

Magnus Thor Torfason

Harvard Business School, Arthur Rock Center for Entrepreneurship, Boston, MA 02163
email: mtorfason@hbs.edu • phone: +1-617-495-6055 • <http://people.hbs.edu/mtorfason/>

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT AND AFFILIATIONS

Assistant Professor • Harvard Business School • 2010 to present

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 Certification 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

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

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. 2012. "With Us or Against Us? Networks, Identity and Order in a Virtual World." HBS Working Paper No. 13-019. Revise and resubmit at *American Journal of Sociology*.

Torfason, Magnus Thor, Mikolaj Piskorski and Frank Nagle. 2013. "Price is What You Pay: The origins of value for Bitcoin, a decentralized electronic currency." In preparation for submission to *Management Science*.

Torfason, Magnus Thor. 2012. "Definitions of Reality: Virtual Environments as a Context for Organizational Research." Working Paper.

Torfason, Magnus Thor and James A. Kitts. 2012. "Undermining Order: A Dynamic Network Simulation Analysis." Working Paper.

Torfason, Magnus Thor and Pavel Zhelyazkov. "Venture Capitalist Investment in Contested Innovation" (data collection ongoing).

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

Harvard Business School MBA Program, 2013 to present

- Teach the course "Founders' Dilemmas," which is part of the elective curriculum at HBS and taught in the fourth semester of the program
- Teaching Evaluation:
 - 6.3 out of 7.0 ("Quality of the Course")
 - 6.3 out of 7.0 ("Effectiveness of the Instructor")

Executive Education Programs, 2012 to present

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

Harvard Business School MBA Program, 2011 to 2012

- 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 Executive Education Program, summers 2007 to 2009

- Lead tutor for team exercises at intensive executive education program

Columbia Business School Executive MBA Program, 2006 to 2009

- Tutoring and grading for social networks course in executive MBA program

Columbia Business School MBA Program, 2006

- Tutoring and grading for strategy course in MBA program

INVITED TALKS

London Business School, Strategy Seminar Series, February 2013

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

ESADE, Barcelona Workshop on Global Governance, January 2013

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

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan Sch. Of Mgmt., TIES Sem. Series, Dec. 2013

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

New York University, Stern School of Bus., NYU Economic Sociology Workshop, Oct. 2013

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

Dartmouth University, Dartmouth Interdisciplinary Network Research Group, Sept. 2013

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

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

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

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

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

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, Strategy Seminar Series, October 2011

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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”

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.”

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: “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 and James A. Kitts. “Prominence.” In *Encyclopedia of Social Networks*, Sage Publications. 2011.

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

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

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

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

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 present

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

- Initiated and organized first joint doctoral student conference for Columbia Business School and Stern students in Management (now an annual event)

Editor and Contributor • Deiglan Online (www.deiglan.com) • 2002 to present

- Regular contributor at Deiglan, an online magazine featuring political analysis and editorial content on current Icelandic and international issues
- Received the contributor of the year award, 2008
- Member of the editorial board, 2004-2005

Full Committer • Apache Software Foundation (www.apache.org) • 2001 to present

President • Icelandic Organization of Electrical Engineering Students • 1998 to 1999

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Academy of Management

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences

The American Political Science Association

The American Sociological Association

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers