

Kategorie: Beste Veranstaltung

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Veranstaltung: Sustainable Supply Chain Management



Motivation

- Climate change and sustainable development are pressing concerns for industry, academia, and society at large
- Globalization and increasing consumerism have opened doors for global supply chains as a predominant means of production
- Increasing outsourcing of resource-intensive production to less regulated countries emphasizes the need for sustainable supply chain management
- Disasters like the Rana Plaza collapse or modern slavery unveil further vulnerabilities in global supply chains, which must be managed to reach sustainable development goals

Learning Objectives

- This module aims to equip students with the theoretical and analytical foundations for understanding and designing sustainable supply chains
- It comprises topics and case studies exploring material-flow and relationship perspectives, focusing on the intersection of sustainability, supply chains, and management (see Figure 1)
- As stakeholders (i.e., impacted outsiders), students understand social and environmental issues in multi-tier supply chains and how these issues affect society and the natural environment
- As future professionals, students develop practical competencies to improve sustainability within the supply chain and reduce reputational risks for the firms
- Students also recognize and reflect on inherent dilemmas such as strict demands for abolishing child labor and the deterioration of the situation of children in the Global South



Figure 1: Module Content

Fostering Diversity and Openness

- Many students tend to begin the module with strong personal convictions and a tendency to rely on somewhat simplistic and socially desirable answers for a rather complex subject matter
- Lecturers intentionally foster intellectual openness by critically reflecting on their own behaviors, encouraging students to move beyond socially desired positions to deeper analytical approaches
- Discussions benefit from socio-cultural diversity (e.g., with exchange students and within the lecturing team), bringing in differences of opinions usually needed to foster sustainability in highly diverse contexts such as supply chains

Research-Oriented Learning and Examination

- The module features practice-driven yet highly research-oriented teaching in that each lecture is driven by one or two critical theoretical message/s, intertwined with practical case studies (of international firms)
- Case studies prepare students for the upcoming lecture, while theoretical content from the lectures enables reflection (in retrospect) on the case studies (see Figure 2)
- Division of the topics between material-flow and relationship perspectives allowed the application of both ecological/engineering and sociological perspectives, respectively (see Figure 3)
- For examination purposes, students (in groups) critically reflect on sustainability reporting of a product manufacturing firm of their choice

Case Study

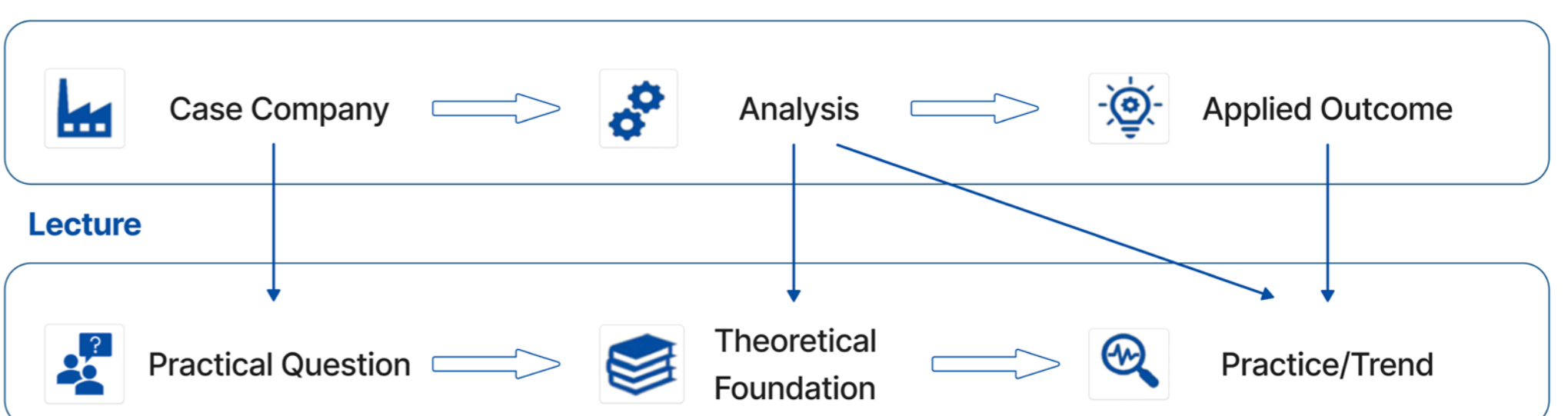


Figure 2: Teaching Concept

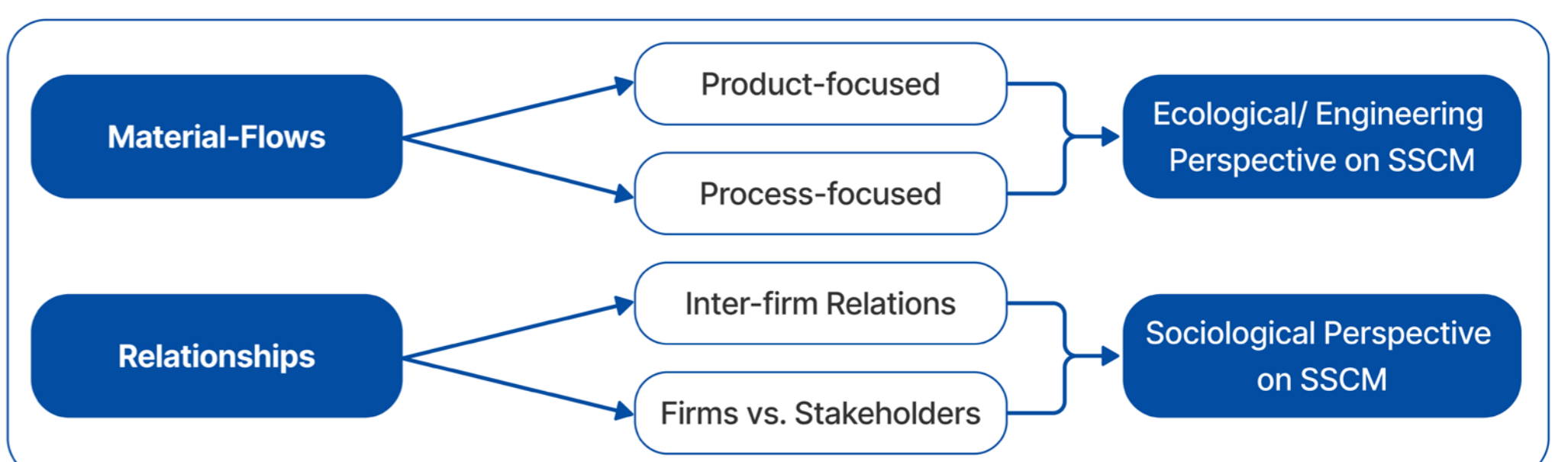


Figure 3: Learning Concept

Miscellaneous

An advanced module (wir923; offered in the subsequent semester) prepares interested students for more thorough research work on sustainable supply chain management through the design of researchable exposés