

Publishing Research on Open Source Software: Some Remarks

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Suggestions

- Paper Type I: Inductive research
- Paper Type II: Leverage phenomenon
- Paper type III: Develop/modify and test theory

Paper type I: Grounded research

- Create the “right” sample (not only Linux & Apache!)
- Use multiple data-sources, rich data, “thick” descriptions
- Exploit the transparency of data in the OSS-field
- Ensure construct validity
- Use qualitative AND quantitative analysis
- Carefully position research question and the emerging theory
- Emphasize research implications: Is your theory a contribution to existing models and research?
- Ensure acceptance in the field (feedback is often needed)

Paper type II: Leverage phenomenon

- Start with the nature of the phenomenon (does it open up, close down, or redirect a current academic debate? Does it revitalize a past debate?).
- Explain how the phenomenon challenges existing paradigms, theories, and/or models.
- Explain why this challenge matters, and explore the consequences.
- Explain what new theories (or new combinations of theories are called for).
- Define elements of a theory.
- Outline elements of a theory-building/research agenda.

Paper type III: Develop and/or test theory

- Position the research question in relation to academic literature (on theory AND open source software).
- Discuss theory/Develop propositions.
- Convert propositions into a testable model/hypotheses.
- Make sure your population and sample is connected to the research question/theory/model (Why is open source software the right empirical context for testing the theory? What do we gain or lose in this context?)
- Exploit the richness and transparency of the data.
- Discuss implications for theory and work on open source software, AND the practice of open source software development and/or other fields.

Motivations for private-collective innovation

*Some prior contributions**Research Focus (Examples)**Recent Contributions*

Bergquist and Ljungberg (2001)

- Individual incentives

Roberts et al.

Dalle and David (2003)

- Impact of firms' participation on individual motives

- Characteristics of individual motives

Franke and von Hippel (2003)

- Impact of community participation on individual motives

- The motives of firm's employees engaged in open source software development

Ghosh et al. (2002)

- Relationship between incentives and technical design

- Relationship between intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in producing a contribution to an open source software project

Hann et al. (2006)

Hars and Ou (2002)

Hertel et al. (2003)

Lakhani and von Hippel (2003)

Bagozzi and Dholakia

Lakhani et al. (2002)

- Psychological and social factors explaining engagement in open source software user groups (Linux user groups)

Lerner and Tirole (2001)

Osterloh et al. (2004)

- Motivation to conduct mundane work in an open source software project

Stenberg (2004)

von Hippel and von Krogh (2003)

Baldwin and Clark

Zeitlyn (2003)

- Incentives for developers to join and contribute to a modular open source software architecture
- Relationship between an open source software architecture and free riding