Multi-Stakeholders Governance in Social Science Discipline: A Systematic Literature Review

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ABSTRACT

Multi-stakeholders governance (MSG) is a new governance design that involves many experts from multiple stakeholders to participate in dialogue, decision-finding (and possibly decision-making), and solutions to a common problem that occurs. This article aims to analyze and identify topics on multi-stakeholder governance with a focus on social science disciplines. In particular, this article takes qualitative research with a literature study approach, some data findings were analyzed using NVIVO 12 plus software. Therefore, the study results that various approaches, strategies, and scope have been used by past studies in classifying their finding. Furthermore, there are eleven main topics in MSG in social science disciplines; some of the propositions on these topics are summarized. The first cluster is actors, process, and organization; the second cluster is political, development, and policy; the third cluster are interests, management, and system; and fourth cluster are resources and networks. In sum, some of the clusters are generating illustrate certain propositions on these topics. Thus, this study provides significant findings as a mapping of novelty in future MSG studies.

INTRODUCTION

Multi-stakeholders governance (MSG), is a governance design that involves many experts from multiple stakeholders, both formal-actor and informal actors, this MSG topic has received considerable attention in recent years. MSG aims to bring together all stakeholders in new communication, decision-finding (and possibly decision-making) about a specific issues (Hemmati, Enayati, & McHarry,
However, the common problems that policymakers face regarding multi-stakeholder governance are not simple ones. Because a series of decision-making involves many roles of stakeholder categories with different institutional backgrounds, this tends to create governance gaps related to parties' responsibilities (Gleckman, 2018).

At the same time, some scholars discuss the topic of MSG and show increasing growth. Some authors argue that MSG has become a new governance model, assuming that intergovernmental organizations have failed to get things done (Berman, 2017). Many governments worldwide are attention to MSG development that is part of a more considerable evolution in new governance structures. It means that the government needs non-government actors to participate in collective dialogue and participate in the policy-making process. As stated by Gleckman (2016), MSG has received support as a new governance framework to unite a variety of activists in facing global challenges and present challenging development projects. This model also proves that it becomes a conflict management tool in practice, resulting in a gradual shift from a competitive coalition to multi-stakeholder governance that brings trust and cooperation between parties (Acey, 2016).

Furthermore, we argue that the participation of various parties in the MSG model is fundamental. Thus, the MSG phenomenon has attracted the attention of many scholars and many areas of interest, including social science disciplines, such as; study of the impact of MSG on company performance (Maroua, 2015), evaluation of network systems and multi-stakeholder governance (Haarich, 2018), rescue network system strategy using a multi-stakeholder governance approach (Morrow, 2019), as well as a review of the political dynamics of multi-stakeholder governance (Prem, 2020; Harsono, 2020).

Several authors use the paper to address the construction of MSG research topics and trends in multi-stakeholder governance practices. However, we have not been able to find any articles discussing the literature review of various multi-stakeholder governance research topics from the social science discipline. In this article, we try to fill the gaps and understand scholars' appearance from social science disciplines, and this article also tries to present several essential points in MSG studies in social sciences.

Thus, this study will be answer of the questions on what is the MSG theme that applies in several journals of social science disciplines, and also what are the main contributions of these theme by combining subjective and objective judgments?

To answer these questions, this study conducted a systematic literature review on the topic of multi-stakeholders governance in social science disciplines. Although MSG has become a popular approach to new multi-stakeholders governance models in the decision-making process, the principal results suggest that. This study offers eleven propositions about it. Moreover, the results are useful for MSG researchers and policymakers to identify multiple scholars' problems and trends.

METHODS

To initiate finding and discussing this article that uses all journal articles published by taking “multi-stakeholders governance” and it classifies with “Title-Abstract-KeyWords” in social science disciplines found in the Scopus database. In this archive, we took all articles from the beginning to 2020. This study took all samples from the year of publication to minimize bias from a limited sample size.
Therefore, this article provides a representative and accurate sample.

