

Public–Private Partnerships in Supply Chain Management

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Public–private partnerships (PPPs) are critical to societal well-being and foundational to national and international economic growth. PPPs are characterized by tremendous scale and complexity making them an attractive research challenge. Research that improves the operation of PPPs increases prosperity and mitigates suffering and loss of life—an honorable task for supply chain researchers.

The articles in this Special Topics Forum (STF) weave together theoretical and practical insights to provide a strategy for PPP research. Voss and Williams use empirical evidence from the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) to develop the concept of relational security in the context of PPPs. Their work shows how voluntary security enhancing programs meet critical public needs while also improving firm performance. Swanson and Smith seek to understand ways to leverage commercial logistics expertise for disaster response. They examine four practical logistics frameworks and then empirically test the appropriateness of those frameworks to disas-

ter response. Their work promises to alleviate suffering in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Davis and Friske tackle the complicated issue of cross-border logistics following the attacks of September 11, 2001. Using a qualitative methodology, they use stakeholder theory to explain how PPP provides a governance structure based upon private enterprise collaborative capability and public interagency cooperation. Last, McCarter and Kamal provide compelling insight into the underlying social dilemmas at the foundation of any PPP. They provide a conceptual taxonomy aimed at determining why some PPPs succeed while others fail.

In closing, I want to thank the authors who submitted to the STF and the reviewers who provided outstanding feedback to the authors. The quality of the STF is a testimony to all of your efforts. *JBL* is to be commended for picking up the call for rigorous research into PPP. Society will benefit not only from the research published here, but also the future research inspired by this STF.

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