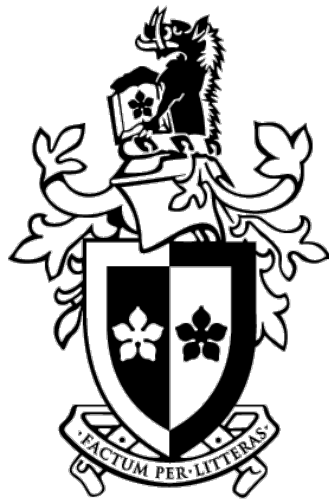


# How Social Networks Shape Absorptive Capacity in Open Innovation: Food Industry Case Studies

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# Abstract

Abstract goes here

# Dedication

To mum and dad

# Declaration

I declare that..

# Acknowledgements

I want to thank...

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>8</b>
1.1	Scope of research study . . . . .	8
1.2	Research motivation . . . . .	8
1.3	Research objectives . . . . .	8
1.4	Organisation of this document . . . . .	8
<b>2</b>	<b>Literature Review</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1	What is innovation? . . . . .	9
2.2	Why is innovation important? . . . . .	9
2.3	Business perspectives of innovation . . . . .	9
2.3.1	Resource-based view . . . . .	9
2.3.2	Knowledge-based view . . . . .	9
2.3.3	Relation-based view . . . . .	9
2.3.4	Dynamic capabilities . . . . .	9
2.4	The open innovation paradigm . . . . .	9
2.5	Knowledge transfer . . . . .	9
2.5.1	Absorptive capacity . . . . .	9
2.5.2	Sticky knowledge . . . . .	9
2.5.3	Network perspective . . . . .	9
2.6	Research gaps . . . . .	9
2.7	Research questions . . . . .	9
<b>3</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1	Research philosophy . . . . .	11
3.2	Research design . . . . .	11
3.2.1	Multiple case study approach . . . . .	11
3.2.2	Mixed method social network analysis . . . . .	11
3.2.3	Multitheoretical multilevel analytic framework . . . . .	11
3.3	Case Studies . . . . .	11
3.4	Quantitative methods . . . . .	11
3.4.1	Quantitative data collection . . . . .	11
3.4.2	Quantitative data analysis . . . . .	11
3.5	Qualitative methods . . . . .	11
3.5.1	Qualitative data collection . . . . .	11
3.5.2	Qualitative data analysis . . . . .	11
3.6	Integrating the quantitative and qualitative phases . . . . .	11
3.6.1	Association rule learning . . . . .	11
3.7	Cross-case analysis . . . . .	11

<b>4</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>12</b>
4.1	Case study 1 . . . . .	12
4.2	Case study 2 . . . . .	12
4.3	Case study 3 . . . . .	12
4.4	Results of cross-case analysis . . . . .	12
<b>5</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>13</b>
5.1	Social mechanisms of absorptive capacity . . . . .	13
5.2	Antecedents of knowledge sharing and knowledge creation . . . . .	13
5.2.1	Individual factors . . . . .	13
5.2.2	Relational factors . . . . .	13
5.2.3	Organisational factors . . . . .	13
5.3	Stickiness of knowledge . . . . .	13
5.4	Multilevel assessment of absorptive capacity . . . . .	13
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>14</b>
6.1	Study findings . . . . .	14
6.2	Limitations of this study . . . . .	14
6.3	Implications for management of open innovation . . . . .	14
6.4	Future research . . . . .	14
	<b>References</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Qualitative analysis code book</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>Formulae for computing centrality measures</b>	<b>17</b>
B.1	Freeman's measure of degree centrality . . . . .	17
B.2	Bonacich's measure of eigenvector centrality . . . . .	17
B.3	Burt's measure of constraint . . . . .	17
B.4	Katz's measure of subgraph centrality . . . . .	17
<b>C</b>	<b>R code used in this study</b>	<b>18</b>
C.1	Code for computing centrality measures . . . . .	18
C.2	Code for generating network visualisations . . . . .	18
C.3	Code for exponential random graph models . . . . .	18
<b>D</b>	<b>On-line survey items</b>	<b>19</b>

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

1.1 Scope of research study

1.2 Research motivation

1.3 Research objectives

1.4 Organisation of this document



# Chapter 2

## Literature Review

2.1 What is innovation?

2.2 Why is innovation important?

2.3 Business perspectives of innovation

2.3.1 Resource-based view

2.3.2 Knowledge-based view

2.3.3 Relation-based view

2.3.4 Dynamic capabilities

2.4 The open innovation paradigm

2.5 Knowledge transfer

2.5.1 Absorptive capacity

2.5.2 Sticky knowledge

2.5.3 Network perspective

2.6 Research gaps

2.7 Research questions



# Chapter 3

## Methodology

### 3.1 Research philosophy

### 3.2 Research design

#### 3.2.1 Multiple case study approach

#### 3.2.2 Mixed method social network analysis

#### 3.2.3 Multitheoretical multilevel analytic framework

### 3.3 Case Studies

### 3.4 Quantitative methods

#### 3.4.1 Quantitative data collection

Survey participants

On-line survey

#### 3.4.2 Quantitative data analysis

Centrality measures

Exponential random graph modelling

### 3.5 Qualitative methods

#### 3.5.1 Qualitative data collection

Interview participants

Semi-structured interviews

#### 3.5.2 Qualitative data analysis

Transcription of recorded interviews

Coding of interview transcripts

Analysis of codes

### 3.6 Integrating the quantitative and qualitative phases

# Chapter 4

## Results

4.1 Case study 1

4.2 Case study 2

4.3 Case study 3

4.4 Results of cross-case analysis

# Chapter 5

## Discussion

- 5.1 Social mechanisms of absorptive capacity
- 5.2 Antecedents of knowledge sharing and knowledge creation
  - 5.2.1 Individual factors
  - 5.2.2 Relational factors
  - 5.2.3 Organisational factors
- 5.3 Stickiness of knowledge
- 5.4 Multilevel assessment of absorptive capacity

# Chapter 6

## Conclusion

### 6.1 Study findings

### 6.2 Limitations of this study

### 6.3 Implications for management of open innovation

### 6.4 Future research

# References

# Appendix A

## Qualitative analysis code book



# Appendix B

## Formulae for computing centrality measures

- B.1 Freeman's measure of degree centrality
- B.2 Bonacich's measure of eigenvector centrality
- B.3 Burt's measure of constraint
- B.4 Katz's measure of subgraph centrality

# Appendix C

## R code used in this study

C.1 Code for computing centrality measures

C.2 Code for generating network visualisations

C.3 Code for exponential random graph models

# Appendix D

## On-line survey items