Therefore, there are six steps to conduct a systematic literature review study which according to scholars Li & Wang (2018): (1) defining the problem; (2) literature search; (3) data selecting; (4) reading the literature; (5) organizing the data; and (6) writing up the review. This research used the Scopus database for articles to be obtained. The search settings in the database were: Title-Abstract-Keyword is multi-stakeholders governance; Access type is open access and others; Year is up to 2020 from the earliest possible date; Author name is all; the Subject area is social sciences; Document type is article; Publication stage is final; Source title is all social science journals; Country is all countries; Source type is a journal, and Language is English. This study has yielded 34 journal articles. Furthermore, the NVivo 12 Plus software application was used in this study to analyze, visualize, and categorize data. The NVivo is useful as an analysis software that helps catalogue textual document elements and scan data for terms and phrases (Sotiriadou, Brouwers, & Le, 2014). This study used NVivo 12 Plus to index the data elements of journal articles by searching in multi-stakeholders governance-related terms.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

In this section, a summary and analysis of the findings are provided. The definition contains the year of publication, the journal’s title, and the per-author citations. Analysis of findings contains main multi-stakeholders governance (MSG) issues are approach, strategy and scope. Besides, this section to analyze of the MSG material, in short, it contains actors’ issues, process issues, organizations issues, political issues, development issues, policy issues, interest issues, management issues, system issues, resources issues, and networks issue.

Several scholars have studied multi-stakeholders governance in recent years, based on studies with predefined boundaries, it found that at least the MSG study started in 2011 by Weber (2011). Then, 2012 studies by Anner (2012), and Fransen (2012). Furthermore, 2013; such as Mahler (2013), Pesqueira & Glasbergen (2013), and NCAFP (2013). Next, in 2014; i.e. Galloway & He (2014), Sneyd (2014), Fransen & Burgoon (2014). However, in 2015, a study on MSG was not found in the Scopus database, then in 2016 it was conducted by Grosser (2016).

The Years of Publication

Figure 1. Number of Publication per Year
For 2017, MSG study was initiated by Sharp & Salter (2017), Benoit & Patsias (2017), Pedro et al., (2017), Heinrichs & Schuster (2017), Etemire & Muzan (2017), Jänicke (2017), and Bennett (2017). In 2018, studied by Haarich (2018), Chung, Jeon, Lee, Lee, & Yoo (2018), and Wilson, Morrison, Everingham, & McCarthy (2018). In the 2019, study MSG by Moulaert & Wanka (2019), Blühdorn & Deflorian (2019), Morrow (2019), Schleifer (2019), and Arond, Bebbington, & Dammert (2019). Lastly, in 2020, it was conducted by Haugen (2020), Tortia, Degavre, & Poledrini (2020), Prem (2020), Kalinowski (2020), Sreedharan, Kahrl, & Mavanoor (2020), Jansen & Kalas (2020), Haugen (2020), and Fougère & Solitander (2020). However, in short, the MSG study has recently received several scholars' attention, which means that the MSG study is positively highlighted for further review for both scholars and policy makers.

The above summarize the journal that published at least two article on MSG, such as from Sustainability Switzerland are; Sharp & Salter (2017), Blühdorn & Deflorian (2019), Jansen & Kalas (2020), Kalinowski (2020), and Singer-Brodowski, von Seggern, Duveneck, & Etzkorn (2020). Then, Geoforum Journal are; Pesqueira & Glasbergen (2013), Morrow (2019), and Wilson et al., (2018). For the Journal of Business Ethics are; Grosser (2016) and Fougère & Solitander (2020). In short, the MSG study still has a lot of free space and this requires more attention for scholars to develop their studies and publish them to reputable journals, such as the three journals above, and several other journals included in the Scopus database. Further, it study can be a reference for every implementer in seeing the problems that occur in the field.

