

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The wicked problem of climate change and interdisciplinary research: Tracking management scholarship's contribution

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Abstract

Taking urgent action to combat climate change is a pivotal Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Since it is closely intertwined with the other 16 goals, it is frequently characterized as a ‘wicked problem par excellence.’ Interdisciplinary research, i.e., research crossing disciplinary boundaries, offers promise for grappling with wicked problems, but also entails significant challenges to researchers. In this study, we use bibliometric methods to understand how management scholars have, over the course of four decades, straddled disciplinary boundaries and what impact their efforts have had on top-tier climate change research appearing in *Science* and *Nature*. We find that management scholarship on climate change (1) has grown significantly since the mid-2000s, (2) features substantial engagement with an interdisciplinary knowledge base, and (3) fails to attract the attention of climate change research within top-tier interdisciplinary journals. We discuss these findings with reference to the ongoing discourse on raising management scholarship's relevance and impact.

Key words: climate change; interdisciplinary research; interdisciplinarity; wicked problems; impact of management research; rigor and relevance

Introduction

Climate change has been referred to as a ‘wicked problem par excellence’ because it constitutes a series of linked problems that cannot be solved (or even diagnosed) in isolation (Termeer, Dewulf, & Breeman, 2013: 28)¹. These interdependencies are evident in the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)². Urgent action to combat climate change and its impact (Goal 13) is contingent on other SDGs being met, such as economies transitioning toward clean energy (Goal 7), production and consumption becoming more ‘green’ (Goal 12), and economic growth enabling public and private investment in innovations that support ecologically sustainable development (Goals 8 and 9). Delayed or ineffective action in mitigating and adapting to climate change is predicted to have severe and irreversible consequences for natural and human systems

¹The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2014 Assessment Report provides a useful definition of climate change: ‘Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use’ (IPCC, 2014: 120).

²The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has developed a visualization tool for the causal linkages between the SDGs, available at <https://sdginterlinkages.iges.jp>.

globally, such as flora and fauna under water (Goal 14) and on land (Goal 15), as well as food and water supplies (Goals 2 and 6). As the UN Secretary General noted in a recent review of progress on SDGs, a failure to address climate change ‘will directly threaten the attainment of all other Sustainable Development Goals’ (United Nations, 2019a: 6).

The assessment of a changing climate’s impact and the formulation of adaptation and mitigation strategies involve a high degree of complexity as well as uncertainty, and require joint efforts by diverse actors with diverging interests and understandings (Head, 2008). Interdisciplinary research, defined broadly as research activities crossing disciplinary boundaries, can help inform and support these efforts by enhancing problem-definition capacity and the potential for coherent action (Brown, Harris, & Russell, 2010; Gibbons, Limoges, Nowotny, Schwartzman, Scott, & Trow, 1994; Nowotny, Scott, & Gibbons, 2001). By carefully integrating, synthesizing, and reconciling multiple disciplinary problem diagnoses and conceptualizations, interdisciplinary scholarship can support the dialog between stakeholders and develop a shared understanding of the problem, and potential solutions (Conklin, 2006). Interdisciplinary research can also assist practitioners in conducting more robust and comprehensive assessments of the likely efficacy and efficiency of alternative pathways (Head, 2019).

Research in management and business (hereinafter ‘management’) has the capacity to contribute to interdisciplinary research efforts to support climate action, particularly to advance understanding of the socio-economic impact of climate change and of climate change responses. Management scholars have the potential to guide the formulation and implementation of response strategies by harnessing their insights into the management of organizational change and stakeholder relationships, sustainable business practices, control systems, and consumer behavior, among other issues (Beske & Seuring, 2014; Griskevicius, Cantú, & Van Vugt, 2012; Härtel & Pearman, 2010; Maas, Schaltegger, & Crutzen, 2016; Winn, Kirchgeorg, Griffi, Linnenluecke, & Günther, 2011; Wright & Nyberg, 2017).

Despite the obvious capacity to contribute, management scholarship confronts formidable barriers to interdisciplinary impact. More broadly, integrating social science scholarship into climate change research and policy-making has frequently proven challenging. Victor (2015), for example, notes that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ‘has engaged only a narrow slice of social sciences disciplines,’ namely economics. He further criticizes the panel’s tendency to report ‘stylized, replicable models’ rather than discuss controversial issues and findings that seek to reflect messy social behavior. Similar concerns about the limited consideration of the full breadth of the social sciences in published climate change research have been articulated repeatedly (Billi, Blanco, & Urquiza, 2019; Castree et al., 2014; Yearley, 2009).

In this paper, we examine the extent to which management research has been able to contribute its unique perspective to interdisciplinary climate change research over the last four decades. Our study is guided by two research questions. First, building on work by Goodall (2008) and Nyberg and Wright (forthcoming), we examine how management scholarship engages with climate change – the phenomenon *per se* and the phenomenon as investigated in other disciplines. Second, we assess what impact management scholarship has on climate change research appearing in the top-level interdisciplinary journals *Science* and *Nature*. Given that both these journals are highly interdisciplinary in their backward references³, our investigation represents a conservative test: failure to be included in the knowledge base of two of the most avowedly interdisciplinary journals constitutes a failure in interdisciplinary impact.

For our analyses, we curated two bibliometric data sets of research papers from the management disciplines and from the journals *Nature* and *Science* published between 1980 and 2018, as well as the items referenced by and citing these papers. We find that management scholarship engages significantly with top-tier climate change research but trails other social science

³*Science* and *Nature* are more interdisciplinary in terms of their knowledge base (backward references) and impact (forward citations) than 99.7% of other journals (Gates, Ke, Varol, & Barabási, 2019: 34).

disciplines in influencing such research. We conclude by discussing the implications for the management disciplines' capacity to help address the wicked problem of climate change.

Conceptual Foundation

The concept of interdisciplinarity is central to our analyses of management research on climate change. The concept allows us to systematically assess the depth as well as the breadth of knowledge scholars draw from prior research, and to examine the reach of their insights and findings once published. Below we elaborate the concept of interdisciplinarity and its operationalization.

Interdisciplinarity and its derivatives

Despite the widespread resonance of interdisciplinarity, its meaning and its implications are contested. Frequently, interdisciplinarity is used as a convenient umbrella concept (Hirsch & Levin, 1999) to describe a variety of different activities, components, and degrees of disciplinary integration. Further, a variety of terms are currently in use to describe similar phenomena. Aside from *interdisciplinarity*, authors also employ *multidisciplinarity*, *crossdisciplinarity*, and *transdisciplinarity* to characterize research endeavors involving 'multiple disciplines to varying degrees on the same continuum' (Choi & Pak, 2006: 359). These terms are often poorly and arbitrarily differentiated in the literature, and are sometimes used interchangeably, resembling an enduring 'terminological quagmire' (Leathard, 1994: 6).

We adopt a broad conceptualization of interdisciplinarity as research activities transgressing disciplinary boundaries (Bjurström & Polk, 2011; Strathern, 2004). We follow convention by distinguishing *narrow* interdisciplinarity, connecting disciplines with similar epistemologies (e.g., physics and geology) from *broad* interdisciplinarity, connecting disciplines with dissimilar epistemologies (e.g., physics and sociology) (Bjurström & Polk, 2011). Connecting the natural and social sciences is the most distinct example of broad interdisciplinarity (Bjurström & Polk, 2011).

