



SERVICE DOMINANT LOGIC, NETWORK & SYSTEMS THEORY AND SERVICE SCIENCE:  
INTEGRATING THREE PERSPECTIVES FOR A NEW SERVICE AGENDA

**SORRENTO NAPLES ITALY 6 - 9 JUNE 2017**

**HOSTED BY**

The University of Naples "Federico II" and the University of Salerno

**CHAIRPERSONS**

Evert GUMMESSON, Stockholm University, Sweden  
Cristina MELE, University of Naples "Federico II", Italy  
Francesco POLESE, University of Salerno, Italy

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

Robert LUSCH, University of Arizona, USA  
Stephen VARGO, University of Hawaii, USA.  
Jim SPOHRER, IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, USA.



## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee members will act as advisors to the Chairs and support the scientific level of the Forum. Important tasks for the members are the participation in the review process of submitted abstracts. The Scientific Committee members will serve as discussants during sessions.

President: Sergio Barile, University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy

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Paolo Stampacchia, University of Naples "Federico II", Italy

Jim Spohrer, IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose, USA

Kaj Storbacka, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Marja Toivonen, VTT Technical Research Centre, Finland

Marta Ugolini, University of Verona, Italy

Stephen Vargo, University of Hawaii, USA

### THE 3 PILLARS OF THE NAPLES FORUM

The Naples Forum on Service has reached its fifth edition and, after the success of its past experiences (see [www.naplesforumonservice.it](http://www.naplesforumonservice.it)) is about to start its organization with inspiring scientific premises and great expectations for it to be the best edition ever organized. For the 2017 Forum, we continue moving our locations clockwise around the gulf of Naples and arrive in Sorrento (after Capri, Ischia and Naples), in an elegant and fascinating venue.

The Naples Forum is an effort to stimulate Paradigm 3 research, communicate it and speed up its progress (for a brief article on the paradigms, see Gummesson, 2012).

- *Paradigm 1* (pre-1970s) where service was not on the agenda in marketing and management research and education.
- *Paradigm 2* (1970s-2000s) when service research grew exponentially with seminal contributions from Northern Europe, France, UK, USA and other countries with goods/services differences in the center but lacking syntheses and unifying theory.
- *Paradigm 3* (2000s-) when service research moved its focus from differences to commonalities and interdependencies between goods and services. It also moved from the supplier value chain to the value network of all stakeholders ("balanced centrality") and service (in the singular) became the output irrespective of input. The roles of suppliers and customers have also changed through the recognition of co-creation of value with resource integration with customer-to-customer interaction (C2C) or more broadly as actor-to-actor interaction (A2A). In the core of Paradigm 3 is the recognition of *complexity*. Service systems are enormously complex – it is not sufficient to study the relationship between just a few variables. The new millennium brought with it openings to address complexity and take a more systemic view. *Service-Dominant (S-D) Logic* contributed a initial higher-level service theory of the best contributions of the past and showed directions for the future. *Service Science* started from practitioner experiences and challenges our way of designing and implementing service systems. *Network Theory* and *Systems Theory* have been deployed to address complexity, with applications like Many-to-Many-Marketing and the Viable Systems Approach (VSA). These developments form the 3 Pillars of the Naples Forum. *With them it is motivated to label our current economy a Service Economy.*

The transition to Paradigm 3 is developing – but it takes time and effort. Service research got under way 40 years ago and it is only now that we are beginning to sense the full picture of our economies as complex networks of service systems with a mission to enhance value for consumers, citizens, businesses and society as a whole.

The following sections offer brief reviews of the characteristics of the 3 Pillars.

