

Olav Sorenson

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EDUCATION Ph.D., Sociology, 1997 Stanford University
M.A., Sociology, 1994 Stanford University
A.B., Social Studies, 1991 Harvard University

POSITIONS *Jeffrey S. Skoll Chair in Technical Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Professor of Strategy* 2006 – present Rotman School of Management
University of Toronto

Ph.D. Coordinator, Strategic Management

Professor of Strategic and International Management 2005 – 2007 London Business School

Associate Professor of Policy 2003 – 2006 Anderson Graduate School of Management
University of California, Los Angeles

Assistant Professor of Policy 1999 – 2003 Anderson Graduate School of Management
University of California, Los Angeles

Assistant Professor of Strategy 1997 – 1999 Graduate School of Business
University of Chicago

VISITING POSITIONS Distinguished Visitor, Melbourne Business School, 2008
Visiting Professor, Universidad Carlos III, 2007, 2008
Visiting Scholar, SDA Bocconi, 2005
Visiting Scholar, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, 2004

HONORS (SELECTED) Outstanding Reviewer Award, *Academy of Management Review*, 2006
Richard R. Nelson Prize (best paper), *Research Policy*, 2005
Young Scientists Award (best paper), International Schumpeter Society, 2005
Deloitte Award (advised best MBA field study), 2004
Edward V. Sedgwick III Memorial Award (advised best MBA field study report), 2004
ABCD Award (outstanding reviewing), Academy of Management, 1998
Century III Scholar, 1987
National Merit Scholar, 1987

MAJOR GRANTS “The Geography of Organizations and Industries,” Social Science and Humanities Research Council, 2007-2010

“The Acquisition of Interorganisational Relationships” (with Bjørn Løvås), Economic and Social Research Council (RES-000-22-1065), 2005-2007

“Incumbent Resurgence: Lessons from the U.S. Machine Tool Industry 1975-2000” (with Susan McEvily), National Science Foundation (SES 01-15393), 2001-2003

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECTED) Scientific Advisory Committee, Danish Research Unit on Industrial Dynamics (DRUID), 2008 – present
Department Editor, *Management Science*, 2006 – present
Editorial Board, *Small Business Economics*, 2003 – present
Advisory Editor, *Research Policy*, 2002 – present
Senior Editor, *Organization Science*, 2005 – 2008
Editorial Board, *Academy of Management Review*, 2002 – 2008
Executive Committee, BPS, Academy of Management, 2005 – 2007
Editorial Board, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 2003 – 2007
Organizer, 9th Annual Conference on Organizational Ecology, Sintra, Portugal, 2006
Associate Editor, *Management Science*, 2004 – 2006
Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*, 2000 – 2002

NON-ACADEMIC POSITIONS *Board of Managers* PrairieGold Venture Partners
2003 – present Sioux Falls, SD
Advisory Board IntegriGen
1999 – present Novato, CA
Senior Analyst LodgeNet Entertainment Corporation
1993 – 1997 Sioux Falls, SD
Assistant Coach, Tennis Augustana College
1993 Sioux Falls, SD
Statistician Johnston, Zabor & Associates
1991 – 1993 Research Triangle Park, NC

BOOKS Sorenson, Olav. *The Myth of Silicon Valley*, in progress
Alvarez, Sharon A., Rajshree Agarwal, and Olav Sorenson (Eds.) (2005) *Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research; Disciplinary Perspectives*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag
Baum, Joel A.C., and Olav Sorenson (Eds.) (2003) *Geography and Strategy; Advances in Strategic Management*, Amsterdam: JAI Press

PAPERS Dahl, Michael and Olav Sorenson “The social attachment to place”
Reis, Samira, Giacomo Negro, Olav Sorenson, Fabrizio Perretti and Alessandro Lomi “Resource partitioning revisited: Competitive interaction and vital rates in the Italian TV industry”
Dahl, Michael, and Olav Sorenson, “Home sweet home: Social capital and location choice,” under review

