

Magnus Thor Torfason - CV

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

Assistant Professor • University of Iceland • 2014 to present

Assistant Professor • Harvard Business School • 2010 to 2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Management • Columbia Business School • 2010

- *Dissertation title:* The Role of Group Identity in Modern Structural Sociology: Essays on Norms, Deviance and Sanctions
- *Dissertation committee:* Paul Ingram (Advisor), Peter Bearman, Glenn Carroll, James Kitts, Michael Morris

M.Phil. in Management • Columbia Business School • 2008

Chartered Engineer • Icelandic Ministerial Cert. of Professional Title • 2002

Cand. Sci. in Electrical Engineering, with honors • University of Iceland • 2002

B.S. in Computer Science, with honors • University of Iceland • 2002

B.S. in Electrical Engineering, with honors • University of Iceland • 1999

PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS

Einarsdottir, Thorgerdur, Gudbjorg Linda Rafnsdottir, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2020. "Networks, Homogeneity and Gender in Icelandic Business Elites." Forthcoming in *Scandinavian Management Journal*. (equal contribution of authors)

Petursdottir, Ingibjorg Rafnar and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2019. "The Evolution of Design Thinking and its use in Public and Private Organizations in Iceland." *Research in Applied Business and Economics*. 16(1): 1-22. (in Icelandic)

Veselaj, Sabit and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2019. "When to Call the Customer? Timing of Customer Involvement in the Development of New Products and Services." *International Journal of Innovation Management*. 23(1): 1-31.

Torfason, Magnus Thor, Thorgerdur Einarsdottir, Gudbjorg Linda Rafnsdottir and Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir. 2017. "Elites in Iceland: Homogeneity and Internal Relationships." *The Icelandic Review of Politics and Administration*. 13(1): 1-26. (in Icelandic)

Torfason, Magnus Thor and Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir. 2017. "Student Social Networks and Dropout Propensity." *Nella – Online Journal on Pedagogy and Education*. 2017(1): 1-20. (in Icelandic)

Torfason, Magnus Thor, Francis J. Flynn and Daniella Kupor. 2013. "Here's a Tip: Prosocial Gratuities are Linked to Corruption." *Social Psychological and Personality Science*. 4(3): 348-354.

Carroll, Glenn R. and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2011. "Restaurant Organizational Forms and Community in the U.S. in 2005." *City & Community* 10(1): 1-25.

Ingram, Paul and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2010. "Organizing the In-between: The Population Dynamics of Network-weaving Organizations in the Global Interstate Network." *Administrative Science Quarterly* 55(4): 577-605.

Torfason, Magnus Thor and Paul Ingram. 2010. "The Global Rise of Democracy: A Network Account." *American Sociological Review* 75(3): 355-377.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Torfason, Magnus Thor and Pavel Zhelyazkov. "Safety Nets? Geographic Proximity, Social Ties and the Funding of Contentious Innovation." (R&R at Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, equal contribution of authors)

Torfason, Magnus Thor. "With Us or Against Us? Networks, Identity and Order in a Virtual World." (R&R at Administrative Science Quarterly)

Gudmundsdottir, Erla Run, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir and Magnus Thor Torfason. "Iceland Airwaves as an Interaction Platform and a Pathway for Ideas." (Submitted to Icelandic society)

Veselaj, Sabit, Gunnar Oskarsson and Magnus Thor Torfason. "Customer Involvement in Different Stages of the Innovation Process: A Systematic Review of Quantitative Studies" (Working paper)

Torfason, Magnus Thor, Mikolaj Piskorski and Frank Nagle. "Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency." (Working paper)

Torfason, Magnus Thor. "Definitions of Reality: Virtual Environments as a Context for Organizational Research." (Working paper)

Torfason, Magnus Thor and James A. Kitts. "Undermining Order: A Dynamic Network Simulation Analysis." (Working paper)

Jonsdottir, Anna Helga, Dadi Mar Kristofersson, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir and Magnus Thor Torfason. "Determinants of University Students' Social Network Structure." (Initial draft stage, equal contribution of authors)

Torfason, Magnus Thor and Wesley Sines. "Economic Jolts: Entrepreneurship and Networks after the Financial Crash in Iceland" (Data collection stage)

BOOK CHAPTERS AND CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Torfason, Magnus Thor and James A. Kitts. "Prominence." In *Encyclopedia of Social Networks*, Sage Publications. 2011.

Torfason, Magnus. 2007. "Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy." *Academy of Management Proceedings* 2007(1): 1-6.

COURSE MATERIAL

Kerr, William R., Magnus Thor Torfason and Alexis Brownell. 2012. "Blink Booking." *Harvard Business School Case*. December 5 2012.

