

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies
Research Seminar*

Supply Networks and Nexus Supplier Index

by

Prof. Thomas CHOI
Harold E. Fearon Eminent Scholar Chair of Purchasing Management
W. P. Carey School of Business
Arizona State University

Date: 11 January 2017 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30pm-3:30pm
Venue: M106, Li Ka Shing Tower
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

(Conducted in English)

Abstract:

Recent events involving supplier-caused business disruptions bring to the forefront the issue of managing critical suppliers that may exist deep in supply networks. While managing prominent top-tier, strategic suppliers is well understood, we have only just begun to recognize a different type of critical suppliers called nexus suppliers. Nexus suppliers can be several tiers removed in the supply network and hence may not have direct contact with the focal buying firm. They are critical because of their structural positions in the supply network. In this study, we explore the identification and categorization of nexus suppliers. Using a data-analytics approach, we compute what we call Nexus Supplier Index (NSI), a single unified measure that combines various network centrality measures to capture different aspects of a supplier's structural importance. Aided by the advances in publicly available data sources (i.e., Bloomberg Terminal), the proposed NSI model is empirically implemented for the real-world supply network of Honda Motor Company to demonstrate its use.

Bio:

Thomas Choi is Harold E. Fearon Eminent Scholar Chair of Purchasing Management at W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University. He leads **the study of** the upstream side of supply chains, where a buying company interfaces with many suppliers organized in various forms of networks.

He has published in the Academy of Management Executive, Decision Sciences, Harvard Business Review, Journal of Operations Management, Production and Operations Management and others. He has co-authored two trade books on purchasing and supply management.

Choi is executive director of CAPS Research, a joint venture between Arizona State University and the Institute for Supply Management. He also co-directs the Complex Adaptive Supply Networks Research Accelerator (CASN-RA), a research group focused on complex adaptive supply networks.

In 2012, he was recognized as the Distinguished Operations Management Scholar by the OM Division at the Academy of Management, and has consulted with numerous corporations. He served as co-EIC for the Journal of Operations Management from 2011 to 2014. Recent consulting work with the U.S. Department of Energy focused on the role of supply chains in bringing sustainable energy technologies to market.

Please email to irene.lam@polyu.edu.hk for enquiries.

All are welcome!