A particularly interesting debate within the research on interdisciplinarity concerns its evolution over time. Many scholars contend that research needs to become ever more interdisciplinarity in response to increasingly complex challenges (Forman & Markus, 2005; Metzger & Zare, 1999). Some even posit that contemporary science has moved into a postdisciplinary stage, steadily eroding the disciplinary bases of research (Gibbons et al., 1994; Nowotny et al., 2001). Others contend the opposite, arguing for a distinct life-cycle dynamic: interdisciplinarity may only be required for the earliest research into a new phenomenon before giving way to more discipline-based scholarship (Leydesdorff & Goldstone, 2014; Olsen, Borlaug, Klitkou, Lyall, & Yearley, 2013).

Bibliometric studies present mixed findings regarding temporal trends in interdisciplinarity. Van Noorden's (2015) study of articles from all disciplines contained in the Web of Science (WoS) database reveals that the proportion of citations from outside the home discipline was identical in 1950 and 2010 for articles originating from the natural sciences and engineering (following a decades-long slump), and increased somewhat over the same period for articles originating from the social sciences. That picture corresponds with earlier analyses by Van Leeuwen and Tijssen (2000), comparing boundary-crossing co-citations for multiple disciplines and finding little evidence for a change between 1985 and 1995. By contrast, Porter and Rafols (2009), mapping six broad research domains between 1975 and 2005, document an increase in interdisciplinarity by 50%, albeit overwhelmingly on account of *narrow* interdisciplinarity, i.e., research across closely related disciplines. These nuances and apparent inconsistencies across a small number of representative studies hint at the contentiousness of the interdisciplinarity concept, its operationalization and ultimate effects (e.g., Bjurström & Polk, 2011; Leydesdorff & Rafols, 2011).

Interdisciplinarity in climate research

The origins of climate change research can be traced back to early investigations in geophysics and meteorology. Separately and, beginning in the 1950s, jointly, these disciplines formed the foundations for modern-day climate science. The emergence of the overarching *earth sciences* in the 1970s and 1980s, and the creation of the IPCC framework in 1989, paved the way for other disciplines to contribute to climate change research (Weart, 2013). This, in turn, led to the growth in interdisciplinary research centers, such as the UNSW Climate Change Research Centre, New Zealand Climate Change Research Institute, and the UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research.

Despite these interdisciplinary origins, the nature and dynamics of interdisciplinarity in climate change research are hotly contested. Some suggest that 'the disciplinary mix has continued to evolve to meet the [inter-disciplinary] challenge' of climate change (Munasinghe, 2001: 14) and document a rise in interdisciplinarity (e.g., Hellsten & Leydesdorff, 2016). Others highlight the difficulties in bridging deep epistemic divides and view integration an impossibility (e.g., Malone & Rayner, 2001). Taking an overarching perspective, Bjurström and Polk (2011) find that disciplinary integration within climate change research occurs primarily as *narrow interdisciplinarity*, defined as straddling related disciplines, and only rarely as *broad interdisciplinarity*, defined as transgressing the boundary between the natural and social sciences. As such, they do not support Gibbons et al.'s well-known argument that societal needs for 'socially robust knowledge' invariably lead to an (interdisciplinary) re-shaping of science (Gibbons et al., 1994; Nowotny, Scott, & Gibbons, 2001). Bjurström and Polk (2011) interpret their results as reaffirming the mostly disciplinary structure of climate change research, with a persistent divide between the natural and social sciences.

Given these findings, we examine more closely how management research has navigated the challenges of interdisciplinarity. We start by investigating management research's concern with the phenomenon of climate change *per se*. We then explore to what extent management scholarship on the topic has been (narrowly or broadly) interdisciplinary in engaging with climate change research conducted in other disciplines (and appearing in the journals *Nature* and *Science*). Finally, we explore the impact of management scholarship on other disciplines (as represented in climate change research appearing in the journals *Nature* and *Science*).

Methods and Data

Search strategy

To investigate management scholarship's engagement with climate change and with climate change research originating in other disciplines, we built two bibliometric data sets using Clarivate's WoS database⁴. The first data set, labeled 'Management Climate Change Research' (MCCR), comprises climate change-related articles in management journals from 1980 to 2018. The second data set, labeled 'Science and Nature Climate Change Research' (SNCCR), comprises climate change-related articles published in the two avowedly interdisciplinary journals *Science* and *Nature* from 1980 to 2018. Both data sets contain information about the items' backward references, i.e., references to prior research, and their forward citations, i.e., references made to the items in our data sets by WoS-indexed publications.

Our search strategy employed inclusive search terms to reduce the likelihood of Type II errors in the initial identification of potentially relevant publications. Any Type I errors that may result from this inclusive approach were contained with subsequent checks and filters. To determine the search string for the initial selection of articles, we consulted prior bibliometric reviews of climate change research (Haunschild, Bornmann, & Marx, 2016; Wang, Zhao, & Wang, 2018) and

⁴We chose the Web of Science database as our data source for its comprehensive historical coverage and its detailed statistics about academic journals' cumulative citations (e.g., the journal impact factor).

Clarivate's experts. Ultimately, the following string was used for the topic search (field 'TS') for English-language items published between 1980 and 2018 and listed in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), and Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI):

TS = ((/* climat* chang*') or ('* climat* warming*') or ('* global temperature*') or ('* global warming*') or ('* greenhouse gas*') or ('* greenhouse effect*') or ('* greenhouse warm*') or ('* anthropogenic warming*') or ('* anthropogenic emission*') or ('* climat* model*'))

In creating the MCCR data set, we included results from all four WoS subject categories (field 'WC') related to management: 'business,' 'management,' 'business, finance' (subsequently referred to as 'finance'), and 'operations & management science' (subsequently referred to as 'operations'). We restricted results to the document types (field 'DT') 'article,' 'editorial material,' 'review,' 'book review,' 'letter,' and 'news item'⁵. In contrast to Goodall (2008) and Nyberg and Wright (forthcoming), we included items from *all* journals within these subject categories in our database. Restricting the analysis to a small set of top journals would have risked misrepresenting editorial preferences for actual scholarly engagement within management disciplines with the topic of climate change.

The search results were verified with a random sample of 180 articles (10% of the articles contained in the data set). Specifically, two of the authors independently reviewed the sampled articles' relevance to climate change based on title and abstract. Disagreements in the evaluation of an article's relevance were resolved through discussion. The review identified seven false positives, i.e., items that were not relevant to our search topic. One of these false positives was a research article about organizational climate. Based on this finding, we were able to identify and exclude 11 other articles about 'work climate,' 'safety climate,' 'ethical climate,' etc. The final MCCR data set included 1,724 unique articles, with a total of 94,692 backward references and 42,012 forward citations.

