301.

10.6.2014 **Alireza Aslani**, *Industrial Management*

Evaluation of Renewable Energy Development in Power Generation – System Dynamics Approach for the Nordic Countries. Acta Wasaensia 300.

5.6. **Olli Välimäki**, *Business Law*

Rahoitussopimuksen kovenanttiohjaus. Vakuuden arvioinnista kohti sopimusoi-keudellisia riskinhallintamekanismeja. Tarkasteltavana erityisesti informaatio ja kumppanuus.

30.5.2014 **Denis Davydov**, *Accounting and Finance*

Essays on Debt Financing, Firm Performance, and Banking in Emerging Markets. Acta Wasaensia 299.

23.5.2014 **Jenni Kantola**, *Management*

Narrating coping experiences of necessity entrepreneurs. Acta Wasaensia 298.

16.5.2014 **Jarkko Raitio**, *Business Law*

Osakkeen suuntaaminen. Taloudelliset syyt perusteena poiketa omistussuuden pysyvyydestä.

2.5. **Charlotta Sirén**, *Management*

Strategic Learning: A Route to Competitive Advantage? Acta Wasaensia 297.

**Jenni Kantola's** dissertation study seeks understanding on individuals' coping experiences as necessity-based entrepreneurs from a narrative perspective. The findings show that individual narratives reflect the personal growth. Field of the study is management.

The phenomenon of the necessity entrepreneurship has evoked wide interest among public discussion. In Kantola's study, the entrepreneurial starting point is characterized as a critical turning point in an individual's life. Thus, the focus lies on the subjective perceptions of how individuals cope with the new life direction.

– The coping is defined here as means chosen according to the meanings that individuals create about their past and future, explains Kantola.

The data was collected by interviewing 16 individuals, who defined themselves as necessity entrepreneurs.

Based on individuals' narratives, coping experiences were illustrated in four groups; the drowned, the drifters, the sailors and the gone ashore. The groups differed from each other in terms of coping, sense of meaningfulness and continuity of the business. The findings show that individual narratives reflect the personal growth.

– The individuals handle their coping in multiple ways, such as by differentiating themselves from traditional opportunity-based entrepreneurs, repositioning the importance of work and building up a new entrepreneurial identity.

– The results indicate that the experience of disappointment in the starting point of the business seems to reflect on their later experiences as an entrepreneur. Overall, the findings reflect that the necessity-based entrepreneur may feel left outside the traditional employment and feel otherness in relation to other entrepreneurs, Kantola says.

From the practical point of view the study encourages to utilize the narrative approach for example in the work counselling environment. In addition the analysis of narration provides a methodologically useful tool for further analysis of work and coping related narratives.



## Research Group in Focus

### Networked Value Systems – NeVS

Networked Value Systems (NeVS) is a multidisciplinary research program that combines both strategic management and operations management capabilities. Research program studies strategies, processes and practices within industrial value systems, networks and firms. Research program utilizes theories of strategic and operations management.

– We focus on themes such as strategies, business models and strategy processes, industrial service business as well as business networks, supplier and customer relationships. Program intends to develop both theory and practice, tells professor **Marko Kohtamäki**, leader of the research group.

– Our particular focus is on technology companies, but we serve other industries as well. Our influence reaches the international scientific community through high-quality publications. Yet, we also utilize and develop scientific knowledge in cooperation with our company partners.

– In addition, we actively educate in our doctoral program, as well as master programs of strategic management, growth management and industrial management. We combine theory and practice in creative ways in all our activities, Kohtamäki says.

NeVS program is led by Professors **Petri Helo** (Industrial Management) and Marko Kohtamäki (Department of Management).



**Viitala, Riitta & Maria Järström (eds.)**

Henkilöstöjohtaminen uuden edessä – Henkilöstöbarometrin nostamat kehityshaasteet. Research Papers 302, Business Administration 107.

**Malkamäki, Anni & Kjell Herberts**

Case Wärtsilä. Flerspråkighet i arbetssituationer. Monikielisyys työtilanteissa. Multilingualism in work situations. Reports 194.



## The Graduate School Announces

- ▶ **Orientation event of the Graduate School for the new students as well as for the old ones is on 25th of September at 9–15 in Fabriikki, F141. Remember to register!**
- ▶ The graduate school organizes general and introductory courses common to all post-graduates. Courses in the autumn in *English are Research seminar of the Graduate School* and *Academic Writing*. Both courses continue in the spring. Please see the courses arranged in Finnish from the webpages.
- ▶ Altogether 40 new doctoral students were selected to begin their doctoral studies in the autumn. In the spring 67 applications were received. 28 applications came from abroad.
- ▶ The Graduate School seeks motivated, talented students who are inspired to do research work. The application time expires on November 15th 2014.

[www.uva.fi/en/research/researcher/  
graduate\\_school/](http://www.uva.fi/en/research/researcher/graduate_school/)

### Current Issues

- ▶ Tietoprovinssit at Seinäjoki, Yliopistokeskus 19.9.: [www.epky.fi/tietoprovinssi](http://www.epky.fi/tietoprovinssi)
- ▶ XXXIII Hallinnon tutkimuksen päivät in the University of Vaasa 26.–28.11.: <http://hallinnontutkimus.fi/htpaivat/>
- ▶ PhD **Tiina Mäntymäki** has been nominated as Research Manager in Contemporary English Culture for a period of three years.

Upcoming defences:  
[www.uva.fi/en/events](http://www.uva.fi/en/events)

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Research News is also available in the Internet: [www.uva.fi/en/research/popularisation/news/](http://www.uva.fi/en/research/popularisation/news/)

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