- Sorenson, Olav, and Toby E. Stuart "Bringing the context back in: Settings and the search for syndicate partners in venture capital investing," under review
- IN PRESS Sorenson, Olav, and Toby E. Stuart "Entrepreneurship: A field of dreams?" *Academy of Management Annals*, 2: forthcoming
- Lovås, Bjørn, and Olav Sorenson "The mobilization of scarce resources," forthcoming in J.A.C. Baum and T.J. Rowley (Eds), *Advances in Strategic Management: Network Strategy* (Vol. 25). Amsterdam: JAI Press
- Fornahl, Dirk, and Olav Sorenson "Geographic clustering in biotechnology: Social networks and firm founding," forthcoming in H. Patzelt, T. Brenner and D.B. Audretsch (Eds), *Handbook of Bioentrepreneurship*
- Stuart, Toby E., and Olav Sorenson "Strategic networks and entrepreneurial ventures," *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*, 1: in press
- 2007 Sørensen, Jesper B., and Olav Sorenson "Corporate demography and income inequality," *American Sociological Review*, 72: 766-783
- Ryall, Michael D., and Olav Sorenson "Brokers and competitive advantage," *Management Science*, 53: 566-583
- Sorenson, Olav, and Jasjit Singh "Science, social networks and spillovers," *Industry & Innovation*, 14: 219-238
- 2006 Sorenson, Olav, and David M. Waguespack "Social structure and exchange: Self-confirming dynamics in Hollywood," *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 51: 560-589
- Featured: *Wall Street Journal China* (Sept 13, 2007)
 - Featured: *U.S. News & World Report* (June 25, 2007, p.58), "Old-boy networks aren't boffo"
 - Featured: *Fast Company* (May 2007, p.70), "Success can make you stupid"
- Sorenson, Olav, Susan McEvily, Charlotte Ren, and Raja Roy "Niche width revisited: Organizational scope, behavior and performance," *Strategic Management Journal*, 27: 915-936
- Sorenson, Olav, Jan W. Rivkin, and Lee Fleming "Complexity, networks and knowledge flow," *Research Policy*, 35: 994-1017
- Reprinted: R. Boschma and R. Martin (Eds), *Handbook of Evolutionary Economic Geography*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2008
 - Summarized: *Applied Evolutionary Economics and Economic Geography* (2007), "Informational complexity and the flow of knowledge across social boundaries"
 - Recipient: 2005 Young Scientists Award, International Schumpeter Society
 - Selected: *Best Paper Proceedings of the Academy of Management*, 2004
- Negro, Giacomo, and Olav Sorenson "The competitive dynamics of vertical integration: Motion picture producers in the United States, 1912-1970," pp. 363-398 in J.A.C. Baum, S.D. Dobrev, and A. van Witteloostuijn (Eds), *Advances in Strategic Management: Ecology and Strategy* (Vol. 23). Amsterdam: JAI Press

- 2005 Stuart, Toby E., and Olav Sorenson “Social networks and entrepreneurship,” pp. 233-252 in S. Alvarez, R. Agrawal and O. Sorenson (Eds), *Handbook of Entrepreneurship Research*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag
- Kim, Dewey, Yoon Rhee, Denise Rhodes, Vikram Sharma, Olav Sorenson, Alan Greener and Vaughn Smider “Directed evolution and identification of control regions of ColE1 plasmid replication origins using only nucleotide deletions,” *Journal of Molecular Biology*, 351: 763-775
- Sorenson, Olav and David M. Waguespack “Research on social networks and the organization of research and development: An introductory essay,” *Journal of Engineering and Technology Management*, 22: 1-7
- Sorenson, Olav “Social networks and the persistence of clusters: Evidence from the computer workstation industry,” pp. 297-316 in S. Breschi and F. Malerba (Eds), *Clusters, Networks and Innovation*, New York: Oxford University Press
- 2004 Sorenson, Olav, and Lee Fleming “Science and the diffusion of knowledge,” *Research Policy*, 33: 1615-1634
- Recipient: 2005 Richard R. Nelson Prize
- Sorenson, Olav “Social networks, informational complexity and industrial geography,” pp. 79-96 in D. Fornahl, C. Zellner and D. Audretsch (Eds), *The Role of Labour Mobility and Informal Networks for Knowledge Transfer*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag
- Fleming, Lee, and Olav Sorenson “Science as a map in technological search,” *Strategic Management Journal*, 25: 909-928
- 2003 Sorenson, Olav “Social networks and industrial geography,” *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*, 13: 513-527
- Reprinted: U. Cantner, E. Dinopoulos and R.F. Lanzillotti (Eds), *Entrepreneurship, the New Economy and Public Policy*, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 2005
- Sørensen, Jesper B., and Olav Sorenson “From conception to birth: Opportunity perception and resource mobilization in entrepreneurship,” pp. 89-117 in J.A.C. Baum and O. Sorenson (Eds), *Advances in Strategic Management: Geography and Strategy* (Vol. 20). Amsterdam: JAI Press
- Sorenson, Olav, and Joel A.C. Baum “Geography and strategy: The strategic management of space and place,” pp. 1-19 in J.A.C. Baum and O. Sorenson (Eds), *Advances in Strategic Management: Geography and Strategy* (Vol. 20). Amsterdam: JAI Press
- Barnett, William P., Aimee-Noelle Swanson, and Olav Sorenson “Asymmetric selection among organizations,” *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 12: 673-695
- Stuart, Toby E., and Olav Sorenson “Liquidity events and the geographic distribution of entrepreneurial activity,” *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 48: 175-201
- Summarized: *Academy of Management Executive* (May 2004), “Increasing the rate of new venture creation: Does location matter?”
 - Summarized: University of Chicago’s *Capital Ideas* (Winter 2003, p.5), “Building a high-tech neighborhood”

