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# Centre for Strategy and Communication Research

The project is conducted in the Centre for Strategy and Communication Research at the department of Management and Organization at HANKEN School of Economics. The Centre conducts research and develops strategic practices in close collaboration with the Aalto University School of Business. CSCR is part of the international Strategy-as-Practice International Network (SAPIN). The following members of the CSCR group participate in this project research project:

The project leader *Eero Vaara* is Professor of Organization and Management at Aalto University School of Business, Finland, permanent Visiting Professor at EM Lyon Business School, France, Visiting professor at Lancaster University, UK, and Adjunct Professor at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. He has been the Chair of EGOS (European Group for Organizational Studies, the leading international research association for organization studies), as well as a member of the Board of Governors of the Academy of Management (the leading international research association for management studies). His research interests focus on strategy and strategizing, organizational change, multinational corporations and globalization, the role of the media in organizing and management, and methodological issues in organization and management research. He is most well known for his work on language in strategy and organizations. His research has been published in leading academic journals such as *Academy of Management Learning and Education; Academy of Management Review; Advances in Strategic Management; British Journal of Management; Gender, Work and Organization; Human Relations; International Journal of Human Resource Management, Journal of International Business Studies; Journal of Management Inquiry; Journal of Management Studies; Organization; Organization Science; Organization Studies and Strategic Management Journal* and various books. He has received awards for his publications (e.g. the Roland Calori Award in 2003 and the Citation of Excellence Award in 2010) and served on the editorial boards of a number of journals.

He has extensive experience of leading international research projects and programs such as "The social construction of organizational change in the finance sector" 2000-2004 (financed by Osuuspankkijärjestön Tutkimussäätiö), "Cultural perspectives on post-merger integration" 2001-2003 (financed by Nordea), "Finnish corporate acquisitions" 1998-1999 and 2001-2002 (in cooperation with ETLA), "Discursive and social practices in strategic management in city organizations" 2007-2009 (financed by Kunnallisalan kehittämissäätiö), "Managing knowledge creation and transfer in multinational corporations: A Finnish perspective" 2001-2004," "Competence Management across Borders" 2006-2008 (financed by Finnish Agency for Technological Development), "Strategy as dialogue: Towards participatory communication practices in organizational strategy" 2007-2010 (financed by Finnish Work Environment Fund), and "Mergers, acquisitions and cultural dynamics" 2006-2009 (New Zealand, financed by the Marsden Foundation).

His recent work has focused on the role of discourse in strategy and strategizing. In addition to publications in the leading academic journals of management and organization studies, he has edited the Cambridge Handbook of Strategy as Practice (2010) (which provides the most up-to-date overview of this research field to date), special issues on the role lan-

guage in strategy (Journal of Management Studies, in process; Strategic Management Journal, proposal submitted), and played a central role in initiating and managing international collaboration (SAPIN, SAP SWG at EGOS, SAP IT at AOM, SAP in SMS).

*Virpi Sorsa*, Ph.D. is a University Lecturer and (starting July 1st, 2015) Assistant Professor at Hanken School of Economics, Finland, and a visiting scholar in Bath University School of Business, U.K. She is a board member of the Strategy as Practice Research Community Platform in EGOS (European Group for Organizational Studies, the leading international research association for organization studies). Her research interests focus on strategy and strategizing, communicative constitution of organizations and organizing, and pluralistic organizations. She has published her research in double-blinded peer reviewed academic journals such as *Organization, Management Communication Quarterly, Discourse & Communication* and various books. In this research project, she will concentrate on understanding processual change in city organizations through practical rationality.

*Kari Jalonen*, M.Sc. (Tech.) is a doctoral student at Hanken School of Economics in Helsinki, Finland. He is finalizing his doctoral thesis on the dialogical and discursive practices employed in city strategy. Kari has previously worked in the development of health service systems, and has a deep interest in the development of public services. His papers have been presented at the leading conferences in organization studies. He has a strong expertise in conducting longitudinal qualitative case studies and in applying a variety of dialogical and discursive methods.

We also draw on the expertise of Professor *Liisa Välikangas* (Hanken School of Economics and Aalto University School of Business) in matters related with innovativeness and strategic thinking in the public sector. Prof. Välikangas participates in the project as an academic expert and coauthor.

The Center for Strategy and Communication research at Hanken is a top research group with close connections to national and international top-scholars. This research group will act as a valuable support network for this research project. It is the only Nordic group within the Strategy-as-Practice International Network (SAPIN) that consists of leading researchers and universities. This network has two main functions: (1) to provide senior support, guidance and advice and (2) to facilitate collaboration in writing and publishing results in international arenas. The following international and national senior researchers are in ongoing cooperation with the Center for Strategy and Communication research at Hanken: Richard Whittington / Saïd Business School in Oxford, Paula Jarzabkowski / Aston Business School, Claus Jacobs/University of St Gallen, David Seidl/University of Zurich, Joep Cornelissen / VU University, Amsterdam, Julia Balogun / Bath University, Robin Holt / Liverpool University, Mats Alvesson / Lund University, Tomi Laamanen / St Gallen, Marjo Siltaoja / University of Jyväskylä, Juha-Antti Lamberg / Aalto, Janne Tienari / Aalto, Johanna Moisander / Aalto, Pekka Aula / Lappeenranta University of Technology, Aki-Mauri Huhtinen / MPKK. The unique and broad network enables collaboration on many levels; joint articles, long- and short-term exchange, comparison of empirical material, guest lectures etc. These activities are already ongoing, and this research project makes the collaboration even more intensive.