

The Interdependence of Private and Public Interests

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Abstract

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Abstract

The predominant focus in research on organizations is either on private or public institutions without consistent consideration of their interdependencies. The emphasis in scholarship on private or public interests has strengthened as disciplinary and professional knowledge has deepened: management scholars, for example, tend to consider the corporation as the unit of analysis, while scholars of public policy in government, public health, social science and education often analyze governmental, multilateral, community and non-profit organizations. This article advocates a partial merging of these research agendas on the grounds that private and public interests cannot be fully understood if they are conceived independently. We review three major areas of activity today in which public and private interests interact in complex ways, and maintain that current theories of organization science can be deployed to understand better these interactions. We also suggest that theories of public-private interaction also require development and describe a concept called “global sustainable value creation,” which may be used to identify organizational and institutional configurations and strategies conducive to worldwide, intertemporal efficiency and value creation. We conclude that scholarship on organizations would advance if private-public interactions were evaluated by the criterion of global sustainable value creation.

Introduction

The field of organization science is devoting greater attention to the interdependence between private and public interests: The December 2005 issue of the *Academy of Management Journal* contained several related articles on management and public policy, and a recent issue of the *International Journal of Industrial Organization* (2008) focuses on public-private partnerships. Despite this increased attention, research studies that deal specifically with relationships between private and public interests continue to be exceptional (Carlsson, 2008). In this article, we maintain that the field of organization science would be greatly served by a consistent, sustained focus on the connections between public and private concerns.

Worldwide discussion on public and private interests is currently at a fever pitch over the global financial crisis (Jacobides 2008). The issue shows vividly that public and private interests cannot be fully understood if they are conceived as separate (Barney 2005, Hitt 2005). In general, public interests are well-defined only when private interests can be aligned or aggregated cogently. Ill-defined public interests favor some private interests over others. Thus, public interests run along a spectrum from ill- to well-defined. Under this conceptualization, specific interests may become more or less aligned over time and thereby shift in character between private and public.

Private and public action also may activate the degree of alignment in interests, thus creating endogeneity in the public interest. For example, private transactions in sub-prime lending led to a substantial drop in the economic value of federally guaranteed mortgages in the United States (Cowan and Cowan 2004), which in turn created a public interest in stabilizing the financial system. For another example, public actions such as the release of oil reserves in the wake of high prices have substantive economic implications for private firms that invest in oil-extraction technologies under initial uncertainty concerning the government's release policy (Lee and Alm 2004). Furthermore, large firms with geographically diverse, specialized activities influence macro-economic trade flows and economic development (Dunning 1993). These examples of how *private* and *public* decisions interact and are inseparable illustrate the challenge of identifying interests, organizations, activities and institutions as independently private and public.

Conceptualizing public policy and especially the “public interest” has long been the subject of a rich research literature in the social sciences. Classical economists, including Adam Smith (1776), considered the public interest as the overall wealth of society. Drawing on research by Robbins (1935), neoclassical economists used “allocative efficiency” as a fundamental criterion for identifying effective economic policy in the public interest, with this key criterion defined as the generation of consumer and producer welfare through the effective deployment of scarce resources. Subsequently, organization scholars developed alternative criteria for determining actions in the public interest that emphasize intertemporal wealth creation under resource scarcity and identified how rewards to innovative investment are directed (Penrose 1959).

Our approach in this article is complementary, and conceives of public interests as a complex amalgam of interdependent individual, private interests (along the lines of Mahoney and McGahan 2007). This perspective follows the tradition of Arrow’s (1963) impossibility theorem, which points to the theoretical intractability of aggregating private interests into a well-defined public interest. We also conceive of public and private interests as changing over time, as suggested in Doering’s (2007) Presidential Address to the *American Agricultural Economics Association*, which noted that most societies go through periods when public goods become quasi-public or private goods and that the opposing process occurs as well (Hirschman, 1982). The changing concept of public goods throughout the economic history of the United States is documented in North (1990). Salient contemporary examples include higher education being increasingly valued principally as a private good, and the proposed \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street enterprises, in which specific private institutions may be fundamentally transformed to become quasi-public institutions (Zingales 2008).

Public (or “collective,” Mishan 1982) and private goods are typically conceived as distinctive theoretical constructs, but we emphasize here that the nuanced contextual details of interests can reveal that a particular good may simultaneously have a public and private character. Furthermore, we maintain that the concept of “public or collective goods” should be expanded to allow for multiple levels of community, and particularly the global community. In other words, the unit of analysis for understanding the public interest is itself complex. An alignment of private interests may occur at the

level of the community, state or nation, and yet competing national interests, for example, may mean the global public interest is ill-defined.

We also discuss the idea that many private interests are defined by reference to public institutions, practices, norms, and incentives: for example, the private interests of public corporations arise from the legal, social and cultural context that establishes the public corporation as a juristic person with limited liability. Private interests are often shaped by *global collective goods*, which are defined as *non-excludable* across borders, generations, and population groups (Kaul, Grunberg and Stern 1999). Knowledge flow is the canonical example of a global public and collective good (Bell and Zaheer 2007, Stiglitz 1999). Health, peace, security and a clean environment are examples of public and collective goods that may be global. Potentially catastrophic air pollution is a salient example of a global collective good that generates extensive negative externalities. Increasingly, international institutions such as the United Nations and the World Bank are redefining their missions in terms of global public and collective goods provisions, which often differentially shape private interests across geographical areas and over time.

These examples demonstrate that private and public interests are interdependent, and yet, historically, private and public organizations have been examined primarily in research settings that emphasize one or the other type of organization exclusively. In particular, corporations have been studied principally by scholars of management while public institutions have been the province of economics, political science, education, public health, and public policy. As a consequence, research has tended to emphasize, first, how private organizations such as corporations can be constrained in the public interest through regulation and other public policy (Spulber 1989), and second, how public organizations can benefit from insights about organizational systems, structures, and practices in private organizations (Simon 1976). Research at the boundaries tended to show how problems of the commons (or externalities) emerge in the aggregation of interests (Dahlman 1979, Libecap 1989, Stiglitz 1989). However, little research attention has been devoted to the complex character of many phenomena as *simultaneously* public and private (Doering 2007, Huet and Saussier 2003, Stiglitz 1998). Notable exceptions include Henisz and Zelner's (2003) research on non-market strategies and on the interplay between business and public policy, Knott and Posen's (2005) work on entry and exit

in banking, Ouchi *et al.*'s (2005) study of public schools, and Mahoney and McGahan's concern over "pervasive and worsening poverty among vast populations of the economically disenfranchised; natural-resource depletion; energy challenges; digitization; the globalization of many industries; the prospect of skyrocketing interest rates; the integration of capital markets across many countries, corruption and terrorism" (2007: 85). Ouchi (2006) compares innovative with conventional school systems and concludes that school performance is tied to decentralized management systems. Such analysis and discussions will lead to healthy debate (e.g., Howard and Preisman 2007) and an increased likelihood of more informed policy decisions.