In creating the SNCCR data set, we used the same topic search string, and same parameters concerning language, time frame, document type, and database specifications as for the management data set, but restricted results to the journals (source title field 'SO') *Science* and *Nature*. The initial search results were again verified with a random sample of 180 articles (6% of the articles contained in the data set) by two of the authors. The review identified only one false positive, an article about climate change on the planet Mars. In response, we were able to identify 23 other articles about the climate of planets other than Earth and excluded them from the data set. The final SNCCR data set included 2,981 unique *Science* and *Nature* articles, with a total of 59,295 backward references and 600,710 forward citations. These item counts are comparable to those presented in other recent bibliometric analyses of climate change journal publications (Haunschild, Bornmann, & Marx, 2016).

Disciplinary classification

For our analyses, the disciplinary classification of articles is of central importance because interdisciplinarity implies a crossing of disciplinary boundaries. We therefore need to establish initially what constitutes a discipline and its demarcations. Disciplines are institutional custodians of specialist knowledge, but they are also in exchange with one another and at times share substantive knowledge content (Geertz, 1980). While disciplines evolve and, on occasion, new ones

⁵'News items' and 'letters' are exceedingly rare in the management-related categories but we include them for reasons of consistency with our SNCCR dataset, where they account for a significant share of entries.

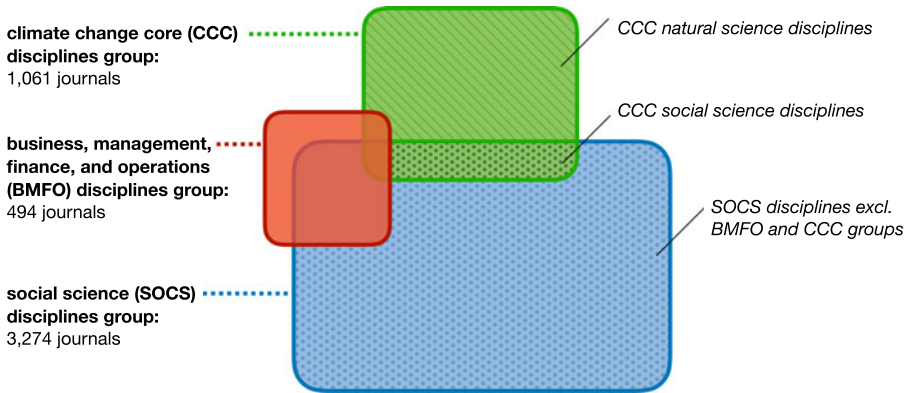


Figure 1. Overview of three groups for the analysis of interdisciplinary engagement within climate change research.

emerge (Bonaccorsi & Vargas, 2010), disciplinary boundaries, on the whole, are remarkably stable (Abbott, 2001).

We follow prior bibliometric studies of interdisciplinarity (Leydesdorff, Rafols, & Chen, 2013; Solomon, Carley, & Porter, 2016) in utilizing WoS's subject categories (field 'WC') to delineate disciplinary boundaries and interdisciplinary connections. WoS assigns subject categories to articles and to journals. These categories are the foundation for within-discipline journal rankings based on Journal Impact Factors (JIFs). While a journal can be affiliated with multiple subject categories, most journals are affiliated with only one. For example, the journal *Organization & Environment* is associated with the two disciplines 'environmental studies' and 'management.' In 2018, it was in the top quartile ('Q1') for both disciplines, ranked 8th for the former and 16th for the latter. The journals *Nature* and *Science* are associated with the special category 'multidisciplinary sciences,' and based on their JIFs were ranked 1st and 2nd, respectively, in 2018, and hence are at the very top of the Q1 set of journals in the category. WoS also associates journals with its three main indices, SCIE, SSCI, and AHCI. 8% of journals are associated with more than one index. For example, the journal *Ecology & Society* is listed in both the SCIE and SSCI.

For our analyses, we make use of journals' association with subject categories and WoS indices to quantify papers' degree of narrow and broad interdisciplinarity of backward references. To this end, we created three groups to aid in delineating interdisciplinary referencing. The social science ('SOCS') disciplines group comprises all 3,274 journals that are listed in the Social Science Citation Index (including those journals with multiple index affiliations). The Climate Change Core ('CCC') disciplines group comprises all 1,061 journals that are associated with the 10 most common WoS subject categories in climate change research, specifically 'environmental sciences,' 'meteorology and atmospheric sciences,' 'multidisciplinary geosciences,' 'ecology,' 'environmental studies,' 'energy and fuels,' 'water resources,' 'physical geography,' 'multidisciplinary sciences,' and 'environmental engineering.' Of these 10, only environmental studies is associated with the SOCS. Collectively, the 10 categories account for two-thirds of all climate change research (using the search string above) across the WoS SCIE, SSCI, and AHCE databases. The third group, the 'BMFO' disciplines group, comprises all 494 English-language journals from the business, management, finance, and operations disciplines. Within the BMFO group, some journals are associated with more than one of the BMFO disciplines and some journal associations are incongruous with the respective journals' mission statements. Hence, we adjusted the disciplinary associations and assigned journals to a single, primary discipline (see Appendix for details). The adjustments result in a set of 66 business, 201 management, 112 finance, and 115 operations journals. Figure 1 provides an overview of how the three groups (SOCS, CCC, BMFS) overlap and intersect.

Table 1. Integrative climate change research themes (adapted from NRC (National Research Council) (U.S.), 2011)

General categories	Research themes	Description
Understanding	1. Scientific understanding of climate change	Research related to climate forcings, feedbacks, responses, and thresholds in the earth system
	2. Climate-related human behaviors and institutions	Research related to human interactions and the role of institutions and organizations with climate systems
Response	3. Vulnerability and adaptation	Research related to vulnerability and resilience of coupled human-environmental systems
	4. Strategies for limiting climate change	Research-related development of technologies, policy and practices to limit the magnitude of future climate change
	5. Decision-support systems	Research related to improvement and support of effective and integrated decision-making about climate change
Tools and approaches	6. Integrated climate observing systems	Research related to the development of robust observations, protocols, and technologies for monitoring climate change
	7. Projections, analyses, and assessments	Research related to the development of models, tools, and approaches for improving projections, analyses, and assessments of climate change

Lastly, in our analyses of narrow and broad interdisciplinarity, we distinguish, for more gradation, between references to a native discipline, and non-native disciplines. For example, an item published in *Organization & Environment*, a journal whose primary discipline is management, may contain references to items published in finance journals. We designate these as non-native references within the BMFO disciplines group, an indicator for narrow interdisciplinarity. For items from the SNCCR data set, we base the native/non-native designation on the item-level (not journal-level) disciplinary affiliation, since both *Science* and *Nature* are in the multidisciplinary sciences journal category. Using the item-level disciplinary designation allows for a more precise assessment of interdisciplinary referencing in these articles⁶.

Item content coding

Using two samples from the MCCR and SNCCR data sets, respectively, we undertook qualitative holistic coding (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014) to identify research themes and the degree of engagement with climate change. Holistic coding typically involves applying a single code to an entire item, rather than line-by-line coding (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014). Multiple researchers worked independently to categorize items; a very small number of divergent allocations were resolved through team discussion (Saldaña, 2009).