- The case was selected for the the HBS Premier Case Collection, a specially curated set of the best Harvard Business School cases.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Iceland School of Business, 2014 to present

- Teach courses on Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Organizational Theory, Mathematics in the MBA, MS, and BS programs
- Supervisor for three doctoral students, Ana Orelj (current), Sabit Veselaj (current) and Erla Rún Guðmundsdóttir (on leave)
- Supervisor for 16 MSc students on final theses
- Supervisor for 14 MBA students on final theses (supervised best MBA thesis in three of the past four years, 2019, 2018 and 2016)
- Supervisor for 2 BSc students on final theses

Executive Education Programs, 2012 to present

- Have taught a number of executive programs of varying length, in the US and Iceland

Harvard Business School, 2011 to 2014

- On the doctoral committee of Pavel Zhelyazkov (Graduated in 2015, joined HKUST as Assistant Professor)
- On the doctoral committee of Melissa Valentine (Graduated in 2013, joined Stanford GSB as Assistant Professor in the Management Science and Engineering department)
- Taught the course “Founders’ Dilemmas,” which is part of the elective curriculum at HBS and taught in the fourth semester of the program
- Taught the course “The Entrepreneurial Manager,” which is part of the required curriculum at HBS and taught in the second semester of the program

Columbia Business School, 2006 to 2009

- Lead tutor for team exercises at intensive executive education program, 2007-2009
- Tutoring for social networks course in executive MBA program, 2006-2009
- Tutoring and grading for strategy course in MBA program, 2006

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2019

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Atlanta, GA
- “Safety Nets? Geographic Proximity, Social Ties and the Funding of Contentious Innovation”

Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Management, June 2018

- Hosted by the European Academy of Management in Reykjavik, Iceland
- “Networks, Homogeneity and Gender in Icelandic Business Elites”

Strategic Research Forum Annual Conference, May 2018

- Hosted by the Strategic Research Forum in Paris, France
- “Networks, Homogeneity and Gender in Icelandic Business Elites”

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2017

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Atlanta, GA
- “Courting Controversy: What Determines the Funding of Contentious Innovation?”

Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Management, June 2017

- Hosted by the European Academy of Management in Glasgow, UK
- “Courting Controversy: What Determines the Funding of Contentious Innovation?”

Strategic Research Forum Annual Conference, May 2016

- Hosted by the Strategic Research Forum in Newport, RI
- “The Money of Contention: Investment in Contested Innovation and VC Networks”

Smith Entrepreneurship Research Conference, May 2015

- Hosted by the University of Maryland in College Park, MD
- “Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency”

Strategic Research Forum Annual Conference, May 2015

- Hosted by the Strategic Research Forum in Oxford, UK
- “Definitions of Reality: Virtual Environments as a Context for Organizational Research”

ESADE, Barcelona Workshop on Global Governance, January 2014

- Keynote Speaker: “Social and Economic Networks: Implications for Global Governance”

MIT Sloan School of Management., TIES Sem. Series, Dec. 2013

- “Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency”

NYU Stern School of Business, NYU Economic Sociology Workshop, Oct. 2013

- Panelist: “Economic Sociology: Where to from here?”

Dartmouth University, Dartm. Interdisc. Network Research Group, Sept. 2013

- “Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency”

Strategic Research Forum Annual Conference, June 2013

- Hosted by the Strategic Research Forum in Portland, OR
- “Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency”

Sunbelt Social Networks Conference, May 2013

- Hosted by the International Network for Social Network Analysis in Hamburg, Germany
- “Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency”

Northwestern University, NICO (Northw. Institute on Complex Systems), May 2013

- “With Us or Against Us? Networks, Identity and Order in a Virtual World.”

Sunbelt Social Networks Conference, March 2012

- Hosted by the International Network for Social Network Analysis in Redondo Beach, CA
- “With Us or Against Us? Networks, Identity and Order in a Virtual World.”

Emory University, Goizueta Business School, Org&Mgmt Sem. Series, December 2011

- “My Brother's Keeper: Patterns of Norm Violations in a Virtual World.”

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, Strategy Sem. Series, October 2011

- “My Brother's Keeper: Patterns of Norm Violations in a Virtual World.”

Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2011

- Hosted by the American Sociological Association in Las Vegas, NV
- “My Brother's Keeper: Patterns of Norm Violations in a Virtual World.”

Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2011

- Hosted by the American Sociological Association in Las Vegas, NV
- “Undermining Order: A Dynamic Network Simulation Analysis.”

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2010

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Montréal, Canada
- “My Brother's Keeper: Patterns of Norm Violations in a Virtual World.”

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2009

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Chicago, IL
- “Restaurant Organizational Forms and Community in the U.S. in 2005.”

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2009

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Chicago, IL
- “My Brother's Keeper: The Impact of Third-Party Sanctioning on Social Network Dynamics”

The Harvard Political Networks Conference, June 2009

- Hosted by the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Boston, MA
- “My Brother’s Keeper: The Impact of Third-Party Sanctioning on Social Network Dynamics”

The 2009 Transatlantic Doctoral Student Conference, May 2009

- Hosted by London Business School
- “My Brother’s Keeper: The Impact of Third-Party Sanctioning on Social Network Dynamics”

Third Annual Manhattan Management Doctoral Conference, March 2009

- Hosted by Columbia University in New York, NY
- “My Brother’s Keeper” accepted for presentation in the conference

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2008

- Hosted by the American Political Science Association in Boston, MA
- “Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy”

The Harvard Networks in Political Science Conference, June 2008

- Hosted by the John F. Kennedy School of Government in Boston, MA
- “Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy”

Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, August 2007

- Hosted by the Academy of Management in Philadelphia, PA
- “Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy”

Seventh Annual Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, May 2007

- Hosted by London Business School in London, United Kingdom
- “Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy”

SELECTED NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA MENTIONS

Coverage of: “Elites in Iceland: Homogeneity and Internal Relationships”
in *RÚV*, *Stöð 2*, *Vísir*, *Stundin*, and other Icelandic media.