The current article recommends a partial merging of research agendas across diverse areas of organizational research to integrate the study of private and public interests using innovative theory and methods. In particular, we call for joint research that emphasizes the consequences of policy implementation for the interplay of public and private interests. The primary goal is to examine a range of subtle issues that reflect the connections between private and public institutions, behavior and performance. The agenda proposed considers diversity in public interests, how public and private organizations align (or fail to align) their interests, how public and private behavior is shaped by the interaction between them, and how public and private interests merge and diverge dynamically.

Three observations are made here in support of this proposed research agenda. First, a range of institutional forms such as public-private partnerships and governmental sub-contracting can be explored more deeply through integration of theories and methods employed by scholars with diverse disciplinary backgrounds and research agendas. Some private corporations, foundations and agencies are taking on responsibilities that previously were considered part of the public domain. Second, a large range of private actions have substantive consequences for the public. For example, many firms in low-income countries are locked into competitive disadvantages versus rivals in high-income countries (Grabowski 1994). Third, a shift is occurring in societal expectations concerning the limited-liability corporation (McGahan 2007a). This institutional form, which was established in the 19th century, protects investors and managers from personal liability for actions they take as stewards of invested capital, provided that they do not act fraudulently or commit other crimes in the course of their duties. Social preferences for greater accountability are calling this form of economic organiza-

tion into fundamental question. Indeed, the concept of crime is being reconsidered and expanded to include ‘white collar’ and corporate offenses, such as infringements against the environment.

The following sections discuss: (a) these three major new developments in public-private dynamics, which collectively illustrate the compelling need for new ways of thinking; (b) conceptual developments concerning private-public interactions that can guide further research; and (c) a proposal to adopt a new criterion called “sustainable global value creation” to integrate theory and to serve as a modern welfare criterion for evaluating policies, actions, institutions and context by both private and public actors. This concept involves considering strategies that promote inter-temporal efficiency and economic value creation on a global scale. For example, on policies for addressing climate change, the criterion would involve analyzing objectives for achieving consummate performance (Williamson, 1991) in environmental cleanliness over the long run and then aiming to achieve appropriate institutional and organizational configurations and actions that promote these objectives, given the current and probable future technologies for preserving the environment. We maintain that a focus on sustainable global value creation has important implications for organizations, institutions, incentives, competition, innovation and global governance.

Development #1: Important Institutions that Merge Public and Private Interests

Research on the connections between public and private interests has focused primarily on externalities and agency questions such as: When and how do private interests aggregate to a common interest? How should decision-making authority be allocated among individuals for the public good? How can externalities best be managed (Hart 1995b, Spulber 1989)? What determines the boundaries and the potential ‘optimal mix’ between public and private in a mature market economy (Coase 1960, Hart, 2003)? The public choice tradition has also raised questions about whether interests can be aggregated, and goes as far as to suggest that the public interest may be a fictionalized construct in which public policy is shaped in negotiations among parties that pursue private interests (Buchanan and Tullock 1962, Stigler 1971).

The framing of these questions – and the implications both for public and business policy – has become limiting since institutions and organizations have formed that reflect public and private

interests simultaneously. Some of these institutions have existed for decades, but have only recently become central to the public interest, while others have emerged only recently. Examples include sub-contracted military services (Singer 2003), privatized prisons (McDonald 1990), and public-health agencies such as the Gates Foundation (Muraskin 2006), which is spearheading major initiatives to improve global health. The design of these organizations can be seen as endogenously determined by how public and private interests are defined and reconciled (Dunbar and Starbuck 2006).

Several areas of theory in related fields carry the potential to delve deeper into fundamental questions that reside in connections between public and private interests within these institutions. First, research in Strategic Management considers how decision-makers in a particular situation interact to create, capture and sustain economic value (Song, Calantone and Di Benedetto 2002). The development and application of transaction-cost theory in the context of public-private interactions can indicate how the framing of decisions to subcontract essential military services, for example, shapes the subsequent emergence of specialized capabilities (Baum and McGahan 2008). Property rights and agency theories assert that public-private partnerships (PPPs) can be further understood as emerging from inadequate private and public options for resolving incomplete contracting problems (Hart 2003, Martimort and Pouyet 2008).

Second, recent research on property rights considered through a resource-based view lens yields insights about how capabilities are created in the public and private interest, and how these capabilities are owned and controlled (Foss and Foss 2005, Kim and Mahoney 2005). Consider the privatization of prisons, which has become increasingly prevalent in the past decade (Morris 2007). Privately-owned firms compete for contracts on diverse activities such as prison construction, prisoner transportation, guard services, food and recreation management, and sanitation and janitorial services. Some companies act as general contractors and manage all of these services. Through their normal course of business, companies develop competitive advantages based on accumulating capabilities. Are these developed capabilities privately or publicly owned? Once an initial contract expires, should the sub-contracting state or federal government have property rights to appropriate these capabilities? Do these capabilities serve public or private interests or both? How can these capabilities best be sustained (Yang, Farmer and McGahan 2008)?

Third, theories of agency relationships implemented in the context of a resource-based and capability-oriented view of institutional actors carry the potential to shed substantial light concerning governance and decision-making authority (Hambrick, Werder and Zajac 2008). For example, the Gates Foundation has influenced the agenda for research concerning neglected diseases in public health. One of the priorities for the Foundation is in sponsoring discoveries related to an HIV vaccine (Muraskin 2006). Imagine that a vaccine is discovered, perhaps in a University laboratory under grants from the Gates Foundation. How would property rights to the vaccine be governed? Many Universities make partial claims on licensing rights (Argyres and Liebeskind 1998). The interests of the Foundation, of patients, and of local governments would be of central concern. Coordinating commitment of pharmaceutical companies, distributors, clinicians and others in effective and efficient delivery of the vaccine could be enabled by thoughtful research into the consequences for public and private welfare.