We coded the items according to seven integrative themes proposed by the Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change convened by the United States' *National Research Council* (NRC). The themes can be grouped into the three overarching categories of 'understanding' (research devoted to the scientific understanding of climate change and its interactions with coupled human-environment systems), 'response' (solution-focused research devoted to improving and supporting more effective responses to climate change), and 'tools and approaches' (creation of tools and approaches required for both understanding and responding to climate change) (see Table 1). The themes and overarching categories provide a systematic way to classify climate

⁶For example, 78% of *Nature* articles are associated with specific disciplines such as 'ecology' or 'oceanography'; the remaining 22% are designated as 'multidisciplinary sciences.'

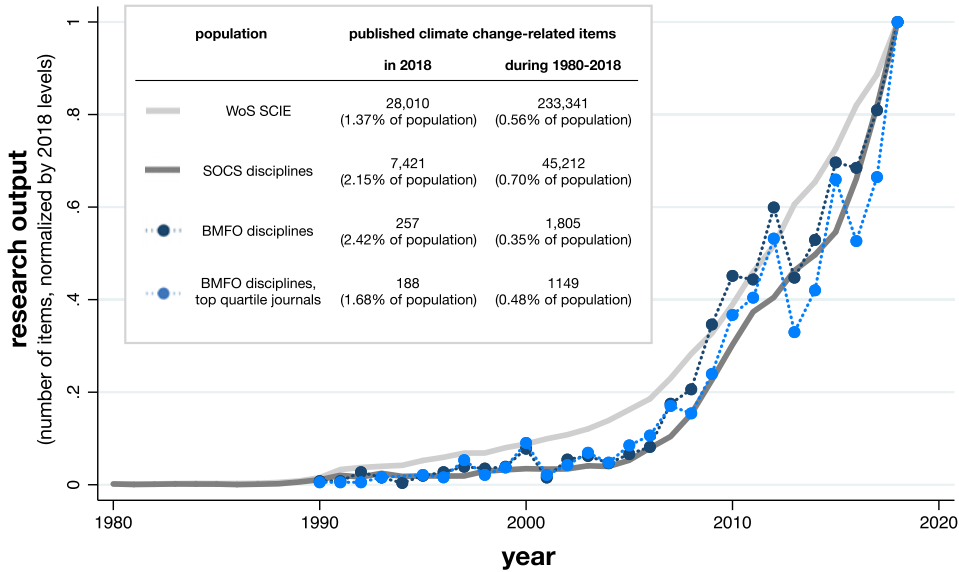


Figure 2. Growth of climate change research over time. WoS SCIE = Web of Science, Science Citation Index Expanded; SOCS = Social Sciences; BMFO = Business, Management, Finance, and Operations.

change research (NRC (National Research Council) (U.S.), 2011: 91). In our coding, and in line with the Panel’s recommendations, a single research paper may address several of the research themes and thus may be assigned to multiple categories.

The coding process revealed that items in the MCCR and SNCCR data sets vary with regards to their depth of engagement with the topic of climate change. Some items use climate change as a stepping-off point to introduce their phenomenon of interest. For example, a substantial number of disaster management-related items in the MCCR data set briefly note that global warming increases the incidence of extreme weather events, thus highlighting the importance of the research presented, before drilling down into the focal disaster management issue. In contrast, a number of studies on corporate governance investigate board of directors’ responsibilities in climate change-related decision-making. They consider, in some detail, the specific challenges of, and responses to, climate change that need to be considered by decision-makers (e.g., Prado-Lorenzo & Garcia-Sanchez, 2010). We discuss these differences in the degree of engagement below, distinguishing between ‘token engagement’ and ‘direct engagement.’

Results

Research output

Management scholars are not oblivious to the problems facing the planet and human kind. Over the period 1980–2018, 1,725 items were published in 257 different journals. Notably, 64% of the items were published in top quartile journals. At the same time, the absolute number of management publications on the topic appears miniscule compared to the more than 200,000 published papers on climate change across all disciplines (Haunschild, Bornmann, & Marx, 2016); or even when compared to the approximately 40,000 publications in the social sciences. However, when considering the vastly different quantities of publications across these different groupings, management scholarship’s respectable engagement with climate change comes to light. Specifically, .35% of all items published in BMFO journals during the 39-year period we examined were related to climate change. This is about half the scholarly attention the topic received across

Table 2. Overview of management research on climate change-related issues 1980–2018

Period	Management sub-category	Output					Forward citations	
		Item count	% of items in top quartile journals	Cumulative impact (sum of items' forward)	Median impact per item	Maximum impact	Highest impact journals (number of items item median impact)	Examples of highly cited articles
1990–1999	Business	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
	Management	31	52	1,460	18	381	J OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECON AND MGMT (9 24); SYSTEM DYNAMICS REV (3 87); TOURISM MANAGEMENT (2 53.5); TECHNOVATION (1 45); INTERFACES (1 44)	Kolstad (1996) develops a model for the optimal regulation of greenhouse gases, considers how uncertainty and learning influence such regulation, and discusses the flexibility benefits of a temporary carbon tax.
	Finance	4	50	0	–	–	FORBES (2 0); WORLD ECONOMY (2 0)	Bailey (1997) expresses skepticism about President Bill Clinton's and Vice President Al Gore warnings about global warming and the necessity of policies aimed at the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
	Operations	8	75	411	37.5	157	INTERNATIONAL J OF OPERATIONS & LOGISTICS MGMT (1 157); EUROPEAN J OF OPERATIONAL RES (5 1); OPERATIONS RES LETTERS (1 83); J OF FORECASTING (1 28)	Gupta (1995) provides an overview of environmental management practices in the operations function, and the potential of such practices to provide a distinctive competence and yield a competitive advantage.
2000–2009	Business	7	0	180	11	108	INTERNATIONAL J OF CONSUMER STUDIES (5 20); PUBLIC RELATIONS REV (1 9); J OF MACROMARKETING (1 5)	Krause (2009) reviews tobacco consumption research to identify conditions that led to behavior change, and suggests that these

							conditions – especially when tied to the issue of climate change – can aid the reduction of environmentally unsustainable household consumption.
Management	183	73	9,370	22	548	J OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECON AND MGMT (36 54.5); TECH FORECASTING AND SOCIAL CHANGE (35 26); TOURISM MANAGEMENT (11 49); J OF MGMT STUDIES (2 323.5); HARVARD BUSINESS REV (15 5)	Reid & Toffel (2009) present empirical evidence that both private politics in the form of shareholder resolutions filed against a firm, and public politics in the form of threats of state regulations targeted at a firm's industry increase a firm's propensity to disclose information about its climate change strategies.
Finance	49	59	1,650	3	269	EUROPEAN ACCOUNTING REV (4 81); J OF RISK AND UNCERTAINTY (2 66.5); ACCOUNTING ORG AND SOCIETY (2 177); GENEVA PAPERS ON RISK AND INSURANCE (13 4); WORLD BANK ECON REV (1 184)	Callon (2009) discusses carbon markets as ongoing <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> experiments, in which reconfigurations emerge from debates among stakeholders from the economy, politics and science, and which provide an opportunity to study the dynamics of multi-stakeholder 'problematization.'
Operations	18	78	784	17.5	288	MGMT SCIENCE (1 288); RELIABILITY ENG & SYS SAFETY (1 104); INTERNATIONAL J OF PRODUCTION ECON (1 100); INT J OF FORECASTING (4 21); EXPERT SYSTEMS WITH APPL (1 80)	Lempert, Groves, Popper, & Bankes (2006) describe an analytics method to develop robust strategies and narrative scenarios for decision-making under deep uncertainty, and demonstrates the method by developing pollution-control strategies

(Continued)

Table 2. (Continued.)