- Sorenson, Olav "Interdependence and adaptability: Organizational learning and the long-term effect of integration," *Management Science*, 49: 446-463
- Stuart, Toby E., and Olav Sorenson "The geography of opportunity: Spatial heterogeneity in founding rates and the performance of biotechnology firms," *Research Policy*, 32: 229-253
- Reprinted: M. McKelvey and L. Orsenigo (Eds), *The Economics of Biotechnology*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2006
- Fleming, Lee, and Olav Sorenson "Navigating the technology landscape of innovation," *Sloan Management Review*, 44: 15-23
- 2002 Barnett, William P., and Olav Sorenson "The Red Queen in organizational creation and development," *Industrial and Corporate Change*, 11: 289-325
- Reprinted: W.H. Starbuck (Eds), *Organizational Learning and Knowledge Management*, Cheltenham: Edward Elger, 2008
- Sorenson, Olav "Interorganizational complexity and computation," pp. 664-685 in J.A.C. Baum (Ed), *Companion to Organizations*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers
- 2001 Fleming, Lee, and Olav Sorenson "The dangers of modularity," *Harvard Business Review*, 79: 20-21
- Fleming, Lee, and Olav Sorenson "Technology as a complex adaptive system: Evidence from patent data," *Research Policy*, 30: 1019-1039
- Audia, Pino G., Olav Sorenson, and Jerald Hage "Tradeoffs in the organization of production: Multi-unit firms, geographic dispersion and organizational learning," pp. 75-105 in J.A.C. Baum and H.R. Greve (Eds), *Advances in Strategic Management: Multiunit Organization and Multimarket Strategy* (Vol 18). Amsterdam: JAI Press
- Sorenson, Olav, and Jesper B. Sørensen "Finding the right mix: Franchising, organizational learning, and chain performance," *Strategic Management Journal*, 22: 713-724
- Sorenson, Olav, and Toby E. Stuart "Syndication networks and the spatial distribution of venture capital investments," *American Journal of Sociology*, 106: 1546-1588
- Reprinted: #83 in the University of Chicago GSB Selected Papers series
 - Featured: *Wired* (November 2001, p.80), "America's new venture capitals"
 - Summarized: University of Chicagos *Capital Ideas* (Spring 2001, p.1), "Six degrees of separation"
- 2000 Sorenson, Olav, and Pino G. Audia "The social structure of entrepreneurial activity: Geographic concentration of footwear production in the US, 1940-1989," *American Journal of Sociology*, 106: 424-461
- Sorenson, Olav "The effect of population level learning on market entry: The American automobile industry," *Social Science Research*, 29: 307-326
- Sorenson, Olav "Letting the market work for you: An evolutionary perspective on product strategy," *Strategic Management Journal*, 21: 577-592

TEACHING

Venture Capital: 2007-present (MBA)
Applied Management Projects: 2000-present (MBA/EMBA)
Strategy in Entertainment Industries: 2003, 2004, 2007 (MBA)
Business Strategy: 2000-2006 (MBA/EMBA)
Corporate Strategy: 1998-1999 (MBA)
Organizational Strategy: 1999 (MBA)

Alliances and Networks: 2007 (PhD)
Entrepreneurship: 2006-present (PhD)
Organization Theory and Strategy: 2000, 2004, 2005 (PhD)
Organizational Geography: 2004 (PhD)
Assessing Organizational Performance: 2002 (PhD)

DOCTORAL
ADVISING

Samira Reis (SDA Bocconi, expected 2008), “Technical change in the television industry”

Jeongsik Lee (UCLA, 2007; Placement: Georgia Institute of Technology), “Essays on the economics of exchange networks”

Susan Lynch (London Business School, 2006; Placement: INSEAD), “Structuring interaction inside firms: Formal boundaries and tie formation”

Michelle Rogan (London Business School, 2006; Placement: INSEAD), “Acquiring social capital”

Charlotte Rongrong Ren (UCLA, 2005; Placement: Purdue), “Learning by firms and technological innovation”

DOCTORAL
COMMITTEES

Alex Oetl (University of Toronto, expected 2009)

Rebeca Duron (Universidad Carlos III, expected 2008)

Marco Huesch (UCLA, expected 2008)

Gabriel Natividad (UCLA, expected 2008), “Essays in corporate finance and strategy”

Elissa Grossman (UCLA, 2005), “New venture creation and network tie formation: A longitudinal study of entrepreneurs’ efforts in business building”

Ping Wang (UCLA, 2005), “Fashion in information technology”

Marc Junkunc (UCLA, 2004), “Toward a greater economic understanding of entrepreneurial activity: Examining the nature and importance of specialized knowledge”

Giacomo Negro (SDA Bocconi, 2004), “A community ecology of the U.S. motion picture industry”

Tatsuo Ushijima (UCLA, 2003), “Evolution of multinationality and the value of the firm”

Mindy Douthit (University of Chicago, 2000), “The social capital of supervisory relations: Network structure, performance and job satisfaction”

Konstantina Kiouisis (UCLA, 2000), “Knowledge, incentives and productivity”