Journal Analysis

| Journal Name                  | No. of Article | %      |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------|
| Sustainability Switzerland    | 5              | 14,70% |
| Geoforum                      | 3              | 8,82%  |
| Journal of Business Ethics    | 2              | 5,88%  |

Only journals that published at least two articles on multi-stakeholder governance were selected

Cumulative Citation

![Figure 2. Number of Citation per Authors](image-url)
Figure 2. illustrates that several scholars reviewed the number of journal citations before at least has been of benefit to other scholars who cited in the following years. Of the writers, the article by Fransen (2012) has a total of 104 citations. Besides, Anner (2012) has the next sequence with a total of 103 sources. Of the two journals, they have a very significant share in the MSG study, as seen from their journals' total citations. Of the several subsequent studies examining MSG, they have a concern with the case studies being studied, while the case studies based on the countries we review are as follows.

### The Main Approach, Strategy, and also Scope that Used Study MSG

This section discusses some of the method materials used by several previous studies related to MSG issues. In the table 3, approaches researchers’ viewpoints for MSG processes, such as inductive and deductive, and a mixture of the two. Then an overview of the strategies used, as well as the scope of the study.

#### Table 2. Top five of the most-mentioned countries in MSG study

| Countries/jurisdictions | Mention Time |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Australia               | 5            |
| Germany                 | 5            |
| Netherlands             | 5            |
| United States           | 5            |
| Italy                   | 3            |
| Switzerland             | 3            |
| Canada                  | 2            |
| France                  | 2            |
| Hong Kong               | 2            |
| Norway                  | 2            |

#### Table 3. The Main Approach, Strategy, and Scope that Used Study MSG

| No | Author, year         | Research approach | Research strategy   | Scope of governance  |
|----|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | Weber (2011)         | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 2  | Fransen (2012)       | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization/Project |
| 3  | Anner (2012)         | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization/Project |
| 4  | NCAFP (2013)         | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 5  | Pesqueira & Glasbergen (2013) | Inductive | Case study          | Organization         |
| 6  | Nesadurai (2013)     | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 7  | Mahler (2013)        | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 8  | Fransen & Burgoon (2014) | Mix              | Case study + Survey | Organization/Project |
| 9  | Galloway & He (2014) | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 10 | Sneyd (2014)         | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 11 | Grosserr (2016)      | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 12 | Bennett (2017)       | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 13 | Jänicke (2017)       | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 14 | Etemire & Muzan (2017) | Inductive   | Case study          | Organization/Project |
| 15 | Heinrichs & Schuster (2017) | Mix         | Case study + Survey | Organization/Project |
| 16 | Pedro et al., (2017) | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 17 | Sharp & Salter (2017) | Inductive         | Case study          | Organization         |
| 18 | Benoit & Patsias (2017) | Inductive   | Case study          | Organization         |
Many previous researchers have studied MSG in different approaches, strategies, and scopes. We believe that the primary research stream in multi-stakeholder governance is dedicated to studying how MSG engages public, community, NGO, educational, private, and media actors in the decision-making process.

The Main MSG Issue in Social Science Discipline

To provide an overview of MSG’s main topics in the social science discipline, we use Qualitative Data Analysis (QDA) network analysis with NVivo 12 plus software to show emerging issues. It can be seen below.

Figure 3. Hierarchy of Multi-stakeholders Governance Issues
Several issues regarding multi-stakeholder governance were found. Wherein, there are four classifications for significant issues such as; (1) issues for actors, process, and organization, (2) political, development, and policy issues, (3) issues for interest, management, and systems, and (4) networks and resources. In short, studies on MSG all the time are highlight of the 'Actors' involvement, both state-actors and private-actors. Apart from it, it turn out the 'Networks' issues in Multi-stakeholders Governance arrangeze is still limitation, therefore, it is hoped that the scholars will further study of MSG using a 'Networks approach, which all of the issues will be summarized below.