Period	Management sub-category	Output					Forward citations Highest impact journals (number of items item median impact)	Examples of highly cited articles
		Item count	% of items in top quartile journals	Cumulative impact (sum of items' forward	Median impact per item	Maximum impact		
2010–2018	Business	71	10	808	8	64	INTERNATIONAL J OF CONSUMER STUDIES (17 7); J OF MACROMARKETING (8 11); J OF CONSUMER BEHAVIOR (2 40.5); J OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRIAL MARKETING (3 11); J OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS (1 55); TECH FORECASTING AND SOCIAL CHANGE (116 12.5); J OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECON AND MGMT (123 8); BUSINESS STRATEGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (86 14); TOURISM MANAGEMENT (53 21); RESEARCH POLICY (19 32)	that ensure environmental sustainability.
	Management	953	68	18,731	8	214	Hoffman (2011) analyzes op-eds from major news outlets about climate change, and finds a schism between the climate change 'convinced' and climate change 'skeptical' arguments that is rooted in both sides' diverging framing choices and that leads to both sides demonizing each other.	
	Finance	138	43	1,966	7	139	ACCOUNTING AUDITING & ACCOUNTABILITY J (24 20); BRITISH ACCOUNTING REVIEW (6 13.5); AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING REV (7 8); WORLD ECONOMY (14 10); J OF INTERNATIONAL FIN MGMT (2 66.5)	Liao, Luo, & Tang (2015) find a positive association between UK firm's greenhouse gas disclosure practices and their board of directors' gender diversity, independence, and the existence and size of an environmental committee.

Operations	262	73	6,652	11	411	EUROPEAN J OF OPERATIONAL RES (43 11); INT J OF PRODUCTION ECON (21 30); TRANSPORTATION RES PART B (15 26); OMEGA INT J OF MGMT SCIENCE (9 19); MGMT SCI (7 22)	Brandenburg, Govindan, Sarkis, & Seuring (2014) review quantitative, formal models for sustainable supply chain management, and find the most frequently used tools to include the analytical hierarchy process, analytical network process, and life cycle analysis.
Grand Total	1,724	64	42,012				

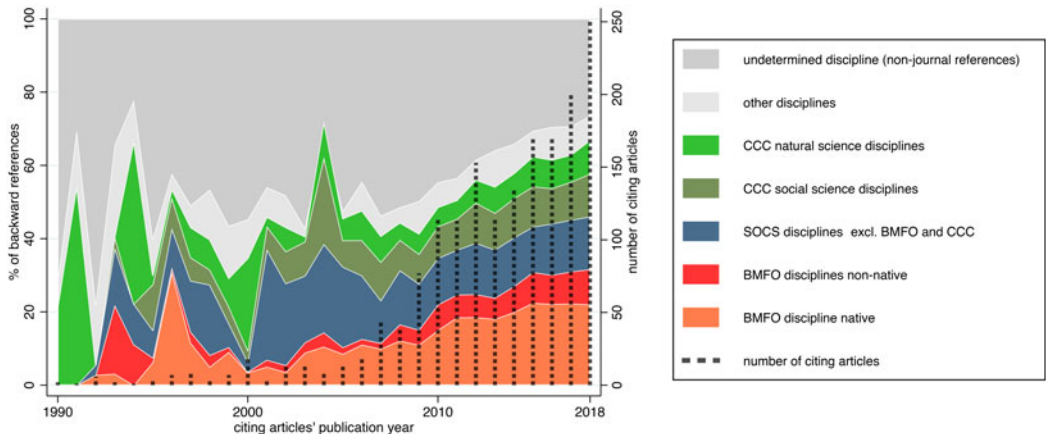


Figure 3. (Inter)disciplinary engagement of climate change-related management research (MCCR data set).

all social science disciplines (.7% of published papers between 1980 and 2018). However, management scholarship on climate change grew significantly from the mid-2000s, and at a rate comparable to that of the social sciences. Figure 2 shows that climate change-related research output captured in the MCCR data set, normalized by 2018 levels, followed the growth pattern of research on the topic in the social sciences, with a marked upturn in research output beginning in the second half of the 2000s.

Particularly encouraging is that throughout this growth, a disproportionate number of the items in the MCCR data set appeared in the top quartile of the management disciplines' journals (see percentages of items in Q1 journals, and lists of highest impact journals, in Table 2). This provides evidence that the topic has claimed its place in mainstream management-related journals and is not limited to the disciplinary fringes. In *management* and *operations* that tendency is particularly pronounced, with the majority of climate change-related research appearing in top quartile journals.

We now turn to management scholars' connection with climate change research appearing in other disciplines, labeled as interdisciplinary engagement (based on backward references) or interdisciplinary impact (based on forward citations).

Interdisciplinary engagement

The quantitative assessment of the MCCR items' backward references reveals substantial narrow and broad interdisciplinarity. References to journals outside their native discipline could be found in 92% of all items in the data set. Of the 94,692 backward references, 7.3% were made to non-native disciplines within the BMFO group (e.g., a finance journal article referencing research from management journals), 10.3% to environmental studies (the sole social science discipline in the CCC group), and 10.1% to other social sciences (principally to economics). Collectively, these represent the extent of narrow interdisciplinarity, i.e., engagement with epistemologically similar disciplines.

MCCR items also include a notable amount of references to journals outside the social sciences, indicative of broad interdisciplinary engagement: 7.4% of references go to natural science journals from the CCC group, and 13.2% to other disciplines. The journals *Science* and *Nature* are well-represented in the broad interdisciplinary engagement efforts: they are among the top 5 most frequently cited journals outside the BMFO group. We also note a substantial share (34%) of nonjournal references. These prominently include books on climate as well as government and other reports (such as the IPCC's).

