

CALL FOR PAPERS

Building the Community Economy:

The Role of Management Studies

Research Development Workshop

Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University (NL)

24–25 September 2026

Purpose and Scope

Community-based forms of organizing are re-emerging as credible responses to societal grand challenges such as climate change, inequality, and the energy transition. Across political economy, transition studies, and related fields, the notion of a “community economy” highlights diverse forms of value creation, ownership, and exchange that move beyond market–state binaries and foreground collective agency and local embeddedness (Gibson-Graham, 2006). However, management scholarship has yet to fully engage with the **organizational foundations, governance dynamics, and scaling trajectories** of such initiatives. Greater attention is needed to understand how community-based organizing challenges, extends, or reshapes dominant assumptions in management and organization theory.

This two-day research development workshop invites papers that advance conversations in management and organization studies on community economy and community enterprises (CeEs) as collectively governed, locally embedded, and purpose-driven forms of organizing (Peredo & Chrisman, 2006; Haugh, 2007; Mair & Martí, 2006; Bacq et al., 2022; Mitzinneck et al., 2024; Vijay et al., 2025; Porath et al., 2025). The workshop aims to strengthen theoretical positioning, sharpen conceptual contributions, and develop publication strategies aligned with leading outlets in management and organization studies.

The workshop is hosted by the ERC-funded SCENSUS research team at the Business-Society Management Department of Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, and is sponsored by the Society for the Advancement of Management Studies (SAMS), the scholarly association behind the *Journal of Management Studies*.

We particularly encourage submissions from early-career scholars and researchers working across disciplinary boundaries who seek to engage management and organization theory through community-based organizing.

Distinguished Academic Contributors

The workshop brings together senior scholars who will contribute to plenary discussions and provide developmental feedback in paper sessions:

- **Christopher Wickert**, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- **Pilar Acosta**, TBS Education
- **Gorgi Krlev**, ESCP Business School
- **Pablo Muñoz**, Durham University Business School

Workshop convener: **Thomas Bauwens**, Rotterdam School of Management

Workshop Format

The program combines:

- An opening keynote and a keynote roundtable on **positioning** community economy research in management studies
- Parallel **paper development sessions** in small groups, where each paper receives structured and focused feedback. Each session follows a 20-minute presentation and a 10-minute feedback conversation.
- A plenary session focused on **publication strategy**, reviewer expectations, and journal positioning

Participants benefit from:

- Targeted feedback from senior scholars and peers,
- Guidance on strengthening theoretical contributions,
- Insights into publication strategies,
- And opportunities to build scholarly networks in this emerging research area.

Expected Contributions

We welcome conceptual and empirical submissions (qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) that engage **core debates in management and organization theory** through the lens of community economy and community enterprises. Successful submissions will move beyond descriptive accounts and clearly articulate how community-based organizing informs, challenges, or extends existing management and organization theory.

Illustrative topics include (not exhaustive):

- Community enterprises as alternative organizational forms: governance, ownership, accountability, and value creation
- Scaling and replication: growth pathways, diffusion, franchising, meta-organizing, federations, and platform-enabled community models
- Organizing for sustainability transitions: energy communities, circularity, food systems, housing, mobility, water, and care infrastructures
- Tensions and paradoxes: democratization vs professionalization, local embeddedness vs scalability, care vs efficiency, inclusion vs boundary work
- Institutional and political conditions: regulation, public policy mixes, state-market-community relations
- Methods and measurement: impact assessment, relational value, community wealth, legitimacy, and multi-level dynamics
- Grand challenges and responsible management: how community economy research reshapes what “responsibility” means in management studies
- Entrepreneurial ecosystems, collective action, and the interplay between social enterprises and community-based organizing
- Community organizing and community-based enterprise in the Global South: context-sensitive theorizing, governance and accountability, and implications for management and organization theory

Indicative references (not exhaustive):