Cluster 1. Actors, Process, and Organization

As noted above, several scholars have a concern about how state actors can design and also manage governance arrangements by involving several actors in a MSG mechanism, which the government' organizes all parties as a model of the 'deliberative democracy' (Wilson et al., 2018). In the MSG study, much of latest literature has dominated of private actors, in which private actors are starting to realize that they have a new responsibility to expand the scope that allows them to contribute to the creation of a regulatory framework (Weber, 2011). On the other hand, the multi-stakeholders governance also conceptualizes some
actors, such as civil society actors, wherein the spotlight for civil society actors in the MSG study has sharpened awareness that their presence is undoubtedly (independent) empowerment approach as a contribution to providing solutions (Heinrichs & Schuster, 2017).

Nevertheless, there is important actors in MSG study, i.e. political actors, despite authentic levels of awareness and commitment between government actors, private actors, and civil actors. The presence of political actors is very effective in encouraging and also coordinating collaborative action of various stakeholders (Blühdorn & Deflorian, 2019).

Another actors such as; industry actors, public actors, state actors, social actors, individual actors, external actors, specific actors, profit-orientated actors, diverse market actors, business actors, non-scientific, industrial actors, international actors, influential actors, corporatist actors, emergent actors, and local actors. However, from all actors participating in the MSG, regardless of their sectoral background, showed that they already realize inter-sector governance, and all of them seeking solution to common problem.

Proposition One: Multi-stakeholders governance requires to involve inter-sector actors of collective decision-making process.

Summarizing the results, cluster process also be a study in MSG. In the term of process, it plays an important role in the mechanism of the MSG arrangements. As a result analysis of the MSG arrangement, the emphasizes the importance of a process that concerns the collective decision-making of the various actors involved (Benoit & Patsias, 2017). The result analysis of process issues are such as; adaptive learning processes, bureaucratic processes, communicative processes, then, consultation, contentious, decision making processes, democratic, diplomatic, implementation, policy, political, problemsolving process, procurement process, production processes, project design. So that, the regulatory compliance, risk assessment process, social dialog process, transition process, and underlying processes.

Proposition Two: Multi-stakeholders governance contributed to the process

Then, organization cluster is also a concern in MSG studies from previous researchers, in which the proposal for this type of organization is important and can represent many interests, this opportunity is taken to identify the right organization in coordinating, designing and producing arrangements. So, the public organizations may involve formal and informal structures consisting of various representatives from government and non-government (Haarich, 2018).

The type of organization such as; advocacy organizations, appropriate lead organizations, civil society organizations, corporate, ecologist organizations. Further-more there environmental organizations, environmentalist organizations, feminist organizations, governmental organization, institutional organization, international and naturalist organizations, as well as non-governmental, non-profit and also organizations privilege, besides, organizing framework, private sector organizations, public sector organizations, social services organizations, and young organization.

Proposition Three: Multi-stakeholder governance tries to reflection of sharing-power between state-actors and private-actor.
Cluster 2. Political, Development, and Policy

On the illustrate above, the high issues in the second cluster is Political. The new Multi-stakeholder governance model has completely mainstreamed cl forms of politics and its interventions in a multi-stakeholder agenda (Blühdorn & Deflorian, 2019). The emphasizes that many issues must be addressed through political channels, with regard to time and also resources (Singer-Brodowski et al., 2020). The political issues such as political actors, political arena, political change, political consensus, political construction, political contestation, political dimensions, political economy, political effects, political entities, political input, political leadership, political legitimacy, political mobilization, political representation and restrictions, political system, political thrust, political value, and political will.

Proposition Four: Multi-stakeholder governance generates and maintains political consensus to encourage cooperation among diverse actors

On the other hands, the issue on development. A better understanding that current development tends to result from the activities of various actors (Wilson et al., 2018). By combining the three pillars of development ideas in the SDGs, namely economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability (Pedro et al., 2017). So this has resulted in a variety of MSG engagements to produce and encourage innovation in the development agenda. In this sense, several development that are; capacity development,
community development, system, development agenda, development cooperation, development effectiveness, development ideologies and license, development targets, economic development activities. Further, economic development policies and also economical development, extractives development, global development agenda, international development, policy development, and responsible, skills development, standard development, sustainable development.