Coverage of: “Here's a Tip: Prosocial Gratuities are Linked to Corruption”
in *The Washington Post*, *BBC*, *NPR*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and other media.

Torfason, Magnus Thor. “The Network Revolutions.” *HBR Blog Network* March 11, 2011.

Koch, Katie. “The Tipping Point: Harvard Analysts Look to the Future of a Changing Arab World.” *Harvard Gazette* CVI(12): 11-13

Oreskovic, Luka. “International Networks: An Interview with Magnus Thor Torfason.”
2011. *Acque & Terre* 22(2): 61-65

“Real Economist Learns From Virtual World.” *Wall Street Journal* June 21, 2010.

Shlaes, Amity. “Female Teens Point the Way to Financial Overhaul.” *Bloomberg.com*
June 1, 2010.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Featured Paper, in the *Research in Applied Business and Economics*, May 2019

- Awarded for the paper “The Evolution of Design Thinking and its use in Public and Private Organizations in Iceland”

Featured Paper, in *The Icelandic Review of Politics and Administration*, May 2017

- Awarded for the paper “Elites in Iceland: Homogeneity and Internal Relationships”

Best Paper Award, in the Strategy and International Management division at the 2009 Transatlantic Doctoral Student Conference, held at London Business School

- Awarded for the paper “My Brother’s Keeper: The Impact of Third-Party Sanctioning on Social Network Dynamics”

Contributor of the year, at Deiglan Online, December 2008

- Awarded for columns and commentary on the Icelandic Financial Crisis

Donald C. Hambrick Award for Excellence in the Ph.D. Program, October 2007

- Awarded for research achievements while pursuing Ph.D. degree

Douglas Nigh Memorial Best Paper Award, Finalist, August 2007

- Awarded for “Diffusion Processes in IGO Networks: The Case of Democracy”
- Paper published in Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management

Dean’s List, at Columbia Business School, September 2006

- Awarded for excellent performance in courses and seminars

National representative, in three International Science Olympiads, 1994 to 1996

- Awarded bronze in the 37th International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) in India, 1996
- Participated in the 27th International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Australia, 1995
- Awarded an Honorable Mention in the 35th IMO in Hong Kong, 1994

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Board Member • Frumtak Venture Capital • 2015 to present

- Frumtak is a leading venture capital fund in Iceland

Board Member • HandPoint • 1999 to 2006, again from 2013 to present

- Formulate strategy for HandPoint, a provider of corporate handheld solutions

Board Member • Brum Invest • 2014 to 2015

- Brum provides an avenue for shared equity investing and other financial products

Co-Founder and Technical Director • HandPoint • 1999 to 2005

- Lead the development team and oversaw all software development

Head of Development • Salt Systems • 1998 to 1999

- Oversaw all software development at Salt Systems, a provider of CMS software

Co-Founder and Manager • Myndbrot • 1994 to 1996

- Founded and managed Myndbrot, a mail-order film processing company

LEADERSHIP, ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY

Faculty Lead for Aurora-EU Application • U. Iceland • 2019 to present

Chair of Infrastructure Fund Expert Committee • Rannís • 2019 to present

Member of Infrastructure Fund Expert Committee • Rannís • 2016 to present

Member of Board of Advisors • Snjallræði Social Accelerator • 2018 to present

Chair of MS Studies Committee • U. Iceland, School of Business • 2016 to 2018

Member of MS Studies Committee • U. Iceland, School of Social Sciences • 2016 to 2018

Member of MS Studies Committee • U. Iceland, School of Business • 2014 to present

Head of MS Program in Innov. and Enterpr. • U. Iceland, School of Bus. • 2014 to present

Advisory Board Member • Excelorators • 2012 to 2017

- Member of Seminar Committee* • Harvard Business School • 2011 to 2013
- Member of Recruitment Committee* • Harvard Business School • 2010 to 2013
- Board Member* • Icelandic American Chamber of Commerce • 2010 to 2014
- Manuscript Reviewer* • Management Science • 2012 to present
- Manuscript Reviewer* • International Studies Quarterly • 2011 to present
- Manuscript Reviewer* • Industrial and Corporate Change • 2010 to present
- Manuscript Reviewer* • American Sociological Review • 2009 to present
- Manuscript Reviewer* • Academy of Management • 2006 to present
- Doctoral Student Representative* • Columbia Business School • 2006 to 2007
- Editor and Contributor* • Deiglan Online (www.deiglan.com) • 2002 to present
- Full Committer* • Apache Software Foundation (www.apache.org) • 2001 to present
- President* • Icelandic Organization of Electrical Engineering Students • 1998 to 1999