

Journal Topics

JTR will focus on twenty-six topical areas within six topical categories, especially those inter-disciplinary, cross-cultural, cross-level, context-rich, process-oriented, and practice-relevant aspects.

Topical Category 1: The unique nature of trust

The fundamental nature of trust (e.g., psychological attitude and/or behavioral choice; trustfulness and/or trustworthiness)

- The distinction and link between risk, faith, confidence, trust, commitment, and control
- The basic forms and types of trust (e.g., strong, weak, interpersonal, and institutional)
- The distinction and link between relationship-generic trust, i.e., depersonalized, virtual, and institutional trust, as well as relationship-specific trust, i.e., personalized and relational trust

Topical Category 2: The key components of trust

- The distinction and link between cognitive (rational and instrumental), affective (emotional and sentimental), norm-related (cultural and ethical), and rule-related (market and legal) components of trust, among others, in various organizational and societal contexts, including the virtual contexts
- The key components of interpersonal trust and their specific structures, especially in the context of various forms and types of team and community of practice (e.g., real and virtual forms and types)
- The key components of inter-organizational trust and their specific structures, especially in the context of various forms and types of strategic alliance
- The key components of institutional trust and their specific structures, especially in the context of formal (e.g., legal, political, and market) and informal (e.g., cultural and ethical) institutions

Topical Category 3: The key sources of trust

- The distinction and link between disposition-based, character-based, relationship- and group-based trust, among others
- The distinction and link between personal and institutional bases of trust (e.g., social capital; relational quality; relational contract, and psychological contract in contrast to their formal counterparts)

Topical Category 4: The key mechanisms and stages of building, maintaining, breaking and repairing trust

- The key mechanisms and stages of building and maintaining trust, interpersonal or inter-organizational
- The key mechanisms and stages of breaking and repairing trust, interpersonal or inter-organizational

- The effect of informal mechanisms (e.g., the “soft” elements of cultural norm and leadership style) in building, maintaining, breaking, and repairing trust in contrast to distrust
- The effect of formal mechanisms (e.g., the “hard” elements of structural rule and strategic policy) in building, maintaining, breaking, and repairing trust in contrast to distrust
- The micro-macro link and transformation between interpersonal trust and inter-organizational trust (e.g., inter-firm trust and trust-building among alliance partners)
- The distinction and link between intercultural and intra-cultural trust and trust-building (e.g., cross-border trust-building within and between multinational enterprises)

Topical Category 5: The key roles of trust

- The unique function of trust in interpersonal learning, especially for the absorptive and dissimilative capacities between individuals in the context of teams and communities of practice (real or virtual)
- The unique function of trust in inter-organizational learning, especially for the absorptive and dissimilative capacities in the context of alliances
- The distinction and link between the effects of trust on knowledge transfer, i.e., path-dependent exploitation of existing knowledge, and knowledge creation, i.e., path-breaking exploration of novel knowledge, especially across different cultures (e.g., in the case of multinational enterprises)
- The unique function of trust in the transfer and creation of tacit knowledge, especially when it is embedded in person as individual or collective knowledge carrier (e.g., know-who as a form of knowledge parallel to know-how)
- The unique function of trust in fostering interpersonal and inter-organizational cooperation, especially in the particular contexts of social exchange and economic exchange
- The distinction and link between trust and commitment, control, and power, especially in the context of a self-organized emergent pattern of exchange

Topical Category 6: The unique implications of trust for revising and extending the extant theories

- The implications of trust for the theory of the firm and transaction cost economics
- The implications of trust for the institutional theories (e.g., the interaction between formal and informal institutions), and other organizational theories
- The implications of trust for the transaction value perspective toward a theory of strategic alliance
- The implications of trust for the resource-based view and its various extensions (e.g., knowledge-based view, and dynamic capability view, among others)

