The convergence of sustainability and supply chains concepts (and the respective challenges of managing this intersection) has increasingly gained practical and academic attention in both supply chain management and corporate social responsibility (CSR) disciplines. Attention is increasingly paid to the integration of sustainability in supply chains, and the collaboration of multiple actors across the entire value creation systems (Lund-Thomsen and Lindgreen, 2014; Gimenez and Tachizawa, E.M. (2012). However, current research on sustainable supply chain management is biased towards the economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability ignoring the social dimension (Hall and Matos, 2010).

Further, current research is focused on large corporations and those operating in industrialized countries while the role of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) has so far been largely neglected in SCM research (Jackson et al., 2008). Yet in many emerging and developing economies the SMEs (including “micro” enterprises) constitute 95% or more of private sector firms in (Schaper, 2006) and are instrumental for economic/private sector growth (Luettekenhorst, 2004) in addition to passing sustainability requirements and practice throughout the supply chain (Ayuso et al., 2013). The interconnectedness of SMEs and sustainable supply chains is becoming more potent as governments in developing countries embrace local content policies and legislation requiring corporations to develop local supply chains particularly those in agribusiness and the extractive sectors (IPIECA, 2011).

The integration of SMEs into local, regional, and international supply chains for the overall benefit of the communities involved is a debated topic, with debates feeding into three identified seminar streams; first, the various issues of supply chain governance, including a radical reconceptualization of supply chains as multi-stakeholder-systems; second, the issue of how to create inclusive business models that increase the resources and capabilities of SMEs and foster resilience and reduce vulnerability among communities; and, third, understanding the opportunities, trade-offs, and challenges for embracing multi-dimensional sustainability among SMEs.

Instead of repeating mantras of win-win situations and bedtime stories of easy solutions, this seminar deliberately takes a critical stance and explores the requirements, contingencies and conflicts of supply chains spanning to and operating in developing countries. Such a critical analysis refers for example to innovative theoretical perspectives and innovative business models for sustainability as well as radical empowerment of emerging/developing world actors for creating transformative change. Such empowerment would go beyond the current “collaborative” approach in supply chain and value chain literature and practice that (despite its unquestioned merits) refrains from a radical re-distribution of power between focal companies based in industrialized countries and suppliers in the developing world (Lund-Thomsen and Lindgreen, 2014).

We welcome submissions from different academic disciplines that are conceptual, theoretical or empirical in nature and present new insights and innovative ideas regarding the role of SMEs in sustainable SCM in emerging/developing nations. We welcome extended abstracts or full conceptual/empirical paper submissions that shed new light on, but are not limited to:-

**Theme 1: Supply Chain Governance**

- Globalization, localisation or hybridization dynamics as global companies extend sustainability to SMEs suppliers in developing countries
- Impact of sustainability certification, global policies and standards on SMEs – between exclusion and inclusion
- Supply chain governance and (political) governments (a reciprocal relationship)
- Interplay between supply chain governance and (political) governments
- Collaboration versus compliance: Beyond the “collaborative” approach?
- SMEs and multi-stakeholder-initiatives
- Transforming the informal sector (making it “formal”?)
- The role and implication of power within supply chains and in a supply-chain-society context

**Theme 2: Inclusive Business Models**

- Integration of micro-entrepreneurs, smallholder farmers and other fringe stakeholders (e.g. illiterate, unskilled, poor) into value chains through community development enterprises
- Gender issues in supply chains
- Cultural distinctiveness, and compatibility of SMEs and multinational corporations
- Inclusive business and social value creation – What and how?
- Sustainable supply chains, armed conflict and disruption risks.
Theme 3: Opportunities and Challenges of Embracing Multi-dimensional Sustainability

- Contingencies, challenges and specificities of supply chains in developing and emerging countries
- Measuring, managing and auditing for embracing multi-dimensional sustainability
- Trade-offs between the various sustainability dimensions, and between inter-generational and intra-generational justice
- Dealing with the environmental dimension of sustainability in resource-poor developing countries
- Cultural and systems perspectives on sustainability issues

References:


Submission Procedure:

Email your extended abstracts (not less than 1,500 – 3,000 words) or full papers submissions (5,000-8,000 words) to iccsr@nottingham.ac.uk by 20th February, 2015. Notification of acceptance: 6th March, 2015.

Papers submitted to the seminar will be considered for publishing in the *Research Handbook on Small Business Social Responsibility: Global Perspectives* edited by Laura J. Spence, Jedrzej George Frynas, Judy Muthuri and Jyoti Navare. There is a possibility of publishing in a special journal issue on the same topic that is currently being developed.

Online registration is free and opens on the 1st March, 2015. The registration details will be provided closer to the date and will be available at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/business/ICCSR](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/business/ICCSR). For all enquiries contact judy.muthuri@nottingham.ac.uk or Stefan.Gold@nottingham.ac.uk