

The Relationship between Resilience and Sustainability in the Organisational Context



TH Aschaffenburg
university of applied sciences

A Systematic Review

Motivation

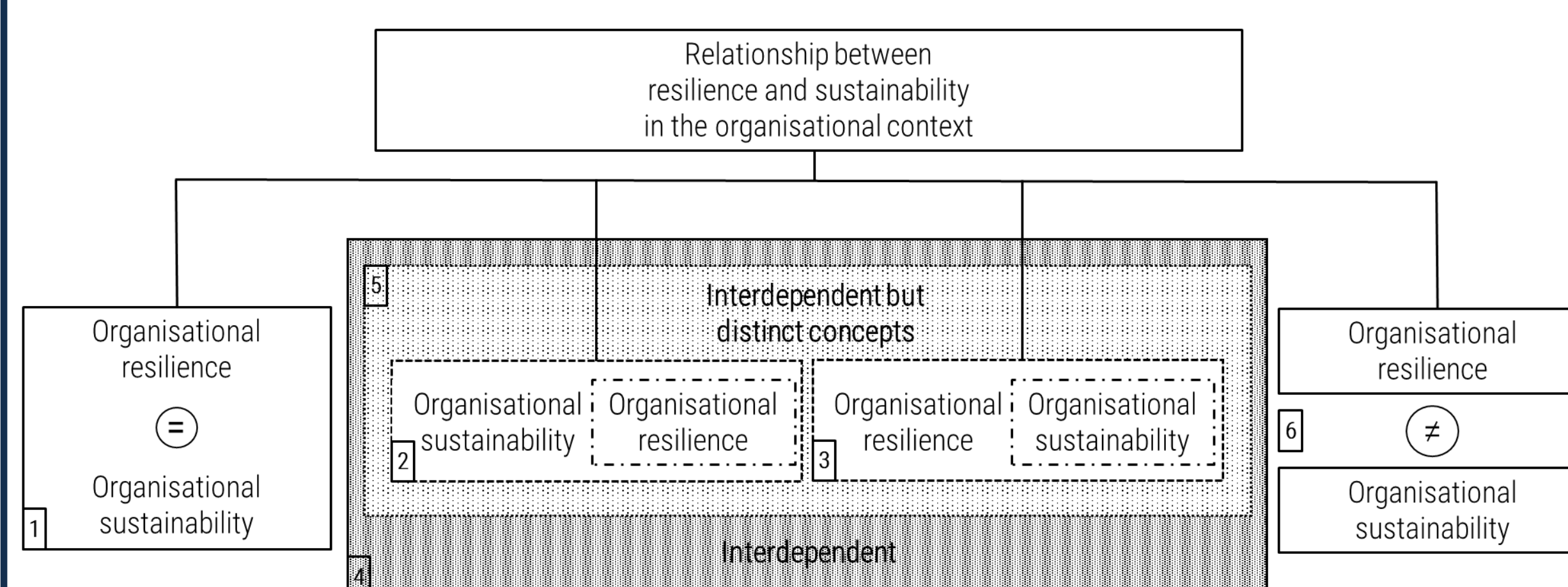
The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a tremendous impact on organisations. Organisational sustainability (OS), understood as the ability of organisations to survive and thrive in the short and long term, depends on organisational resilience (OR). This study bridges the literatures on OR and OS, covering the last 35 years of research, to provide a broader understanding of how organisations, adverse events and sustainability interrelate.

Methodology

We perform a systematic literature review, which we supplement with comprehensive citation network analysis as well as content analysis of relevant empirical studies. Furthermore, we use complementarity theory to explain the relationship between measures of OR and OS and their potential complementarities with regard to organisational performance.

Results

- Because there is a lack of integrative frameworks, we develop and apply an extended framework to classify the research (62 studies) on how OR and sustainability interrelate.



- The majority of the studies that bridge the literatures on OR and OS emphasise the interdependence of the two concepts and regards OR as a component of OS.

Discussion

- We discuss our own integrative definition of OS in the context of an integrative OR definition in the literature.
- We identify studies that broadly discuss complementarities between OR and OS or between various measures of OR and OS, but the number of empirical research bridging the fields of OR and OS and discussing effects on organisational performance, however, remains small.
- We expect that the current COVID-19 pandemic will increase the number of publications on OR, OS and the links between the two concepts.

Literature (Selection)

- Milgrom P. & J. Roberts 1995. Complementarities and fit strategy, structure, and organizational change in manufact.
- Tranfield, D. et al. 2003. Towards a Methodology for Developing Evidence-Informed Management Knowledge by Means of Systematic Review

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