In global public health, the failure of national and international public organizations (Easterly 2006) has led to intervention by the Gates Foundation. In turn, questions have been raised about whether this institution exacerbates market failures as well as resolves them in an interesting inversion of the public choice critique of the public sector. Is it in the public interest for the Gates Foundation to take such a large role in this effort? Many observers applaud the Foundation's involvement, and yet the creation of economic value is in the interactions of the Foundation with others. The Foundation's purpose is to marshal resources in the interests of the public, but it is specific in its strategy about which members of the public should receive priority. The large amount of resources concentrated on one disease can have important consequences for research on other major infectious diseases and even on health systems in resource-limited settings such as in Haiti, where primary health has suffered in some instances despite the improvements in HIV care (Garrett 2007). By integrating the study of this type of institution, which is privately organized and managed, into the broader complex of public and private policy, we can learn from the precedent that it is setting and better understand the implications for complementary institutions, including private entrepreneurs and public policy bodies. The place to start would be in evaluating the existence and/or development of capabilities and their combination in ways that create more economic value than each involved organization can provide, develop, and

leverage alone, as well as the potential side effects and the requisite governance structures that can help reduce any negative externalities. While research in political economy (e.g., Shepsle and Weingast 1981) has dealt with game-theoretic facets of integrating private interests, relatively less attention in this field has attended to the administrative challenges of integration.

In sum, institutions and organizations shaped both by private and public interests are essential to achieve effective public and business policy. Agents acting in the public interest often have private agendas (Mueller 2006, Spulber 1989). Private interests do not aggregate in simple ways, but also co-evolve with public interests endogenously. Standard approaches emphasizing the tragedy of the commons and externalities analyses do not deal comprehensively with this endogeneity or with the central challenge of managing complex capabilities, which develop as private and public interests co-evolve.

Development #2: Private Actions with Implications for Public Welfare

Private institutions, and the interests embedded in them, are often the initiators, instruments and objectives of public policy. In the 1980s, the United States famously bailed out Chrysler (Luger 2000) and Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust (Stern and Feldman 2004), and in the 1990s, intervention by the federal government was essential to combat the instability created by the failure of Long-Term Capital Management, a hedge fund that could not cover its obligations (Lowenstein 2000). The Savings & Loan bailouts of 1989 (White 1991) and 1995 (Glasberg and Skidmore 1997) were tied to instances of fraud, malfeasance and bad management. Enron and the corporate accounting scandals of the early 2000's rocked public confidence in even the largest and most established of public corporations (McLean and Elkind 2003, Squires, Smith, McDougal and Yeack 2003), and thus sparked congressional hearings. As financial markets around the world reeled with failures in the sub-prime lending market (Argitis and Pitelis 2008, Cowan and Cowan 2004, Stiglitz 2008), the initial stabilizing interventions were done by Goldman Sachs, among others. This intervention, coordinated by the US Federal Reserve, was designed in the public interest, and was facilitated by Goldman Sach's private action. These examples reveal the intertemporal character of public interests: Effective intervention today may prevent the need for more substantial public intervention tomorrow.

The interplay between private and public action dates back to the origins of sovereign government. What is new concerning these situations is (a) their salience, scale and frequency (Lev, 2003); (b) the complexity of responses to protect the public interest, and, particularly, the involvement of private organizations (such as Goldman Sachs in the sub-prime lending crisis) to protect public welfare; and (c) the extensive consequences of both private failures and public-private responses both as precedents for subsequent interventions and as acts that redistribute wealth.

By integrating the research agendas of business and public policy, a number of theoretical and empirical advances within organization science become possible. First, trans-disciplinary integration carries the promise of promoting greater understanding of the leadership, reputational and governance consequences of private and public actions. The benefits of such integration are now understood to be especially high in the wake of actions that can cause such damage to private interests that they reverberate into public problems. The nationalization of mortgage giants Freddie and Fannie and insurance giant AIG are cases in point.

Second, additional theoretical and empirical work is needed concerning public resources, including but not limited to financing, relationships, access, authority and responsibility. What are the tradeoffs associated with allocating resources to rescue private corporations from insolvency? How should the capabilities that have accumulated within the rescued corporations be managed after public resources are used to develop them? Research is needed concerning the origins and emergence of public resources, and on how they are deployed most effectively in the presence of complementarities with private capabilities. For example, how should the returns to a potentially valuable mine on public land be allocated and managed? Some authorities have noted that non-renewable resources tend to be dramatically under-priced in private markets. Should governments intervene to assure that these resources are priced to reflect their net present value? If so, how is this process managed given that the political careers of those in authority are substantially shorter than the time horizons over which the resources retain their economic value?

Questions emerge about protecting the public interest when the complementarities between private and public resources are so strong as to create a moral hazard incentive among private parties to engage in excessive risk-taking such as occurred during the sub-prime lending crisis. How should

private interests in public spaces be constrained? If sub-prime lenders extended credit under the belief that they would be bailed out of possible trouble, then are regulations failing? Is the public served by the refusal of protection to over-extended borrowers? Are there any other forms of regulation that would be more effective than the promise of bailouts, or that could help minimize the risk of potential future bailouts being required?

Third, the consequences of the depletion of public resources must be studied in a dynamic context. Because some public resources cannot be replenished (think of the long-run depletion of fossil fuels) or are depleted temporarily (the Fed cannot change the discount rate too frequently), public resources often must be valued intertemporally and by broader metrics than private resources. In particular, market valuations on public resources may fail for reasons extending beyond only contemporaneous externalities. The “Stern Report” (Stern 2008) is a useful step in this direction since it provides pecuniary estimates (shadow prices) of carbon (Hope, 2008). Additional research is needed to obtain accurate economic valuations, decision metrics, control rights, and property allocations on a range of public resources (Barzel 1989, Libecap 1989).

Finally, an improved understanding of risk-taking is crucial for evaluating the intersection of public and private interests. Differences in risk tolerance and the scope of relevant uncertainty are central to effective decisions concerning how to manage events such as the sub-prime lending crisis. Institutional developments such as trading in derivatives, legitimized by public actions such as the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000, enable private actions that have multi-faceted consequences for the public interest. Institutional arrangements that reduce risk (Rosenberg and Birdzell 1986), and internalize the benefits and externalize the costs of private investments (North 1981), are critical determinants of economic development. In addition, public authorities often have responsibilities that shape risk and uncertainty for private actors. In certain cases, the public can take action that can create new areas of private activity. A case in point is the new carbon markets that have been created through government legislation (Convery, Ellerman and Perthuis 2008). We need a better understanding of the extent to which private risks should be “internalized” by the public domain, as well as whether and when does this internalization serve *mutual* interests. Thus, in the public domain, choices about managing the context for private risk also must also receive attention.

Development #3: The Limited Liability Corporation and the Public Interest

The limited liability public corporation, established in the late 19th century, has become the centerpiece of research on private sector organizations. Executive-managed, investor-owned, and publicly-traded corporations constitute a significant part of the economy. By a recent estimate, more than 20,000 of these limited liability corporations exist and account for more than 15% of worldwide economic activity.