Table 3. Coding results for seven research themes based on a sample of 121 MCCR items

General categories	Research themes	Number of MCCR items referencing research from <i>Science/Nature</i> ^a	Number of <i>Science/Nature</i> items referenced	Examples of MCCR items referencing <i>Science/Nature</i> research
Understanding	1. Scientific understanding of climate change	4	22	Fildes and Kourentzes (2011) examine climate model appraisal criteria to highlight the importance of forecast accuracy for environmental planning. They utilize data provided by Smith, Cusack, Colman, Folland, Harris, and Murphy (2007) in the model comparison.
	2. Climate-related human behaviors and institutions	85	270	Ang and Gupta (2018) study the impact of agricultural yield on intra-state conflict. They use Hoegh-Guldberg et al. (2007) and Wheeler and von Braun (2013) to highlight the potential effects of climate change on the yield–conflict relationship.
Response	3. Vulnerability and adaptation	15	43	Linnenluecke and Griffiths (2010) examine organizational adaptation and resilience to climate change. They draw on Webster, Holland, Curry, and Chang (2005), Emanuel (2005) and Stott, Stone, and Allen (2004) to highlight consequences of climate change.
	4. Strategies for limiting climate change	6	7	Chesney, Lasserre, and Troja (2017) examine climate change mitigation decision-making. They draw on Rosenzweig and Parry (1994) to highlight economic impacts of climate change.
	5. Decision-support systems	35	106	Ferraro, Etzion, and Gehman (2015) examine organizational strategies for tackling grand challenges. They use Dietz, Ostrom, and Stern (2003) to illustrate and explain climate change as a grand challenge.
Tools and approaches	6. Integrated climate observing systems	0	–	–
	7. Projections, analyses, and assessments	54	176	Berger, Emmerling, and Tavoni (2017) use an integrated assessment model to examine the impact of risk and model uncertainty on optimal abatement policy. They draw on Matthews, Gillett, Stott, and Zickfeld (2009) in their discussion of carbon-climate response.

^aMCCR items can cover multiple research themes, and hence are included in the counts of multiple themes.

Figure 3 visualizes how these patterns of backward references evolved over time. The figure shows gradations of interdisciplinarity, ranging from native, within-discipline, and narrowly interdisciplinary references at the bottom to increasingly broad interdisciplinary references at the top layers. After 2010, the share of references to natural and to social science journals in the CCC group stabilized at around 7% and 10% of yearly references, respectively. The percentage

Table 4. Top 10 referenced social science disciplines in SNCCR data set

Social science discipline	Number of references associated with discipline ^a	Share of references to social science disciplines
Environmental Studies	912	36%
Economics	525	21%
Anthropology	232	9%
Public, Environmental & Occupational Health	200	8%
Geography	193	8%
Green & Sustainable Science & Technology	110	4%
International Relations	53	2%
Regional & Urban Planning	50	2%
Political Science	45	2%
Social Sciences, Mathematical Methods	37	1%

^aCited references can be associated with multiple social science disciplines.

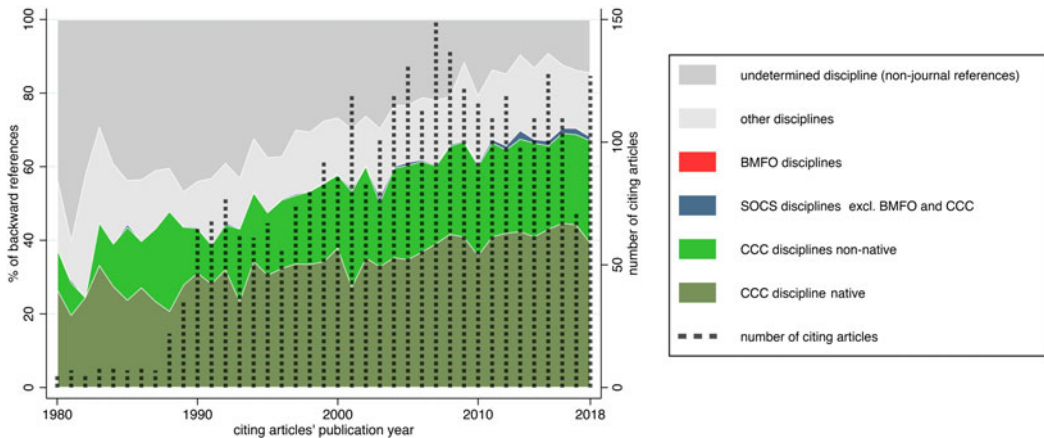


Figure 4. (Inter)disciplinary engagement of *Science* and *Nature* climate change research (SNCCR data set).

of native disciplinary references increased from 15% in 2010 to 22% in 2018, replacing primarily nonjournal references. The share of references to journals from the SOCS group peaked during the early 2000s and declined thereafter. The general pattern of substantial and sustained broad interdisciplinary engagement holds true for articles from all four BMFO group disciplines, with articles published in management journals showing the strongest engagement with the CCC group disciplines.

To investigate in more detail *how* management scholars integrate research from across various disciplines, we coded a sample of 121 items in the MCCR data set. Because we are particularly interested in how scholars engage top-tier multidisciplinary climate change research, we drew our sample from the 443 MCCR items that contained at least one reference to either *Science* or *Nature*.

Table 5. Coding results for seven research themes based on 26 items from the journals *Science* and *Nature*

General categories	Research theme	Number of SNCCR items referencing management research ^a	Number of management items referenced	Examples of SNCCR items referencing management research
Understanding	1. Scientific understanding of climate change	3	4	Sutton and Hodson (2005) examine basin-scale changes in the Atlantic Ocean. They draw on Folland, Owen, Ward, and Colman (1991) to illustrate precipitation anomalies in western Europe and the Sahel.
	2. Climate-related human behaviors and institutions	22	32	Amel et al. (2017) study of ecosystem conservation draws on Inoue and Alfaro-Barrantes (2015), Goldstein, Cialdini, and Griskevicius (2008), and Robertson and Barling (2013) to explore individual behavior and human inaction.
Response	3. Vulnerability and adaptation	1	1	Wheeler and von Braun (2013) study of global food security draws on Shimi, Parvin, Biswas, and Shaw (2010) in their discussion of food utilization.
	4. Strategies for limiting climate change	2	2	Paustian, Lehmann, Ogle, Reay, Robertson, and Smith (2016) study of ‘smart soils’ use Horowitz and Just (2013) to highlight farmers’ incentive structure for the mitigation of greenhouse gases.
	5. Decision-support systems	13	13	Steinacher, Joos, and Stocker (2013) study carbon emissions and draw on Grüber et al. (2007) in their development of feasible greenhouse gas scenarios.
Tools and approaches	6. Integrated climate observing systems	0	–	–
	7. Projections, analyses, and assessments	12	20	Schindler and Hilborn (2015) study ecosystem forecasting use Schoemaker (1995) to highlight the importance of scenario planning.

^aSNCCR items can cover multiple research themes, and hence are included in the counts of multiple themes.

Table 3 shows, across the seven research themes, how many MCCR research papers reference items published in *Science* or *Nature*, and how many such items they cumulatively reference. The table also provides illustrative examples for each theme, summarizing representative MCCR items and their use of research published in *Science* or *Nature*. Seven out of the 121 MCCR items we coded only featured token references to climate change and consequently were not assigned to any of the seven research themes⁷. The remaining MCCR items engaged with the topic of climate

⁷In these cases, climate change typically featured in the introduction or discussion as one of several examples of a phenomenon relevant to the focal topic. For example, Dentoni, Bitzer, and Schouten (2018) mention climate change as one of several examples of wicked problems before proceeding to investigate multi-stakeholder partnerships.

change directly and adopted one or more research themes. MCCR items spanned a range of topics related to climate change, including organizational resilience, environmental accounting, risk management, and corporate social responsibility, as well as a range of contexts, including the agricultural sector, carbon pricing, energy markets, and financial markets.