#### Service Dominant (S-D) Logic

S-D logic summarizes its message in four axioms and ten foundational premises. In brief, these premises put the following to the fore. The most critical changes include moving from goods/services differences to goods/service interdependencies. The word 'service' is given a new meaning, going from an undefined input to the value of the output and value-in-use or in a more generalized way to value-in-context. Service is the fundamental basis of exchange (axiom 1) and goods are merely distribution mechanisms of service. Both businesses and customers are operant

(active) resources as opposed to the mainstream marketing and economics idea that suppliers do things to customers who are just reactive or passive (operand resources). A service provider can only offer a value proposition to the market; the beneficiaries is always a co-creator of value (axiom 2), whereas value actualization rests with users in an idiosyncratic and contextual way (axiom 4). The network aspect is implicit through the statement that all social and economic actors are cocreators and resource integrators (axiom 3), implying that value creation takes place through interaction in complex networks and systems.

Bob Lusch and Steve Vargo who designed S-D logic keep developing it and treat it as an open code where everyone is welcome to make constructive contributions

### Service Science

Service Science is a call for academia, industry, and governments to become more systemic about service performance and innovation. The ultimate goal of Service Science is to apply scientific knowledge to the design and improvements of service systems for business and societal purposes. The concern is that we do not master seamless and reliable service systems at a time when systems are becoming increasingly complex and global, making us increasingly vulnerable to systems sluggishness and failure. Every service system is both a provider and client of service that is connected by value propositions in value-creating networks.

Service Science is a multidisciplinary, open-source program based on computer science, industrial engineering, organizational theory, business strategy and more, including the humanities. In terms of science, it investigates what service systems are and how they evolve, and the roles of people, knowledge, shared information and technology, as well as the relevance of customers inside production processes; in terms of management it investigates how to improve and evaluate quality and productivity; and in terms of engineering it develops new designs of service systems with better technologies and software. Service Science studies complex service systems; such a simple and straight forward position calls for intriguing issues due to the ample set of disciplines, research methods, cultural domains and areas of interest in order to capture the powerful insights and the essence of service in technological setting and in today life.

### Network and Systems Theory

The words *complexity*, *networks* and *systems* pinpoint the same phenomena. Complexity is derived from the Latin verb *complecti*, meaning "to twine together" and the noun *complexus* means "network". The word "system" is derived from the Greek *systema*, meaning "a whole composed of many parts". So the meanings of the three words overlap and expose their interdependency. From these words different traditions have sprung up. *Network theory* and *systems theory* offer both a way of thinking in relationships and interaction and techniques to address complexity and context. These are part of *complexity theory* where many others, for example, chaos theory, fractal geometry and autopoiesis (self-organizing systems) belong. Complexity theory exists both in social sciences, natural sciences and technology but is not utilized efficiently by management disciplines.

Network theory has primarily offered a systemic approach for B2B but has equal potential for B2C/C2B (business-to-consumer/consumer-to-business). *Many-to-Many Marketing* is a general approach that describes, analyzes and utilizes the network properties of marketing and recognizes



that both suppliers and customers operate in complex network contexts. *The Viable Systems Approach (VSA)* is a systems theory-based application for management. It postulates that every business is a system, nested in a relational context where it is looking for competitive profiles (viability) through interaction with other actors/stakeholders. Its theory proposes a new representation of the behavioral approach to business and relational interactions with its context. In practice it is a methodological proposal that enables a better understanding of business models, supporting decision making in complex context.

Networks and systems thinking are integral parts of both S-D logic and Service Science.

### Developing Paradigm 3 through Naples Forum Publications

Within the 3 Pillars lots of activities including extensive publishing takes place. Lusch and Vargo have been involved in over 50 articles and 20 book chapters, edited several Special Issues of journals, and spoken continually at conferences, universities and business firms around the world. A new book written by Bob and Steve, (*Service-Dominant Logic* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2014) is a condensed (220 pp.) overview of where S-D Logic stands today. Jim Spohrer and his colleagues, together with Forum participants publish continuously on Service Science, including three recent books. Network and systems theory is increasingly integrated with the two other pillars and is the lead theme for several authors, not least from Italian researchers, the Nordic School and the IMP Group.

The Naples Forum stimulates Paradigm 3 research, communicates it and speeds up its progress. The Forum supports the efforts of the participants to publish by co-authoring with other participants and adopt presented papers to articles in journals of their own choice and in special Forum issues. As a result of past editions of the forum more than 100 articles were published in 13 journal special issues of, among the others, *Journal of Service Management*, *Managing Service Quality*, *Journal of Service Theory and Practice*, *Service Science*, *Journal of Business Market Management*, *Mercati e Competitività*.