Yet many other forms of economic organizations exist. More than 3 million partnerships and registered proprietorships exist in the United States alone. Privately owned corporations that are not publicly traded -- including those controlled by large private-equity firms -- constitute a large and growing portion of economic activity. Non-governmental agencies such as Oxfam, the American Red Cross, and Save the Children are major recipients of public aid and private charity (Black 1992, Gilbo 1987, Watson 2006). Charitable foundations, which are typically exempted from taxes in the public interest, fulfill their missions by dispersing funds through payments to private parties. Subcontractors with both tax-exempt and taxable status are central to military operations. Governmental expenditures constitute a large and growing proportion of economic activity. Outside the US, governments have engendered institutional innovation that blurs the public-private boundary. China's Household Responsibility System, under which land belonging to the public is assigned to households, is an important case in point (Rodrik 2004). Corporate governance reforms in Japan designed to align private and public interests have fundamentally transformed the risks taken by businesses after the 1988 financial-system crisis in that country (Yoshikawa, Tsui-Auch and McGuire 2007).

To understand the nature and scope of economic activity, the agendas of organization scholars must be broadened to emphasize a wider range of institutions than the publicly traded, limited-liability corporation (McGahan 2007a, 2007b). Management problems in private equity, non-governmental institutions, private foundations, governmental agencies, and international institutions should be addressed by researchers from a range of disciplines. Solutions to market failures should be conceptualized in terms of hierarchies that take multiple forms rather than the principal form of the limited-liability corporation (Williamson 1991). This proposed shift is not a matter of discontinuing

study of corporations but, rather, a matter of rebalancing emphasis of organization research to consider returns on invested capital more comprehensively and more systematically. In addition, McGahan (2007a) maintains that organization scholars should deal with a much more diverse set of mechanisms for achieving returns on invested capital than available only through publicly-traded corporations. The returns of large, public corporations have been influenced by the scale and scope of economic activity in other types of organizations, and should be examined comprehensively.

Several major research opportunities arise from this agenda. First, the dissociation between private and public finance must be corrected. The two areas of activity are linked analytically under classical assumptions of individual rationality (as suggested by ‘rational expectations’ scholars, see Tobin, 1980 for a critique), and are also tied because public financing depends on their effective administration through, for example, private banks and other financial institutions. Agency theory must be extended significantly to consider how the generation of new value-creating opportunities depends specifically on the interplay between public and private interests, as well as their respective differential capabilities for innovation and economic value creation. The consequences of new forms of financing and risk sharing such as hedge funds, private equity and securitization for value creation must be evaluated in light of how the public interest evolves over time. The concurrent concentration of ownership and enhanced risk-taking to generate higher returns in the short run may not be consistent with value creation over the long run (Dharwadkar, Goranova, Brandes and Khan 2008).

Second, the emergence of alternative forms of economic organization raises questions about how resources are developed and allocated in a system that does not aim to maximize aggregate return on invested capital, but instead emphasizes maximizing the personal returns of specific investors. Research on the interplay between value creation and value capture is needed in this context. What are the consequences of different forms of organization for resource allocation and deployment? What kinds of resources are best deployed through different types of organizations? How can financial capital best be allocated into the hands of competent managers to create other forms of capital? What new forms of corporate organization may be effective for aligning public and private objectives?

Finally, broad questions arise concerning the nature of innovation and the roles of public institutions in the generation of knowledge in the modern economic environment. The Bayh-Dole Act,

which, in practice, generates private property rights to NIH-sponsored research for private and quasi-public Universities, represents a new form of wealth transfer that carries important consequences for economic incentives to innovate. While excellent analysis has been done on this topic (e.g., Thursby and Thursby 2002), additional research on the nature and consequences of science --- its scale, scope, locus, application and potential commercializability --- is needed to understand how property rights and decision authority evolves over time (Kaplan and Murray 2008). Parallel opportunities for research arise on other issues in public policy, education, public health, fine arts, medicine, law and social sciences.

Conceptual Opportunities on Public-Private Interactions

New theory on public-private interactions also promises to generate insights concerning both business and public policy. We next consider: (a) extending established theory; (b) bridging theories within organization science; (c) importing new problems into organization science from other fields; and (4) developing new theory and concepts.

Extending established theory. The first opportunity for advance is to extend current theories of the firm to address directly the interplay of private and public interests. Because public interests are a function of the degree of alignment of private interests – and of mechanisms employed to define the public interest in the absence of alignment – the interplay between private and public interests raises questions about individual differences and the ways in which common interests are framed. In particular, recent advances in organization science consider the sources and dynamics of change in the institutional environment. Additional research is needed on questions on framing, mechanism design, and the diversity of private interests. Because private and public interests evolve over time, central questions arise regarding the robustness and veracity of interests in light of long-term commitments of resources to serve them.

The *resource-based view* (Barney 1991, Peteraf 1993, Teece 1982, Wernerfelt 1984) carries potential to support policy makers in evaluating intertemporal implications of particular public investments that create new assets, which can take diverse forms and serve private interests differentially over time. For example, if greater public expenditures are allocated to cultivate specific skills in a

population through publicly supported education and training, then a community may eventually excel internationally in an affected area; and the development of a *public resource* such as a marketplace or an information exchange may eventually create new opportunities in the public interest (Grabowski 1994, Rodrik 2004). Extending theory to address the interplay between private and public interests requires detailed investigation into the micro-dynamics of aggregation (Mayer and Argyres 2004).

Bridging theories within organization science: A second area of opportunity is in the development of theory at the intersection of established areas of inquiry in the field. Organization science has established that the interplay between management and community interests is nuanced. When a firm develops a particular capability, some members of the public community may benefit significantly (e.g., the firm's customers or employees) while others are adversely affected (Donaldson and Preston 1995, Post, Preston and Sachs 2002). An important research agenda is to explore issues concerning whether and how business policy and public policy could be aligned and the extent to which and how organization science can contribute to this objective. A primary goal would be to better understand how public actions may differentially affect private interests and further how private actions may differentially affect public capabilities.

In general, firms operate in an institutional and regulatory context that is heavily influenced by government (Shapiro and Taylor 1990, Spulber 1989, Rodrik 2004). Business policy often aims to adapt and/or shape this regulatory context, which may create concerns of *regulatory capture* (Mueller 2006, Posner 1974, Stigler 1971). Such concerns are typically based on a supposition that the interests of business and the public diverge. A rationale for this perspective is grounded in economics and goes at least as far back as Adam Smith's (1776) dictum on conspiratorial tendencies by "people of the same trade" to raise and then maintain these higher prices -- "collusion" in today's parlance. Is this view fully justified today? Can organization science research lead to different implications? How can we better understand public-private partnerships in the context of the tendencies for collusion to arise? Does government tend to promote monopoly when it engages with specific firms or industries (North 1991)? Is government more prone to failures than the market, and/or to inducing market failures (Buchanan 1986)? Can well-intentioned private actions lead to market and public failures? Is the public sector more prone to value destroying rent-seeking activities, than the market (Krueger 1974)?

