

STEPHEN T. DOWNING

✉ stephen.downing@tamu.edu
stephendowning2008@gmail.com

📞 USA: (717) 856-7237
Taiwan: +886 978-020-275

📖 Website: <https://sdownin.github.io>
Scholar: <https://goo.gl/gsRMwx>

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	<p>Institute of Business & Management, National Chiao Tung University (AACSB; ranked top 2 in Taiwan) (expected) 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Doctoral Candidate, advised by Jin-Su Kang <p>Mays Business School, Texas A&M University Spring 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Visiting Research Scholar, invited by Albert Cannella <p>Gatton College of Business & Economics, University of Kentucky fall 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Visiting Research Scholar, invited by Walter Ferrier <p><i>Dissertation:</i> “Rivalry’s Missing Links: Reframing Competitive Embeddedness in Competitor Identification, Forbearance Exploitation, and Capability Development”</p> <p>Competitive embeddedness is a crucial, albeit underexplored, driver of organizational decisions and outcomes. Interdependence among firms arises from both mutual and conflicting interests; however, while the strategic role of collaborative embeddedness (e.g., alliances, JVs) is increasingly well understood, the impact of its adversarial counterpart (e.g., product and geographic market overlap) is only superficially recognized. The extant competitive strategy literature is generally limited to dyad-level analysis and localized network structure, stopping short of conceptualizing higher network levels or pluralistic perspectives of rivalry. A consequence of this myopia is persistent blind spots—both theoretical and empirical—in the competitive dynamics research streams on multimarket contact (MMC), competitor identification, and factor-market rivalry. Specifically, I theorize how realigning assumptions of competitive dynamics with phenomena-driven facets of competitive embeddedness can redress these blind spots in the contexts of multimarket competition, inter-industry rivalry formation, and capability development in novel domains. Spanning three studies, I find broad support for the revelatory role of competitive embeddedness in strategic management.</p>
M.B.A.	<p>National Chiao Tung University (AACSB; ranked top 2 in Taiwan) 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Concentration: International Business Management
B.A.	<p>Tulane University 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">♦ Majors: International Relations, Philosophy; <i>magna cum laude</i>, departmental honors♦ Honors Thesis: An Impotent Hegemon: The post-9/11 decline of U.S. Influence

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Competitive dynamics – especially competitor identification, market entry and acquisitions
Interorganizational networks – exploring cross-industry encounters and multimarket interdependence

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Markman, G. “What you don’t see can hurt you: Awareness cues to profile indirect competitors.”
- ♦ 3rd review, *Academy of Management Journal*
 - ♦ Award: An earlier version received the Best Thesis Award, 11th annual Topco Scientific Co. Thesis Symposium, Taiwan (media summary in Chinese: <http://www.tmi.org.tw/2018/08/2018.html>)

WORKING PAPERS

- Kang, J.-S., Downing, S., & Markman, G. “Strategic Nonresponse: The Mediating Role of Buyer Engagement.” *Submission preparation stage.*
- Downing, S., Yu, T., Cannella, A.A., & Kang, J.-S. “The Coevolution of Multimarket Contact and Competition.” *Data analysis stage.*
- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Lee, H. “Multimarket Contact and Acquisitions: A Power-Dependence Perspective on Multisided Competition.” *Data analysis stage.*
- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Markman, G. “The Dual Embeddedness of Product and Factor Market Rivalry.” *Data analysis stage.*
- Kang, J.-S., & Downing, S. “When Connectivity Doesn’t Lead To Value: Evidence From An E-Commerce Platform’s Social Network Quasi-Experiment.” *Design stage.*
- Downing, S. & Kang, J.-S. “Parsing Value From Unobserved Networks: Relational Inference From Non-Relational Data”. *Design stage.*

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Kang, J.-S., & Downing, S. (2015). “Keystone effect on entry into two-sided markets: An analysis of the market entry of WiMAX.” *Technological Forecasting & Social Change*, 94, 170–186.
- Kang, J. S., Kholod, T., & Downing, S. (2015). “Analysis of Russia’s biofuel knowledge base: A comparison with Germany and China.” *Energy Policy*, 85, 182–193.
- Kang, J. S., Chiang, C. F., Huangthanapan, K., & Downing, S. (2015). “Corporate social responsibility and sustainability balanced scorecard: The case study of family-owned hotels.” *International Journal of Hospitality Management*, 48, 124–134.

GRANTS & AWARDS

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ph.D. Student Research Abroad Program Grant | 2019 |
| ♦ One-year international research and travel stipend from National Chiao Tung University and Taiwan Ministry of Education | |
| Best Ph.D. Thesis Award | 2018 |
| ♦ Top prize and monetary award, 11 th annual Topco Scientific Co. Thesis Symposium, Taiwan (media summary in Chinese: http://www.tmi.org.tw/2018/08/2018.html) | |
| Ph.D. Dissertation Research Grant | 2016 - 2017 |
| ♦ Taiwan Ministry of Science & Technology, 105-2420-H-009-012-DR | |
| Management Research Grant | 2015 - 2016 |
| ♦ Taiwan Ministry of Science & Technology, 104-2410-H-009-050, under J.-S. Kang | |
| Ph.D. Scholarship | 2013 - 2016 |
| ♦ Taiwan Ministry of Education scholarship | |
| Dimerco Corp. M.B.A. Leader Award | 2011 |
| ♦ Monetary award for ranking top 3 in MBA class | |

