Making a conceptual contribution: Perspectives from an AMR associate editor

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Sherry M.B. Thatcher is a Professor of Business Administration and a Moore Business Partnership Foundation Fellow in the Management Department of the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. Her research revolves around teams and includes the study of intragroup conflict as it relates to diversity, faultlines, identity, and the effects of computer-mediated communication. She has authored numerous scholarly publications in these areas, including articles in the Academy of Management Review, Academy of Management Journal, Journal of Applied Psychology, Organization Science, Journal of Management, and Decision Support Systems. She recently received the prestigious Educational Foundation Award for Research from the University of South Carolina. Her Academy of Management Review paper on internal identity asymmetry (along with co-authors Karen Jehn and Alyson Meister) was the Academy of Management Review’s best paper of 2014 finalist. Her Academy of Management Journal paper on conflict asymmetry (along with co-authors Karen Jehn and Sonja Rispens) was awarded best paper of the year in 2011 from the International Association of Conflict Management. Her research has been funded by both private and public organizations, including the National Science Foundation. She is currently an Associate Editor at the Academy of Management Review and serves or has served on the editorial boards of Academy of Management Review, Journal of Management, and Small Group Research.

[Abstract] The goal of the seminar is to help participants understand how to make conceptual contributions in ways that are attractive to the Academy of Management Review (AMR). The session has four components. First, I will describe my experience as an Associate Editor of the AMR and provide an understanding of how acceptance and rejection decisions are made. Second, I will describe the different types of conceptual contributions that are commonly seen in AMR. Third, I will provide some insights on clear writing and manuscript structure that showcase theoretical contributions. Finally, I will engage in a question-and-answer session with participants to explore any questions around theoretical contributions.