When firms seek to be innovative through standardization or some other form of direct interaction, are their interests aligned with those of the public? This agenda must begin with a clearer conceptualization of public interests, activities, organizations and institutions than has currently been implemented in much of the research in the field.

Over the past thirty years, a substantial literature in organizational economics has become influential in organization science. Leading figures in Economics - Ronald Coase (1960, 1988) and Oliver Williamson (1996) in transaction costs theory; Oliver Hart (1995a, 2003) and Douglass North (1990) in property rights theory; Kenneth Arrow (1985) and Michael Jensen (1983) in agency theory; Edith Penrose (1959) and David Teece (1982) in resource-based research; and Joseph Schumpeter (1934), and Richard Nelson & Sidney Winter (1982) in evolutionary economics --- have contributed to organization science by considering contemporaneously both business and public policy.

The implications of these theories for business policy have been extensively explored (Mahoney 2005). However, the public policy implications of these theories have received less attention. In particular, given that no absolute definition of the public interest is possible, and given that all public policy serves some private interests over others, then business and public policy may be entirely interdependent. This interdependency deserves substantially more attention in research. What can we learn, for example, about the implications of the process of privatization (of many types of organizations such as prisons) for community welfare? More research is needed to obtain satisfactory answers to this question. Business policy has emphasized Coase's (1937) transactional work on the nature of the firm, but has not fully incorporated Coase's (1960) work on the relationships between the social costs (e.g., the negative externality by-products) of investing in particular goods in the context of positive transaction costs and its far-reaching implications for law and public policy. In a world of zero transaction costs, legal liability would not matter for economic efficiency -- the so-called "Coase Theorem (1960)" -- while in a world of positive transaction costs, liability rules can matter greatly for economic efficiency (Dahlman 1979). In the case of privatization, asymmetric information and positive transaction costs may mean that the most appropriate private actor may not win contracts on government business. This result is but one of potentially many instances and outcomes of "rent seeking" (Krueger 1974; Tullock 1989).

An opportunity exists for further development of property rights research in better explaining public-private partnerships (PPPs) in terms of the relative ease to writing contracts (Hart, 2003) and in identifying conditions under which PPP emerge optimally (Martimort and Pouyet 2008). Furthermore, opportunities continue to arise for integrating into economic theory the strategic implications of market failure, heterogeneous firms and imperfect competition (Baumol 1991, Helfat *et al.* 2007, Teece 2007, Teece, Pisano and Shuen 1997). Endogenous growth theories (Lucas 1988, Romer 1986) acknowledge such concerns for policy and yet do not explicitly incorporate the strategic responses of firms with diverse capabilities and activities into policy prescriptions. Our collective understanding can be enabled by exploring the implications of recent advances in business policy on public policy.

Policies that are designed to regulate firm behavior would be better informed by accessing the developments in management research. A prominent example of the potential for insight arises from the work of Edith Penrose, often credited as the seminal author in the resource-based view. Penrose (1959) connected business and public policy in ways that have yet to be fully developed. Penrose (1959) claimed that even if a process of growth is efficient, the large sizes of those firms that may emerge as stewards of crucial resources may lead to inefficient monopolistic market practices. The implication (evocative of a Schumpeterian process of creative destruction) is that government should aim to balance the promotion of innovative practices with their potential consequences for *ex post* monopolistic practices, by, for example, devising policies and institutional configurations that favor perennial innovation and a level playing field.

Research at the intersection of business and public policy could address such questions as: How should we structure public-private contracts to promote the emergence and development of new capabilities while diluting the prospect of *ex post* monopoly? The objective of this new area of policy studies is to cultivate innovation and creativity along the lines of Penrose (1959) to support a process of *sustainable wealth creation* (Pitelis 2007a).

Importing problems into organization science from other fields: Opportunities for applying insights from organization science to problems that have traditionally been dealt with most effectively in other fields are evident in the few instances where the gap has been bridged. For example, Jorde and Teece (1990) apply and develop important management and resource-based insights concerning

inter-temporal efficiency, cooperation, innovation and their interactions. This analysis calls for changes in US anti-trust legislation to account for the positive welfare implications of non-collusive interfirm cooperation over innovation. Recent advances on issues of competitiveness such as Porter's (1990) "diamond model," which emphasizes the role of industrial clusters and public-private partnerships resonate with Schumpeterian and resource-based views (Pitelis 2007a). While these approaches often involve elements of both public and business policy, the interaction between the two has yet to be explored fully.

Developing new theory and concepts: A final area of opportunity for conceptual development is new constructs, concepts and theories for investigating interrelationships between private and public interests. Opportunities in this area are extensive and reflect new research on multi-level units of analysis. Micro-behavioral research on the structure of interests promises to yield insight about their expression by individuals and alternative mechanisms for their aggregation into community, sovereign and global interests. Macro-behavioral analysis investigating the mechanisms by which individuals balance and advocate their interests can generate insights about the dynamics of interests in the public domain. Structural analysis on how public interests are expressed and integrated over time carries promise to yield insights on both their foundations and policy implications. Finally, new macro-social concepts carry promise for expressing, understanding and analyzing the interdependence of public and private interests. The next section presents an example of such a concept.

The Integrative Concept of Sustainable Global Value Creation

The examples discussed in the previous sections considered the interface of business and public policy and the opportunities for research in theory and empirics. To illustrate the potential for insights, this section briefly discusses a new concept called "sustainable global value creation" (Pitelis 2007a), which is defined below.

One salient conceptual lens for analyzing public policy is industrial organization (IO), a branch of economics. Two basic premises of the IO paradigm are that firms seek to maximize economic profits and that, when market imperfections arise, governmental bodies may correct them (Scherer and Ross 1990, Tirole 1988). For example, the pursuit of economic value capture through

restrictive practices by firms can hinder efficient resource allocation, leading to the need for government intervention. Antitrust policies should aim to effect industry structures with strong productive and allocative efficiency.

A facet of this view, however, is that it focuses on static allocative efficiency rather than inter-temporal innovative efficiency (Kaldor 1972). In particular, innovation is not centrally addressed in the neoclassical economic model (Baumol 1991). As noted by Schumpeter (1942), Penrose (1959), and Nelson & Winter (2002), once inter-temporal or dynamic efficiency – and thus economic value creation through innovation – is considered, then a range of oligopolistic and even monopolistic industry structures may be superior to perfect competition and contestable markets for innovation and dynamic efficiency (Aghion and Howitt 1998, Sutton 1998).