Tulane Distinguished Scholar Award
♦ Undergraduate academic half-scholarship

2004 - 2008

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Markman, G. (2019) "Attacks, Buyer Engagement, and the Target Response-Nonresponse Spectrum." 79th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Boston.
- Kang, J.-S., Downing, S., & Markman, G. (2019) "Strategic Nonresponse: The Mediating Role of Buyer Engagement." 39th Annual Strategic Management Society Conference, Minneapolis.
- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Markman, G. (2017) "Emergent Awareness: Competitive dynamics beyond rivalry." 37th Annual Strategic Management Society Conference, Houston.
- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Markman, G. (2017) "Competitive Dynamics: Of whom should you be aware?" 77th Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management, Atlanta.
- Downing, S., Kang, J.-S., & Hsu, C.L. (2016) "Network Risk: Assessing the threat of envelopment." 36th Annual Strategic Management Society Conference, Berlin.
- Downing, S. & Kang, J.-S. (2015) "Characteristics demand and platform competition: A game-theoretic argument for strategic CSR". 35th Annual Strategic Management Society Conference, Denver.
♦ Award: SMS best student paper award nominee

PUBLISHED TEACHING CASES

- Kang, J.-S., and Downing, S. (2015). "Cconma.com in South Korea: An innovative e-commerce platform". Ivey ID: 9B15M020. Ivey Publishing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

National Chiao Tung University (AACSB; ranked top 2 in Taiwan)			Section Evaluation
2018 Summer	<i>TA</i> (Masters)	Strategic Management 6157 (22 students)	4.81 / 5
2018 Spring	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> (Masters)	Network Strategies: Methods and Applications 6167 "Introducing the R statistical computing language for network analysis"	n/a
2017 Fall	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> (Masters)	Network Strategies: Methods and Applications 6167 "Introducing the R statistical computing language for network analysis"	n/a
Shih Chien University (Taiwan)			Section Evaluation
2017 Spring	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> (Masters)	Digital Marketing	n/a
2017 Spring	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> (Undergrad)	Research Methodology	n/a
2017 Spring	<i>Guest Lecturer</i> (Undergrad)	International Business Management	n/a

PROFESSIONAL & ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

- Co-Founder & Data Science Lead, Choco.ly (Taipei; startup CEM SaaS platform) 2015 - 2018
♦ Designed and implemented analytics suite

- ♦ Iterated customer interviews and user observations, testing hypotheses via lean startup
 - ♦ Collaborated in systems design and full-stack web development
- Co-Founder & B.D.M., Choco Design (Taipei; startup digital design agency) 2014 - 2015
- ♦ Managed new business development, account prospecting, negotiations
- Sales Account Manager, ACTi Corporation (Taipei; IP camera mfg.) 2012 - 2013
- ♦ Oversaw Nordic territory distributor sales during key product lines overhaul
 - ♦ Transitioned channel partners onto new policy terms, nurturing key accounts to accelerate growth while minimizing cannibalization
- Marketing Intern, PPG Industries (Shanghai & Taipei; fiberglass joint venture) 2011
- ♦ Completed analysis of Chinese fiberglass export data to inform APAC market development initiatives for the Pittsburgh Formosa Group joint venture
- Public Finance Consulting Intern, The PFM Group (New Orleans; public finance) 2007
- ♦ Drafted budgeting for outcomes and best practices recommendations for City of New Orleans revenue structure and generation
 - ♦ FY2008 budget results: Cut expenditures by \$8.1 million and eliminated \$48 million in unnecessary funding requests

QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS COMPETENCIES

Experienced in data science and big data methods that advance management research by facilitating greater data granularity and scope, including the following software and technologies:

Methods:

- ♦ Network analysis (ERGM, REM, SAOM)
- ♦ Unsupervised learning and dimensionality reduction (topic models, tensor factorization)
- ♦ Agent-based modelling (discrete choice and game-theoretic simulations)
- ♦ Time series analysis (ARIMA, Markov switching models, Bayesian structural time series)
- ♦ Linear and generalized regression with extensions (OLS, GLM, HLM)

Software & Technologies:

- ♦ Scientific / statistical computing (R, Python, SAS, Matlab, LaTeX, SGE HPC shell scripting)
- ♦ Relational and non-relational databases (MySQL; AWS DynamoDB, MongoDB, Neo4j)
- ♦ Object oriented programming (Python, PHP)
- ♦ Full-stack web development (HTML, CSS, JS/jQuery, LAMP stack, PHP Yii2 framework)
- ♦ Cloud architecture (Amazon Web Services EC2, S3, RDS, Route53, SES, Lambda, etc.)
- ♦ Version control (Git)

PRESENTATIONS

Downing, S., Kang, J-S. & Markman, G.D. 2019. Attacks, Buyer Engagement and the Target Response-Nonresponse Spectrum. *Academy of Management Meeting*, Boston, MA.

Kang, J-S., Downing, S., & Markman, G.D. 2019. Strategic Nonresponse: The Mediating Role of Buyer Engagement. *Strategic Management Society*, Minneapolis, MN.

- Downing, S., Kang, J-S. & Markman, G.D. 2017. Competitive dynamics: Of whom should you be aware? *Academy of Management Meeting*, Atlanta, GA.
- Downing, S., Kang, J-S. & Markman, G.D. 2017. Emergent awareness: Competitive dynamics beyond rivalry. *Strategic Management Society*, Houston, TX.
- Downing, S., Kang, J-S. & Hsu, C.L. 2016. Network Risk: Assessing the threat of envelopment. *Strategic Management Society*, Berlin.
- Downing, S., Kang, J-S. 2015. Characteristics demand and platform competition: A game-theoretic argument for strategic CSR. *Strategic Management Society*, Denver.

MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Management	2016 – Pres.
Strategic Management Society	2016 – Pres.
Beta Gamma Sigma	2012 – Pres.

LANGUAGES

English: Native
Chinese (Mandarin): Intermediate