

# Magnus Thor Torfason - CV

University of Iceland, Faculty of Business Administration, Gimli G-218, Saemundargata 2, 102 Reykjavik, Iceland  
email: torfason@hi.is • phone: +354-525-4291 • <http://torfason.net/research/> • January 2023

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

*Associate Professor* • University of Iceland • 2020 to present

*Assistant Professor* • University of Iceland • 2014 to 2020

*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

Karlsdottir, Verena, Magnus Thor Torfason, Ingi Runar Edvardsson & Thamar Melanie Heijstra. 2023. "Assessing Academics' Third Mission Engagement by Individual and Organisational Predictors". *Administrative Sciences*. 13(1), 9

Aspelund, Edda Yr Georgsdottir, Sara Sturludottir & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2022. "The use of Agile in Iceland." *Research in Applied Business and Economics / Tímarit um viðskipti og efnabagsmál*. 16(1): 1-22. (in Icelandic)

Sigurdardottir, Margret Sigrun, Magnus Thor Torfason & Anna Helga Jonsdottir. 2022. "Social tie formation of COVID-19 students: evidence from a two-cohort longitudinal study". *Higher Education*.

Orelj, Ana and Magnus Thor Torfason. 2022. "They didn't ask: Online innovation communities as a latent dynamic capability." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. 180, 121738.

Torfason, Magnus Thor, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir & Anna Helga Jonsdottir. 2021. "Student background and relationships at the start of university studies". *Icelandic Journal of Education / Tímarit um uppeldi og menntun*. 30(1), 27-50. (in Icelandic)

Einarsdottir, Thorgerdur, Gudbjorg Linda Rafnsdottir, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2020. "Networks, Homogeneity and Gender in Icelandic Business Elites." *Scandinavian Journal of Management*. 36(1), 101091. (equal contribution of authors)

- Gudmundsdottir, Erla Run, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2020. "Iceland Airwaves as an Interaction Platform and a Pathway for Ideas." *Icelandic Society / Íslenska þjóðfélagið*. 11(1), 41-59. (in Icelandic)
- Petursdottir, Ingibjorg Rafnar & 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 / Tímarit um viðskipti og efnabagsmál*. 16(1): 1-22. (in Icelandic)
- Veselaj, Sabit & 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 & 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 & Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir. 2017. "Student Social Networks and Dropout Propensity." *Netla – Online Journal on Pedagogy and Education*. 2017(1): 1-20. (in Icelandic)
- Torfason, Magnus Thor, Francis J. Flynn & 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. & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2011. "Restaurant Organizational Forms and Community in the U.S. in 2005." *City & Community* 10(1): 1-25.
- Ingram, Paul & 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 & 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." (Working paper)
- Torfason, Magnus Thor. "With Us or Against Us? Networks, Identity and Order in a Virtual World." (Working paper)
- 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)
- 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, Margret Sigrun Sigurdardottir & Anna Helga Jonsdottir. 2022. "Social Tie Formation of COVID-19 Students: Evidence from a Two-Cohort Longitudinal Study." *Academy of Management Proceedings* 2022(1).
- Moller, Maggy Helga Johannsdottir & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2021. "Who 'Takes a Chance': Risk Attitudes Among Icelandic Entrepreneurs and Managers." In *Research in Business Administration III / Rannsóknir í viðskiptafræði III*, Háskólaútgáfan.
- Gunnarsson, Hafsteinn Bjorn & Magnus Thor Torfason. 2021. "The Icelandic Innovation Environment and the Growth of Startups." In *Research in Business Administration II / Rannsóknir í viðskiptafræði II*, Háskólaútgáfan.
- Torfason, Magnus Thor & James A. Kitts. 2011. "Prominence." In *Encyclopedia of Social Networks*, Sage Publications.
- 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), Ragnar Fjalar Saevarsson (current), Sabit Veselaj (current) and Erla Rún Guðmundsdóttir (on leave)
- Supervisor for 30+ MSc students on final theses
- Supervisor for 30+ MBA students on final theses
  - Supervised best MBA thesis in four of the past six years: 2021, 2019, 2018 and 2016
- Supervisor for several 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 2022*

- Hosted by the Academy of Management (virtual) in Seattle, WA
- “Social Tie Formation of COVID-19 Students: Evidence from a Two-Cohort Longit. Study”

*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**

*Academy of Management Best Paper Proceedings*, Academy of Management, August 2022

- Awarded for the paper “Social tie formation of COVID-19 students: evidence from a two-cohort longitudinal study”

*Award for Excellence in Teaching in the MBA Program*, University of Iceland, June 2021

- Awarded for highest teaching ratings by students in the 2019-2021 MBA Cohort

*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

## **BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

*Chairman of the Board* • Frumtak Venture Capital • 2021 to present

- Frumtak is a leading venture capital fund in Iceland

*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**

*Board Chair, Institute for Sustainability Studies* • University of Iceland • 2022 to present

*Board Member, Institute for Innovation & Education* • University of Iceland • 2022 to present

*Member of steering committee on strategy development* • University of Iceland • 2021

*Member of board nomination committee* • Vísindagarðar (UI Science Park) • 2021

*Chair of Judging Panel* • Innovation in Established Cos., Icel. Bus. Ec. Society • 2021

*Member of Judging Panel* • AWS Accelerator • 2021

*Substitute member of Science and Technology Policy Council* • PM's Office • 2018 to present

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

*Faculty Lead for Aurora-EU Application* • U. Iceland • 2019 to 2020

*Chair of Infrastructure Fund Expert Committee* • Rannís • 2019 to 2020

*Member of Infrastructure Fund Expert Committee* • Rannís • 2016 to 2019

*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 Strategy* • U. Iceland, School of Bus. • 2020 to present

*Head of MS Program in Innov. & 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](http://www.deiglan.com)) • 2002 to present  
*Full Committer* • Apache Software Foundation ([www.apache.org](http://www.apache.org)) • 2001 to present  
*President* • Icelandic Organization of Electrical Engineering Students • 1998 to 1999