In an early effort to account for both non-collusive cooperative arrangements between firms and innovation (in its inter-relationship with inter-firm cooperation), Jorde and Teece (1990) called for changes to US antitrust policies to account for the dynamic efficiencies of such arrangements. “Systems of innovation” approaches (De la Mothe and Paquet 1996, Freeman 1988, Lundvall 1992, Nelson 1993) point to public-private partnerships and the wider organizational and institutional nexus around firms that promotes innovation, economic value creation and competitiveness (Aiginger 2006). Such a nexus can include industrial clusters, public-private partnerships, social capital, NGOs and other non-public, non-private organizations.

Until recently, the field of Industrial Organization has focused on evaluating inter-firm cooperation as price collusion. As noted by Richardson (1972), however, inter-firm cooperation may also have efficiency implications (Kay and Pitelis 2008). This idea is explicit in Porter (1998) and subsequent analysis of networks and clusters (Bell and Zaheer 2007).

The “systems of innovation” approach to public policy is a potent alternative to the market structure-oriented approach of neoclassical economics and is currently receiving attention by policymakers in Europe (Pitelis 2007a). Yet despite its merits, this perspective falls short of providing a comprehensive framework for addressing the public-private nexus, especially for the purposes of organization science scholars, for at least three reasons. First, the systems perspective (as well as Penrose (1959) and the RBV as a whole) do not yet account for agency issues that arise from the

nature, role and significance of divergent economic interests and for related problems of “collective action” (Olson 1971). The systems view emphasizes the benefits of innovation by nations, regions and sectors (Fagerberg, Mowery and Nelson 2005). However, potentially divergent interests within firms, networks, regions and nations can be important in determining both the character and direction of innovation (Cyert and March 1963, Gottschalg and Zollo 2007, Gupta, Tesluck and Taylor 2007, Pitelis 2007b, Rothaermel and Hess 2007). As Lundvall, a protagonist of the approach observes: “the concept was intended to help develop an alternative analytical framework to standard economics and to criticize its neglect of dynamic processes related to innovation and learning when analyzing economic growth and economic development” (2007, p. 96).

A second limitation of the systems perspective concerns the issue of the sustainability of value creation. Sustainability is a condition satisfied when agents, acting in their short-run self-interest, do not undermine their own long-run interests or the interests of successive generations of economic actors (Lenox 2006). Sustainable actions may not yield net inter-temporal systemic economic benefits (i.e., there is no guarantee that innovations will not generate first-mover advantages, dominant positions, restricted entry or stemmed forces of “creative destruction,” which subvert long-term efficiency). In this context, a focus on firm-level innovation is not adequate by itself to ensure sustainability (Murray and O’Mahony 2007, Rothaermel and Hess 2007).

A third problem with the “systems of innovation” view is that it focuses principally on the nation state. However, nation states too, may hinder the process of global value creation if they pursue narrow interests in, for example, strategic trade policies that undermine the value creating capabilities of firms in less developed countries (Grabowski 1994, Stiglitz 1989). With few notable exceptions (Nelson 2007, Nelson and Winter 2002), the systems perspective shares with industrial organization economics a focus on the nation and does not emphasize how firms and nations may restrain competition (and trade) inter-temporally, and thereby undermine sustainability.

The limitations of the systems approach are recognized by Lundvall: “The need for a change in theoretical foundations and for a new paradigm for designing public policy has not yet been fulfilled’ (2007 p. 97). Lundvall (2007) proposes more emphasis on issues of distribution of power, institution-building and the openness of innovation systems. All of these issues, we maintain, are

integral to and can be addressed through the concept of global sustainable value creation (GSVC). We therefore propose that the criterion of GSVC is enacted to diagnose and evaluate the consequences of economic activities for private and public welfare. As an economic construct, total economic value created equals the sum of consumer and producer surplus at a given point in time. A focus on innovation allows for the fact that investment may increase consumer welfare as well as producer surplus over time. “Sustainable global value creation” also accounts for externalities and restrictive practices, and thus considers a broader context than is the norm in research on industrial organization.

The purpose of introducing this criterion into the vocabulary of researchers is to cultivate an understanding of the linkages between individual and business activity at one place and time with interests that may arise in other places and in the future. The word “global” is intended to draw attention to the world community rather than on the interests of sovereign states, businesses or local communities. “Sustainability” points to the intertemporal nature of the linkages between actions. “Value creation” is intended in the sense of Brandenburger and Stuart (1996) to account for both the benefits and costs of activities (i.e., some opportunities for impact may generate great benefits but may be too costly to implement effectively).

This criterion is not unique in its focus on the creation of value or on sustainability *per se*. The need for a new welfare criterion arises from the complex interactions between private and public actors that unfold over time. Time inconsistency problems – what seems right in the short run may prove wrong in the longer run – can arise from bounded rationality, simple mistakes, or divergent interests that change over time (Tirole 1988). The need for interest alignment is crucial in general and is of interest to organization science scholars in particular. This criterion allows for study of evolving, interacting interests within organizations (Cyert and March 1963, Gottschalg and Zollo 2007, Pitelis 2007b) and between organizations, among individuals, and across governments (Hirschman 1982, North 1981, Olson 1971).

An emphasis on sustainability reflects the view that the pursuit of individual interest sometimes undermines systemic interests and may undermine the achievement of individual self-interest in a subsequent period. Consider, for example, two types of relationships that are particularly difficult to

analyze comprehensively using the industrial organization and systems of innovation perspectives: firm-national and national-global.

Sustainable competitive advantages (SCA) in firms do not always serve the national interest. When firms achieve competitive advantages through restrictive practices, they may undermine the sustainability of nationwide value creation by constraining competition, innovation and learning. This idea has been explored extensively in the industrial organization research literature. For example, Microsoft has been fined by regulatory authorities for restricting competition. The emphasis under the criterion of sustainable global value creation is on the implications of restricted competition on dynamic efficiency. Even when firms achieve competitive advantages through innovation, the risk is present that these firms may resort to restrictive practices. In this context, public policy is required to sustain the process of economic value creation by facilitating perennial innovation through a level-playing field and support to small and medium sized enterprises in order that competition not be subverted (Penrose 1959).

More generally, firms may be anticipated to engage more in political activities when they are more highly dependent on government regulation or contracts for economic survival; and under such conditions, the subversion of competition may be more likely when there are large firms operating in more concentrated industries (Bonardi, Hill and Keim 2005). Indeed, it is well documented empirically that firm-specific benefits result from political strategies (Hillman, Keim and Schuler 2004, Hillman, Zardkoohi and Bierman 1999). However, the perspective that we highlight here goes much further.

