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Attendance Report for the 84th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management

Munich, August 20, 2024

Dear Mr. Spann and Mr. Sellhorn,

I am grateful to have received sponsorship for my participation at the 2024 Academy of Management in Chicago, Illinois. This conference was pivotal in advancing my academic career for several key reasons.

First, during a symposium titled 'Unravelling the Relational Impacts of Work Digitization', I had the opportunity to present my research (systematic literature review) on hierarchical differentiation in virtual collaboration settings. The feedback I received was invaluable, reinforcing the significance of my current work while affirming my understanding and interpretation of the literature (see attached image from my presentation). Moreover, the feedback encouraged me to adopt a more rigorous structure and critical perspective, which will allow me to contribute more effectively to management scholarship.

I was also offered the opportunity to seek additional feedback in the later stages of this project's development from senior scholars who expressed interest in my research and have published similar work in top-tier outlets. This will enable me to still learn from their experiences as they navigated the review process.

Second, I discussed my research in a more informal manner with various scholars in one-on-one meetings to test the robustness of my argument across different audiences and determine its persuasiveness among scholars from diverse management fields. For example, I participated in a doctoral consortium organized by the Communication, Technology, and Organization (CTO) division, where we engaged in roundtable discussions and a poster presentation on my work. I specifically sought feedback from this community due to the overlap with Information Systems (IS) literature in the theories I employ. Interestingly, IS scholars showed less interest and support for my research compared to those in Organizational Behavior (OB). By contrast, I also had insightful discussions with a communication scholar and a sociology scholar, both of whom affirmed the relevance and strength of my work within their disciplines. Overall, it was a valuable experience to engage with researchers from various fields and to identify which audiences resonate most with the questions I ask and the theories and framing I use to advance my research.

Third, I am leaving this conference having established relationships that may, if timing allows, lead to future collaborations. I am currently exchanging ideas on potential research projects with three new colleagues who have expressed interest in my perspectives and ideas. While not all brainstorming will lead to finalized projects, it has been encouraging to see that I can offer valued input to the community. Beyond its motivational impact, the expansion of my network also serves an instrumental function by placing me in the consideration of other management scholars with whom I may collaborate in the future.

Finally, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at this conference. Beyond the intellectual stimulation and deep (both conceptual and experiential) conversations, I attended many receptions and socials, where I engaged in informal, non-research-related discussions. These events allowed me to connect with colleagues on a personal level, making me feel part of a larger community and strengthening my professional identity, which I strongly believe is an important takeaway from this conference.

In case of any questions, please contact b.laubinger@lmu.de

Sincerely,

Birke Laubinger

