Collective Action and Organization Theory
3 credits

Course Dates
Monday/Wednesday, May, 23, 25, 30, June 1
13:00-16:00

Instructors
Henri Schildt [schildt@hanken.fi]
Teppo Felin [teppo.felin@gmail.com]

Location
Hanken, Arkadiankatu 22. Lecture room to be announced.

Enrollment
Students are asked to enroll by email with Henri Schildt ([schildt@hanken.fi]), latest by May 18th. The number of participants is unlikely to be capped.

Deliverables
Students will be asked to identify and briefly present an existing empirical article for each class. A focused 10-page paper is required (due at the end of June).

Course Content
This seminar focuses on agency, both generally as well as within, between and by collectives and organizations. We investigate perspectives towards agency in philosophy, social theory, empirical sociology, and organization studies. Our aim is to expose course participants to diverse views on action and agency and to reflect how the arguments might contribute to empirical research and our understanding of organizational and collective processes more broadly.

The course is organized around four themes: (1) theories of individual agency and intentionality, (2) traditional explanations of collective action, (3) collective and individual agency in the organizational context, and (4) collective action among organizations at the industry (or organizational field) level.

The course is taught by using participatory seminar sessions (four sessions, three hours each) with assigned pre-readings. In addition, all students are asked to identify an existing high-quality empirical article that illuminates the topic of the session. Students may be asked to briefly present the key points from their chosen article to other students during the session – focus should be on the empirical material in the study and the findings should be related to some of the session readings.
**Session 1 – Agency and Intentionality**

May 23

*Required readings*


*Optional readings*


**Session 2 – Collective Agency**

May 25

*Required readings*


Optional readings


Session 3 – Intraorganizational Dynamics and Collective Intentionality
May 30

Required readings


Optional readings


**Session 4 – Collection Action by Organizations**

**June 1**

*Required readings*


+ A working paper under review (to be distributed)

*Optional readings*


(http://webuser.bus.umich.edu/gfdavis/Papers/davis_zald_05.pdf)


**ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS**

Henri Schildt is an Assistant Professor of Management and Organization at Hanken School of Economics. His current interests focus on applying discursive perspectives to understand effects of institutional logics, the emergence of new organizational fields, and the formation of social categories. His prior research has focused on strategic change and learning in technology-related alliances. Henri’s articles have been published in *Academy of Management Journal, Strategic Management Journal, Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice,* and *Strategic Organization.*

Teppo Felin is an Associate Professor and Lee Perry Fellow at the Marriott School, BYU and a Visiting Fellow at Lund University, Sweden. He has also been a Visiting Professor at Emory University, Aalto University and Hanken School of Economics. His current research interests include the microfoundations of strategic organization, markets, social aggregation and emergence, organizational capabilities and design, social theory and the philosophy of science. His research has been published in *Organization Science, Academy of Management Review, Managerial and Decision Economics, Erkenntnis* and other research outlets. He is on the editorial board of the *Academy of Management Review* and other journals. He is currently co-editing a special issue of *Organization Science* on organizational economics and capabilities, as well as an interdisciplinary special issue of *Managerial and Decision Economics* on the emergent nature of the firm, markets and social aggregation.