In this context we stimulate senior and young researchers to submit their proposal based upon the above mentioned Paradigm 3 spirit. A paper can either focus on one of the Forum Pillars or integrate two or all three of them.

## PROGRAM

The Forum starts on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, with registration and a reception at 18:00. On Wednesday, June 7, the Forum opens at 8.30 and ends on Friday, June 9, at 16:00. For details and continuous updates, see [www.naplesforumonservice.it](http://www.naplesforumonservice.it).

## VENUE

Grand Hotel Cocumella, Via Cocumella 7, Sorrento, Italy (<http://www.cocumella.com/en/position/>).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers dealing with themes within one or several of the 3 Forum Pillars: S-D logic, service science, and network/systems theory. We especially encourage submissions with an integrative perspective. The papers could be theoretical and/or empirical and be based on qualitative and/or quantitative research. In order to submit an abstract directions are given within the [www.naplesforumonservice.it](http://www.naplesforumonservice.it) web page. Note that Abstracts must be structured and follow the format of Emerald journal abstracts. Topics could include (but are not restricted to) the following:

- Business models to manage networks and service systems
- Complexity theory and service research
- Experience, value-in-use and value-in-context
- Internet of Things, Internet of Everything and the hub of all things
- Integration and management of resources and capabilities
- Markets and marketing- Methodological challenges and issues in service research
- Multi-disciplinary approaches in service research
- Networks, interaction and relationships
- Practice-theory in service research
- Service design
- Service processes and engineering
- Service science projects in research and/or education
- Service systems and system thinking
- Social Innovation
- The development of Service-Dominant Logic
- The development of service science
- The role of institutional logics in service research
- The Viable Systems Approach (VSA)
- Value co-creation and the changing role of suppliers and customers
- Value propositions
- Web 2.0 or Web 3.0, the semantic web

**IMPORTANT:** These and possible other subthemes must have a clear connection to one or several of the 3 Forum Pillars. Three journal, and specifically *Journal of Service Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Service Management* and *Journal of Marketing Management*, will publish best selected papers from the Forum.

A purpose of the Naples Forum is to get different generations of researchers together both at the organized sessions and informally during breaks and social events. In the final selection of papers, both senior researchers and newcomers will be given a chance to present. There will be plenary sessions as well as parallel sessions. In order to increase the number of active participants special poster sessions will be organized during the Forum.

### DOCTORAL WORKSHOP

To stimulate academic scholarship, discussions of ideas and dialogue about service among students and researchers from different countries, we would like to invite doctoral students to attend this workshop. PhD students in early and middle stages of their PhD research project are particularly encouraged to present their research proposals, preliminary results and their reflections on issues related to theory, methods and analysis. In case the PhD dissertation is not a monograph and is made of a series of articles on a common theme, the candidate can present a part of the work and a two-page summary of the overall dissertation theme. Note: The idea of the workshop is to help PhD students develop their dissertations and you should therefore prepare questions to the professors present. The doctoral workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 7 2017 (morning and afternoon).

### DEADLINES

**Abstract submission:** December 20, 2016  
**Notification of acceptance:** January 20, 2017  
**Final paper submission (optional):** April 30, 2017

### PRACTICALITIES

Information (hotel, travel, etc) will be available soon on the website. The fees include participation in:

- All Forum sessions
- Forum material
- Lunches, refreshment during breaks, dinner and social events (the fee does NOT include Gala Dinner).

Forum Fees	Early fee (until March 1)	Regular fee (after March 1)	Late Registration (on site)
Full Registration	650 €	750 €	850 €
PhD Students Forum Registration	450 €	550 €	700 €
PhD Students Doctorial Workshop & Forum Registration	550 €	650 €	750 €
Full registration Doctorial Workshop & Forum Registration	750 €	850 €	950 €
Gala dinner	80 €	110 €	150 €