Interdisciplinary research impact

We noted above that management disciplines' research on climate change does attract significant scholarly attention, as evidenced by the items' relatively high number of forward citations. Yet for that scholarship to contribute to addressing the wicked problem of climate change, it needs to be noticed and utilized outside of its disciplinary boundaries, and ultimately find an audience outside of academia.

Of the 2,981 items in the SNCCR data set, only 26 items reference research from BMFO disciplines. Of the 1,745 items in the MCCR data set, only 19 feature among the 48 unique BMFO items referenced by the SNCCR items. The low engagement of SNCCR items with research from management disciplines should be considered in a context of (1) increasing interdisciplinarity of research published in *Science* and *Nature*, and (2) persistently low overall engagement with, and integration of, social science research. From 1980 to 2018, the number of unique *disciplines* cited by the 2,935 SNCCR items grew, from only eight different disciplines (all from the natural sciences) in 1980 to a total of 124 different disciplines (38 of them from the social sciences) in 2018. The most frequently referenced social science disciplines are environmental studies, economics, and anthropology (see [Table 4](#)).

Despite this broadening of the knowledge base, however, the share of references to articles from social science disciplines remained low, reaching its highest level at just under 6% of total references in the year 2016. [Figure 4](#) visualizes the gradations of interdisciplinary referencing over time (as in [Figure 3](#), the groups are layered from the bottom to the top with increasingly broad interdisciplinarity). The figure reveals that social science disciplines other than environmental studies (the sole social science discipline in the CCC group) are all but absent before 2010 and constitute only a small share of references after 2010. References to BMFO disciplines are so low that they are invisible in the figure.

To investigate *how* items in the SNCCR data set integrate management disciplines' climate change-related research, we coded all SNCCR items citing management disciplines research (total sample of 26 SNCCR items and 40 cited management papers).

[Table 5](#) presents the seven research themes identified in the SNCCR items referencing management research as well as the number of management items referenced cumulatively by the *Science/Nature* items associated with each theme. [Table 5](#) also provides an exemplar for each theme, summarizing the climate change focus of the SNCCR item and how utilized management research. Five out of 26 SNCCR items were classified as token references and were not assigned to any research themes⁸. The remaining *Science/Nature* items engaged with the topic of climate change directly. For instance, Wheeler and von Braun (2013) investigate the impact of climate change on global food security to highlight adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The management research that does get cited by the SNCCR data set represents a diverse set of articles featuring climate change, including sustainable development, applied scenario planning, and risk financing and insurance. In most cases, the *Nature* and *Science* climate change papers that draw on management scholarship only cite a single item. Overall, references to top-tier management journals are rare. Only two out of 26 SNCCR items featured direct use of the management research. For example, Steinacher, Joos, and Stocker's (2013) study of carbon emissions utilized scenario modelling as described in Grubler et al. (2007). In the majority of SNCCR

⁸For example, in Michel-Kerjan and Kunreuther's (2011) study of flood insurance, climate change is simply listed as one of several reasons for more extreme weather events.

items, the research from management disciplines provided the context or precursor to the main topic. Management disciplines' broad range of theories, such as those regarding institutions, stakeholder management, and complexity (Ansari, Gray, & Wijen, 2011) have great potential relevance for the wicked problem of climate change. Yet they mostly remained underutilized by SNCCR items (see also Daddi, Todaro, De Giacomo, & Frey, 2018, on this point), which typically only feature a generic cite of the article's general topic or empirical finding (e.g., Sutton & Hodson, 2005). A notable exception is the study of ecosystem conservation by Amel, Manning, Scott, and Koger (2017), in which the authors engage more fully with the concepts of organizational culture, norms, and leadership, as set out in the management research they reference.

Discussion

Climate change is a wicked problem, characterized by intertwined bio-physical and social processes. Interdisciplinary work carries the promise of addressing these interdependencies, furthering our understanding and honing our responses. Yet bringing together the natural and social science communities remains a formidable challenge in the face of ingrained epistemic, methodological, and structural boundaries that tend to divide the disciplines (Härtel & Pearman, 2010; Mooney, Duraiappah, & Larigauderie, 2013; Victor, 2015). Some suggest that 'the social' of climate change has been downplayed and mostly treated in a reductionist fashion (Billi, Blanco, & Urquiza, 2019; Victor, 2015).

Recognizing the challenges of interdisciplinarity, the present paper aimed to establish 'stylized facts' (Helfat, 2007) regarding management scholars' connection with climate change – the phenomenon *per se*, as well as climate change research appearing in other disciplines. Our investigation uncovered the following:

- Management research, broadly defined, is increasingly concerned with the phenomenon of climate change, as evident in significant and growing numbers of articles centered on the topic.
- Climate change-related management research spans across the spectrum of research themes identified by the NRC's Panel on Advancing the Science of Climate Change.
- Management research is incorporating into its knowledge base climate change research appearing outside the discipline, in the form of substantial narrow as well as broad interdisciplinary references.
- Management research is exceedingly rarely cited by climate change research appearing in the most high-profile interdisciplinary research outlets *Nature* and *Science*.

Our findings provide a different perspective on climate change research in management than Goodall's (2008) and Nyberg and Wright's (forthcoming) assessments. Goodall's review of climate change research in management up to the year 2006 led her to lament that, at the time, the discipline's top journals had 'barely published an article on the topic' (p. 408). Similarly, Nyberg and Wright (forthcoming), following their analysis of top management publications for the period 2007–2018, conclude that there is evident neglect of climate change research in the 'management academy.' Using a more inclusive search strategy (incorporating business, management, operations, and finance journals), we confirm limited research attention to climate change between 1980 and 2006 (130 articles, 75% of which are published in top quartile journals). But we also detect a remarkable growth in climate change-related research thereafter (2007–2018: 1,594 articles). Over the timeframe examined, specialized management journals such as *Business Strategy and the Environment* and *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management* have significantly increased the number of articles they publish per year, and as a result have emerged as key outlets for climate change-related management research. Additionally, editorial clarion calls (e.g., Howard-Grenville, Buckle, Hoskins, & George, 2014)

and Special Issues (e.g., *Organization Studies*, 2012, Issue 11) have strengthened the topic's legitimacy *within* the management disciplines. In short, our findings lead us to disagree with the contention that climate change is 'noticeably absent in academic management research' (Nyberg & Wright, *forthcoming*: 3).

While the substantial and growing volume of research on climate change within the management disciplines is reason to celebrate, the disparity between interdisciplinary engagement (backward references) and interdisciplinary impact (forward cites) is cause for concern. While management has successfully broadened its knowledge base by including sources from beyond the home discipline, it has failed to 'export' its own insights. It seems that exhortations for greater interdisciplinarity by august institutions and esteemed editors, generous incentives for interdisciplinary work by funding agencies, or the creation of interdisciplinary research units are insufficient to help management scholarship infiltrate other disciplines.