On the one hand, strategic political management over time can be considered a dynamic capability and a source of value creation (Oliver and Holzinger 2008). From a resource-based view, firms compete in strategic factor markets and political markets, not only to access economically valuable resources for themselves, but also to exert control over their competitors' resources (Capron and Chatain 2008, Schuler, Rehbein and Cramer 2002). Further, strategic insight can be gained from treating political markets as a type of strategic factor market (Maritan and Florence 2008).

On the other hand, as noted by the "public choice" school of analysis (Mueller 2006), national policies may be captured by private interests, which may reflect collusion between firms and their governments for mutual gain (Hillman and Hitt 1999, Olson 1971, North 1991). Possibilities of

regulatory capture (Posner 1974, Stigler 1971) call for pluralism of institutional and organizational structures that provide checks and balances to promote sustainability such as through NGOs, consumer associations, firm clusters, clubs, associations and ‘social capital’ (Lundvall 2007, Moran and Ghoshal 1999, Nelson 2007, Putnam 1993). These organizational and institutional structures emerge and develop endogenously with the interests that they seek to monitor. In some documented instances, they fail to ensure sustainability given the potential incentive by firms and nations to maximize the surplus accrued to them, and the panoply of means and policies that large firms and developed nations have at their disposal (Ramamurti 2004).

Additional research is essential to better understand these failures, the role that extant and potentially embedded power structures may play in this context, and how these failures can be addressed. The global financial crisis is adding credence and urgency to this need. In contrast, extant industry-type protectionism policies by developing countries may actually help promote global value creation, by infusing competition, innovation and learning into the system (Nelson 2007, Pitelis 2004). This calls for differential treatment of developed and developing economies. That such differential treatment is predicated not on the grounds of fairness, but on the grounds of economic efficiency, is a unique characteristic of a focus on GSVC, absent from other perspectives. In the context of SGVC, therefore, strategic trade policies may call for institutional and organizational configurations, which account for global rather than only national interests. Research on the World Trade Organization (WTO) and others show that such organizations are not immune to “capture” (Ramamurti 2004). This finding reflects the need for additional research that considers complementarities between national policy, business policy, and global governance (Pitelis 2009, Yoshikawa, Tsui-Auch and McGuire 2007).

A focus on global sustainable value creation raises new questions concerning the interaction between business policies and the interests of individuals, nations, regions, and other economic actors. Sustainability raises ‘strategic contradictions’ (Smith and Tushman 2005) such as cooperation without collusion, the avoidance of restrictive practices, and the intersection of short-term efficiency and innovative efficiency. Better policy depends on deeper research into the complex implications of

actors, actions and initiatives such as privatized prisons, quasi-public agencies, and strategic trade policies.

We acknowledge that the concept of global sustainable value creation may yield insight about opportunities for collective action that cannot be readily implemented in a practical sense. Arrow's (2003) Impossibility Theorem demonstrates that, with as few as three discrete alternatives, there is no voting procedure that can convert the ranked preferences of individuals into a community-wide ranking system while also simultaneously meeting reasonable distributive and fairness criteria such as unrestricted domain, non-imposition, Pareto efficiency, non-dictatorship, and the independence of irrelevant alternatives (Arrow 1963, Sen 1970).

In addition, GSVC is predicated on knowledge of actors, actions and policies that promote worldwide sustainability of value creation, better than alternatives. This requires a reasonable degree of knowledge, rationality and learning. It is for this reason that our emphasis is on institutional and organization configurations that diagnose, transfer, and create knowledge and learning (Argote 1999, Rodrik 2004). We also recognize that, even if the global sustainability objective is adopted, the implementation of appropriate policies may be impeded by collective-action and prisoner's dilemma-type problems (Kapur 2002), as well as asymmetric information, limited or absent information and coordination problems (Hausmann, Rodrik and Sabel 2008). Collective action can arise whenever it is in the interest of a (usually small) powerful group to thwart change that is inimical to their short-term interests. Prisoner's dilemma problems involve situations where the pursuit of self-interest by agents leads to actions that fail to promote the joint interests of the parties involved, even when these agents are aware that certain more beneficial actions are available. Absent and limited information by the public and/or the private sector, as well as coordination failures between private agents, point to the need for public-private interactions in order to acquire information, and to public intervention aimed to solve market-failure engendering coordination failures. In this context, Rodrik (2004) claims that the role of government should be to liaise with the private sector without being captured by it. Here too, the focus is on market failures and little consideration is given to the global dimension.

Sustainable global value creation requires the conceptualization of international collective goods. Such goods can be organized by hegemonic powers (Kindleberger 1986) or within systems

that are diverse organizationally and institutionally (Moran and Ghoshal 1999). Despite benefits of centralized and speedier decision-making and coordination, even enlightened “hegemony” is subject to important limitations such as an incentive to allocate monopoly rights (North 1990). Having said this, “systems” cannot provide international collective goods such as global safety – they can simply help guard the process of their dispensation by states and international organizations. In addition, “systems” can enable collective goods and their sustainability. In this context, and despite limitations especially as regards implementation, greater attention to global sustainable value creation yields a benchmark for “enlightened” private and public interests and may even ultimately serve to deter hegemonic capture and system failure. This diversity and procedural rationality-based approach is in line with organization science (Simon 1995) and pluralist theories in political science (Lively 1978, Vincent 1987).

An indicative example of a public-private interaction that could be predicted and explicated by our focus on global sustainability, but not by other perspectives, concerns the Gates Foundation. This involves enlightened behavior by the private sector, motivated by global sustainability concerns and that brings in the public sector in order to leverage respective advantages to achieve a purpose, which is difficult to explain, either in terms of narrow rational utility maximization (the IO view), or the narrow national interest (the “systems” view). A focus on global and sustainability helps explain this purpose. At the same time, the potential distortion that can be created when the public sector and its role are taken over by private players, call for pluralism and diversity that help create checks and balances through mutual monitoring and bonding. The reaction to the role of the Gates Foundation by WHO officials is a case in point. A focus on GSVC enacted through pluralism and diversity could have helped avoid the current problems of global financial markets. These problems are arguably the result of a neglect of sustainability, of embedded power structures, an exclusive focus on short-term interest, a belief that markets are self-regulating, and even of financial hypocrisy (Stiglitz 2007). The world-wide conditions of the crisis are a powerful reminder that we are all in the same boat and that sustainability is key.

A non-exhaustive list of research areas emanating from a focus on GSVC, include:

- The link between firm-level SCAs and nation-wide SCAs, to include the re-definition of S in firm-level SCA, to allow for its impact on nation-wide sustainability.
- The link between public policy for nation-wide SCA and the sustainability of Global Value Creation, to include the redefinition of S in nation-wide CA to amount to its impact on world-wide sustainability.
- The link between business strategy and public policy that helps promote worldwide sustainable economic development.
- The boundaries and ‘optimal mix’ of public-private, market-hierarchy-networks, intra- and internationally for GSVC.
- The link between corporate governance, public governance and global governance (Hambrick, Werder and Zajac 2008)
- The interaction between market, public, hybrid failures-successes, their differential capabilities and their link to GSVC.
- The identification of win-win situations by private, public and inter-national organizations (that is actions that promote common interests and sustainability), but also win-lose ones, and an analysis of what can be done and by whom in win-lose cases so as to restore sustainability.