- Bacq, S., Hertel, C., & Lumpkin, G. T. (2022). Communities at the nexus of entrepreneurship and societal impact. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 37(5), 106231.
- Bauwens, T., Huybrechts, B., & Dufays, F. (2020). Understanding the diverse scaling strategies of social enterprises as hybrid organizations: The case of renewable energy cooperatives. *Organization & Environment*, 33(2), 195–219.
- Gibson-Graham, J. K. (2006). *A Postcapitalist Politics*. University of Minnesota Press.
- Haugh, H. (2007). Community-led social venture creation. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 31(2), 161–182.
- Krlev, G., Wruk, D., Pasi, G., & Bernhard, M. (2023). Social economy: Between common identity and accelerating social change. In G. Krlev, D. Wruk, G. Pasi, & M. Bernhard (Eds.), *Social Economy Science: Transforming the Economy and Making Society More Resilient* (p. 0). Oxford University Press.
- Mair, J., & Martí, I. (2006). Social entrepreneurship research: A source of explanation, prediction, and delight. *Journal of World Business*, 41(1), 36–44.

- Muñoz, P., & Kimmitt, J. (2019). Social mission as competitive advantage: A configurational analysis of the strategic conditions of social entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business Research*, 101, 854–861.
- Porath, C., Gibson, C., & Spreitzer, G. (2025). Community Inside and Out: Moving Community Front and Center in Management Research. *Academy of Management Annals*, 19(2), 800–860.
- Peredo, A. M., & Chrisman, J. J. (2006). Toward a theory of community-based enterprise. *Academy of Management Review*, 31(2), 309–328.
- Savaget, P., Ozcan, P., & Pitsis, T. (2025). Social Entrepreneurs as Ecosystem Catalysts: The Dynamics of Forming and Withdrawing from a Self-Sustaining Ecosystem. *Journal of Management Studies*, 62(1), 246–278.
- Tracey, P., Phillips, N., & Haugh, H. (2005). Beyond philanthropy: Community enterprise as a basis for corporate citizenship. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 58, 327–344.
- Vijay, D., Berkowitz, H., Huybrechts, B., Audebrand, L. K., Barros, M., & Fotaki, M. (2025). Another World Is Possible—It Is Already Here: A Review and Research Agenda on Alternative Organizing. *Academy of Management Annals*, annals.2024.0102.

Submission Guidelines

Papers will be selected based on their theoretical contribution, relevance to the workshop theme, and potential to benefit from developmental feedback.

Please submit a Word document containing either:

1. A **full paper** (recommended), **OR**
2. An **extended abstract** (1,500–2,000 words) including research question, theoretical framing, approach/method, preliminary insights (if empirical), and expected contribution.

Submissions should clearly explain:

- The core theoretical contribution for management studies
- Why the paper speaks to community economy / community enterprises
- The intended journal positioning (e.g., *Journal of Management Studies*, *Organization Studies*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, *Academy of Management Review*, etc.)

Accepted submissions will be given a second deadline for revisions prior to circulation among participants (see Important Dates).

Important Dates (23:59, CET)

- **Submission deadline:** 15 April 2026
- **Notification of decision:** 15 May 2026
- **Updated draft due (for circulation):** 31 August 2026
- **On-site workshop dates (Rotterdam):** 24–25 September 2026

Venue and Logistics

The workshop will be held at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University in The Netherlands. **There is no registration fee.** Meals, coffee, and refreshments will be provided. Participants are expected to arrange their own travel and accommodation.

Doctoral bursaries (limited)

A limited number of **doctoral bursaries (approx. EUR 335)** will be available to help offset travel and accommodation costs. Doctoral students who wish to be considered should include a brief justification in their submission (max. 200 words) explaining why financial support is needed and what costs it would cover. Bursaries will be allocated based on demonstrated need and available funds.

Submission and inquiries

Inquiries may be addressed to **Jason Roncancio Marin** or **Pouya Janghorban** to:
samworkshopscensus@rsm.nl

Disclaimer: *This workshop is a developmental event funded by SAMS. Acceptance does not constitute peer review, does not provide a submission route, and does not imply any preferential treatment in future journal review processes.*

Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University,
February 2026.