We briefly consider two interpretations for this disparity between management disciplines' interdisciplinary engagement and interdisciplinary impact. The first interpretation is that management scholarship goes unnoticed with climate change researchers outside the management disciplines, and in particular with those outside the social sciences. The absence of organization-level phenomena and references to firms in recent statements outlining whole-of-science approaches to climate change research hint at this possibility (cf. Kramer et al., 2017; Reid et al., 2010). To bridge this awareness gap requires management scholars to intensify efforts at promoting their climate change-related work. Analogous to Hambrick's (1994) call for *knowledge translation* in a bid to bridge the gap between management scholars and practitioners, the discipline needs to find ways to translate its insights for consumption by other scholars. For instance, generating more publications with the explicit aim of making climate-related management scholarship accessible to researchers in other disciplines may help stimulate mutual interdisciplinary engagement. To reiterate, management research on climate change spans all three overarching categories of the NRC framework – from understanding climate-related behavior, to response options and methodological contributions – and therefore has ample opportunities to pursue interdisciplinary dialog across a wide range of topic areas.

A second interpretation is that researchers from other disciplines are aware of management scholarship on climate change, but do not consider it relevant or rigorous enough to incorporate into their own studies. Victor (2015) – a member of the IPCC Working Group III, which is tasked with assessing mitigation and climate policy options – describes the group's tendency to ignore insights from the social sciences as they are often seen as speculative, uncertain, and supported only by weak paradigms. It is conceivable that similar reservations account for the lack of engagement with management research. If this is the case, overcoming such concerns would prove more challenging than addressing an awareness gap. It would likely require management scholars to more directly collaborate with researchers from other disciplines, particularly those from outside the social sciences. Such collaborations would be aided, for example, by the recommendations laid out by Brown, Deletic, and Wong (2015). Addressing other disciplines' concerns about management scholarship's rigor and relevance may require stronger efforts within management disciplines to conduct (and publish) replication studies, and to compile large-scale, open-access data sets of organizational behavior related to climate change.

Irrespective of whether management scholarship is confronting an awareness gap or rigor/relevance concerns, new ways of connecting with other disciplines are sorely needed in the search for research impact and, more importantly, in the race to motivate climate action. As climate science shifts its emphasis to developing practical adaptation and mitigation strategies (Weaver, Mooney, & Allen, 2014), scholars and policy makers have to contend with the value-laden and pluralist nature of stakeholder views and claims (Garud, Gehman, & Karunakaran, 2014). Seemingly endless debates concerning the evidence for climate change, its precise impact, and the feasibility of alternative pathways to a low-carbon future (Brett, 2014; Head, 2014) are signs of an underlying

social and political impasse. Management scholarship offers a considerable conceptual arsenal for decoding organizational, institutional, and cultural determinants of climate change denialism and resistance to climate action, as well as techniques that facilitate consensus-building, coordination, and adaptive change among social actors. For example, organizational sense-making and sense-giving practices (Fiss & Zajac, 2006; Maitlis, 2005) or boundary work (Garud, Gehman, & Karunakaran, 2014) are highly relevant for collective organization in favor of climate action. Likewise, suitable funding mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives (Shardul & Carraro, 2010), performance management systems that foster accountability, enable progress monitoring and corrective interventions (Atkins, Atkins, Thomson, & Maroun, 2015), as well as quantitative models of complex organizational systems that aid planning and decision-making under uncertainty (Filar & Haurie, 2010; Huang, Wei, Wang, & Liao, 2017) are all indispensable for sustainable organizational responses to climate change. Finding ways to communicate such expertise in a manner that resonates with researchers from other disciplines is an important step for management scholars toward gaining a stronger voice within the interdisciplinary climate science community, and a pathway to impact on policy and practice (Davis, 2015; Rynes & Shapiro, 2005).

Limitations and future research

We hasten to add a number of limitations to our findings. First, this paper judges interdisciplinarity solely on account of the disciplinary affiliation of journals in which articles (and the corresponding references) are published. As such, any inaccuracies in the journal-level WoS categories may create bias in the assessment of interdisciplinarity (Porter, Roessner, Cohen, & Perreault, 2006; Rafols, Leydesdorff, O'Hare, Nightingale, & Stirling, 2012). We further note that interdisciplinarity can be established not only on the basis of article- or journal-level disciplinary categorization, but also on account of author-team composition, e.g., based on authors' institutional affiliation. We commend such complementary work for future research as it would shed more light on the extent to which researchers are publishing outside the home discipline. Further, our findings of management scholarship's lack of impact are based on data from only two interdisciplinary journals, *Science* and *Nature*, and on a purely descriptive analysis. Future bibliometric studies may wish to investigate whether our findings extend to a broader set of interdisciplinary journals (e.g., *Nature Climate Change*, *Climatic Change*, etc.) and with that broader database may seek to develop predictive models for management scholarship's interdisciplinary impact. Ultimately, however, bibliometric methods are limited in addressing the two foremost questions arising from our findings, namely, what causes management scholarship's lack of interdisciplinary impact?, and what can be done practically to overcome the barriers to impact? To more fully address these questions, we encourage scholars to consider nonbibliometric evidence to explore a broader set of interdisciplinary practices and engagement strategies.

Conclusion

Mapping management scholarship's engagement with, and impact on, interdisciplinary climate science can aid in directing future research and engagement activities in support of the SDG of climate action. We have discussed the need and the opportunity for management scholars to explore new ways for demonstrating the social value and relevance of their expertise across disciplinary boundaries. Some of the interdisciplinary engagement activities we have sketched out may be unfamiliar and discomfiting to some academics and their institutions. Yet they echo the call issued by the President of the UN's Economic and Social Council that we 'must move out of [our] comfort zone to pursue new ways of collective action at a much swifter pace' (United Nations, 2019b: 2).

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Appendix

Adjusted Disciplinary Associations for Web of Science-Indexed Management Journals

The disciplinary association of business, management, operations, and to a lesser degree finance journals to their respective subject categories in the WoS database present some challenges for bibliometric analysis. Most notably, more than 40% of journals associated with the business discipline are also associated with management, thus making the two disciplines and their bibliometric metrics hard to distinguish. Further, some disciplinary assignments are inconsistent and misaligned with journals’ stated missions. For example, the journal ‘Operations Management Research’ is not assigned to the operations discipline. To be able to discriminate bibliometric characteristics between the four management disciplines in our study more clearly, we corrected inconsistencies and assigned journals to a single, *primary discipline*. Operations and finance journals that were also associated with management were assigned operations or finance respectively as their primary discipline. Since the

distinctive characteristic of the business category (compared to the management category) is its marketing, communications, and ethics journals, we assigned all journals with such focus to the business category. All journals focused on supply chain management, logistics, information systems, and decision sciences were assigned to the operations discipline. Journals focused on general management, strategy, organization studies, organizational behavior, and human resource management were assigned to the management category. Corrective reassignments were based on journals' mission statements and, in ambiguous cases, Clarivate's *Journal Citation Report* data on journal relationships which, based on backward references and forward citations, identifies those journals a focal journal is most closely related to.

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