Our intent in introducing the concept of global sustainable value creation is not to create an actionable policy agenda immediately, but rather to unleash efforts and attention on the most pressing collective problems of our time. The concept of global sustainable value creation is an archetype that draws attention to the urgency of global sustainability problems. It is precisely because the research and action agenda is so complex that we must get started.

Implementing this agenda will require overcoming barriers that make it difficult for organization scholarship to consider an integrative agenda. However, these barriers are not insurmountable. For example, teachers of public policy and strategic management often use the IO-perspective to explain the neoclassical “welfare loss of monopoly power” approach to public policy (Tirole 1988 and Table 1). We maintain that resources should be leveraged from organization science scholars to expand these approaches – not least because continuing reliance on conventional welfare criteria borrowed from economics yields incomplete insights about the efficacy of public policy for both public and private welfare, intra- and internationally. We propose that elective courses be supported --- with cross enrollments between students in masters’ and doctoral programs --- in business and

other professional schools. Trans-disciplinary research, supported by innovative funding, publication and policy models, is needed to make headway. Within business schools, business historians' emphasis on the complexities of public-private interests should be implemented.

Implications and Concluding Remarks

Table 1 compares sustainable global value creation as an alternative and complementary criterion to the perspectives promoted under neoclassical industrial organization and the traditional “systems of innovation” views. The crucial insight offered under the *global sustainable value creation* view is that the benefits and costs of innovation are essentially tied to the interests of both private and public parties within nations and internationally; that these interests may change over time in complex ways; and that interest alignment is crucial in promoting global, as opposed to localized, interests.

Place Table 1 about here

Walsh, Weber and Margolis' (2003) comprehensive analysis of empirical research in the *Academy of Management Journal* from 1958 to 2000 conclude that the public interest and the social objectives that were supposed to stand alongside economic objectives in orienting the work of management scholars have been misplaced and as a field we need to re-balance our focus. The central tenet of the current paper is to affirm the need for re-balancing. We have also endeavoured to identify steps toward a new framework that may facilitate progress.

Recent cases of public-private interactions point to issues and considerations that are difficult to analyze fully through the traditional tools of neoclassical industrial organization or of systems of innovation views. Despite the important progress achieved under each of these views, an opportunity arises for deeper investigation of the misaligned and divergent interests of economic agents, and of the consequences for sustainable global value creation. The new perspective is needed to advance understanding of the endogenous evolution of public policy, pluralism and global governance – three important issues in organization science. A focus on sustainable global value creation helps explain, predict and prescribe good managerial practice, public policy and global governance.

The proposed framework also has important limitations. Progress depends on integrating different areas of organization science (e.g., agency theory, behavioral theory, dynamic capabilities, game theory, institutionalization theory, organizational learning, property rights theory, real options, resource-based theory, systems of innovation, and transaction costs theory) conceptually, formally (mathematically) and empirically. Current knowledge falls short of building an evolving science of organization that contributes systematically to sustainable global value creation.

The statistician John Tukey (1962: 13-14) wrote that it is “Far better [to offer] an approximate answer to the right question, which is often vague, than an *exact* answer to the wrong question, which can always be made more precise.” The most important questions in organization science are theoretically difficult and resistant to empirical analysis. However, the stakes are simply too high to avoid taking risks within the evolving science of organization (Mahoney and McGahan 2007). The time has come to do better.

The current paper describes several opportunities for further research to accomplish this objective. First, we identify a number of important phenomena that relate to the interplay between private and public interests, including the emergence of public-private institutions such as the Gates Foundation, the salience and frequency of private actions with public consequence such as in the current financial crisis, and the fragility and bluntness of old governance mechanisms such as the limited-liability corporation as flagship mechanisms at the interface of private and public interests. Organizational researchers with diverse lenses on these phenomena, using established theory, have the potential to inform both private business and public policy intended to intervene and shape responses at multiple levels.

Second, we identify several crucial opportunities for the development of theories by organizational researchers. These opportunities include extending current theory under the institutional, resource-based and regulatory (IO) perspectives to inform analysis of the interdependence of private and public interests (Aguilera, Filatotchev, Gospel and Jackson 2008). We also suggest bridging established theories to define new theory, concepts and constructs for understanding organizational phenomena. Yet another opportunity for theoretical development concerns the introduction of new problems of organization regarding the relationships between private and public interests. We also

advocate development of new constructs, concepts and theory for interpreting relationships between private and public interests, and particularly recommend the application of multi-level analysis for generating insight in this area.

Finally, we explain and explore the concept of global sustainable value creation as an important construct for assessing public interests and their relationship to private interests. This concept is an important complement to the classical and neoclassical concepts of allocative and intertemporal efficiency because it incorporates externalities, allows for dynamic efficiencies and inefficiencies, and provides for the hard-to-quantify interests of currently disenfranchised actors. Further research is needed to develop methods for applying this concept empirically and in practice, and for refinements for dealing with the range of nuanced problems associated with definitions of interests and with their aggregation.

Table 1

Three views on sustainable value creation			
	Neoclassical Industrial Organization	Traditional Systems of Innovation	Global Sustainable Value Creation
Welfare criterion	Value creation through the efficient allocation of scarce resources; emphasis on the industry and nation-wide consumer surplus as measure of 'welfare'	Economic value creation through inter-temporal innovation-induced efficiency and knowledge-resource creation; emphasis on nation-wide wealth creation as a measure of welfare	<i>Sustainable</i> global economic value creation through allocative and inter-temporal innovation-induced efficiency and knowledge-resource creation. World-wide sustainable wealth creation is the new criterion of 'welfare'
Modality	Optimal market structures such as perfect competition or perfect contestability, recent recognition of more nuanced relationship between industry concentration and innovation	Innovation-promoting institutions, organizations and policies, systemic interactions	Sustainability promoting governance through markets, firms, (intra and inter-national) agencies, and systemic interactions
Conflict and Agency	Economic interactions addressed through economic bonding and monitoring, incentives and sanctions. No wider interactions considered	For the vast majority of the systems of innovation literature, issues of conflict and agency are non-existent, either at the firm or economy-wide levels.	Present at firm, national and global levels – multiple "agencies." Addressed through system interactions and a focus on sustainable global value creation effected through pluralism, diversity, mutual monitoring and bonding.

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