



Call for Papers for a Special Issue

New Directions for the Resource-based View

Submission window: August 31, 2019 through January 31, 2020

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The resource-based view (RBV) has been one of the most successful home-grown streams of research in the field of strategic management. Since the initial pioneering research in the mid-1980s through the early 1990s, the study of resources—tangible and intangible assets as well as capabilities—has produced a large body of theoretical and empirical work. The scope of the research is deep and wide. It involves the resources and capabilities of organizations (and their subunits) and managers (and other key individuals). It involves knowledge and routines, as well as supporting features of organizations such as incentives and structure. A general resource-based theory (RBT), together with more specific theoretical analyses of value creation, value capture, competition, resource development, and other topics, has furthered the development of the resource-based view in important ways. Researchers have also conducted resource-based empirical analyses of diversification, vertical integration, mergers and acquisitions, alliances, market entry, innovation, knowledge, top management, strategic renewal, entrepreneurship, internationalization, and more. Today the world presents new and challenging strategic issues for organizations on which the resource-based view can shed light. In addition, advances in theoretical and empirical methods, and the availability of new data sources, have opened up new avenues for research. This is an opportune time to set the stage for the next 30 years of the RBV.

Aims and Scope

This special issue aims to push forward research on the resource-based view in new directions. We seek to expand and deepen the use and application of the RBV by addressing new phenomena, enlarging the scope of the theory, and revisiting prior topics in new ways through the use of novel data and/or advanced methods. For example, papers could push forward the resource-based view in light of new contexts such as digital strategy, corporate social responsibility, new models of innovation, diversification through resource redeployment, and more, and bring in new theoretical perspectives.

Below we provide an illustrative set of research questions that could be addressed through theoretical and empirical analysis, both qualitative and quantitative. These are only examples, and the range of issues and topics that could be addressed through the lens of the resource-based view is extensive.

New research contexts: How do resources and capabilities affect behavior and outcomes in the context of: private equity, venture capital, and other forms of alternative finance; digital strategy; ecosystems and platforms; entrepreneurship in new markets (e.g., robotics); corporate social responsibility, sustainability, corporate purpose, and impact investing; public sector and not-for-profit organizations; global value chains, emerging economy firms, and a changing international trade environment; and others?

Cognition, emotions, identity, and culture: How does incorporating managerial and organizational cognition and emotions into the resource-based view affect our understanding of firm behavior and outcomes? What can we learn from viewing firm identity and culture as resources, and what are the theoretical and empirical implications?

Stakeholders: What does taking stakeholder strategy into account imply for the resource-based view? How does this affect corporate governance, the management of various stakeholders, and performance outcomes?

Microfoundations: How does the relationship between individual and organizational levels of analysis inform our understanding of resources, capabilities, their antecedents, and their outcomes? How can we more directly incorporate human capital into the resource-based view?

Non-market strategy: How do resources and capabilities affect firms' non-market strategies and their relationship to traditional competitive and corporate strategy? What resources and capabilities enable firms to compete effectively in the non-market arena, and how are these different from resources for more traditional strategies?

The extended enterprise: Many firms are connected with contractual or alliance partners either in dyadic relationships or in networks and ecosystems. How can we incorporate inter-organizational networks and ecosystems into the analysis of resources and capabilities? And what new implications for firm behavior and outcomes can we draw?

Diversification and market entry: How do the resources and capabilities of firms evolve over time? How does resource redeployment and reconfiguration affect firm behavior, strategic change, and performance outcomes? How do the challenges of resource allocation and resource coordination affect the performance outcomes of diversification and market entry?

Innovation: How do resources and capabilities for managing new forms of innovation such as crowd-sourcing affect outcomes? How do firms adapt their resources in the face of innovations both within and outside of the firm?

Competition: How does competition for resources affect competition in output markets, firm performance, and relative advantage? Does competition for traditional resources differ from competition for non-traditional (e.g., non-market) resources, and how does this affect cooperative behavior?

Theoretical advances and engagement with other theory: How can joint consideration of the RBV and other theories – such as value-based theory, ecosystem theory, relational contracting, and more – help to advance our theoretical understanding of firm behavior and outcomes? What new insights into resource-based theory can we glean from the use of mathematical models, simulations, and other modes of formal analysis?

Methodological advances and new data sources: How can new empirical approaches—methods, measures, etc.—strengthen our empirical understanding of resource-based advantages? What can we learn about resources and capabilities from the use of new data sources such as big data, field experiments, and newly digitized archival data?

Public policy: What implications does the resource-based view have for public policy issues and debates? How can public policies be improved through an understanding of the resource-based view, and how do public policy recommendations differ from a resource-based perspective?

Submission Process

Submitted papers must be in accordance with the requirements of the *Strategic Management Journal*. Original manuscripts are due by the Submission Deadline of January 31, 2020, and must be submitted using the *SMJ* Submission system at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/smj>. Authors should indicate that they would like the submission to be considered for the special issue “New Directions for the Resource-based View.”

Further Information

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For questions about submission guidelines or the submission process for the special issue, please contact the *SMJ* Managing Editor, Lisa Hein (smj@strategicmanagement.net) or visit <http://smj.strategicmanagement.net/>.

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