Proposition Five: Multi-stakeholder governance making emphasis on development activity to solve common problems

Another issue i.e. Policy, in the MSG study, policy issues became a concern, this was evidenced by the pressure in the policy sector to regulate governance by involving various stakeholders (Fransen, 2012). By bringing up ideas about certain problems, it is possible to produce innovations and new policy practices. This is also so that the government recognizes the legitimate presence of non-government parties who contribute to policy formation. The policy issue regarding MSG study such as; policy adjustments, policy areas, and arena, policy change, policy content, policy design, policy development, as well as a policy discussion. Further, policy failure, policy formulation, policy goals, policy ideas, policy impact, policy implementation and innovation, policy outcome & preferences, policy recommendations, policy support, and the last sustainability policies.

Proposition Six: Multi-stakeholder governance creates serious policy initiatives from diverse backgrounds of actors to the common goo

Cluster 3. Interests, Management, and System

In cluster three, the high issue is ‘Management. In the MSG study, good management is needed, this is because good management can maximize resource
utilization and overcome public policy problems (Sneyd, 2014). Therefore, the need for good management involving multi-stakeholders becomes important, especially in resource management (Weber, 2011). Such as funding management and skills as well as their commitment, which is all proof of the success of MSG (Jansen & Kalas, 2020). The management matters are as follows; accountable management and beneficial, collective management, and corporate managers. Further, the diversity managers, environmental management, information management, inter-governmental management, international management, management advice, management sub-units, management system, managing business, managing conflicts, managing risks, network and public management, risk management strategies, transition management, and transition management projects.

**Proposition Seven: Multi-stakeholder governance seeks to create quality management by involving several actors in formulating solutions**

Secondly, interests issues, from the MSG perspective, this implies that there is a potential conflict of interest, in which multi-stakeholder negotiations and also bargains occur. These representations of interests often clash with other important priorities (e.g. speed of decision making) (Schleifer, 2019). A few of issues on interests such as; business interests, common interests, conflicting interests, consumer interests, corporate interests, diverging interests, diverse interests, and economic interests, industry and institutionalized interests, interest committee, interesting frame, legitimacy interests, a particular interest, political interests. Moreover, there are private interests, producer interest, public interest, social interests, and also societal interest groups.

**Proposition Eight: Multi-stakeholder governance tries to create bridges serving the interest of various actors**

Third, it is about System issues. In broad terms, the system in MSG is very complex and requires a special approach, in which there are elements that determine how the system works and develops (identity, content, functions, structures, procedures, etc.) (Haarich, 2018). In strategic development planning, an inclusive and diverse governance system is needed for decision making and its implementation. Systems usually strive to generate new functionality or roles that arise from the system and determine its performance (Haarich, 2018). Similar was conveyed by Sneyd (2014), it appears that there is currently a need for a flexible system to produce further MSG models.

However, the various systems that must be managed are; accounting system, adaptive system, administrative system, appropriate verification system, claim system, compliance systems, cooperative system, cotton system, criminal justice system, failed governance systems, good accountability systems, government-backed system, institutional system, legal systems, mass balance system, monitoring system, regulatory system, social systems, technological innovation systems, and also verification systems

**Proposition Nine: Multi-stakeholder governance establishes a system to build a capacity building for actors**

Based on the figure above, there are two issues, such as resources and networks. In MSG, it takes resources to achieve its goals (requires resources to manage it), this emphasizes the importance of allocating and mobilizing absolute and proportional resources (Chung et al., 2018).
Because, MSG reflects collective action on resources owned that aims to drive public policy innovation (Tortia et al., 2020). Resources issues on MSG included; core resources, economic resources, financial and human resources, leverage and market resources, mineral resources, mobilizing resources, natural resources, organizational resources, public resources, regular resources, renewable resources, resource impacts, resource overuse, resource provider, resource security, shared resources, socialized resources, and utilizing resources.

**Proposition Ten:** Multi-stakeholder governance tries to mobilize resources to solve problems

**Cluster 4. Resources and Networks**

![Network Diagram]

**Source:** NVivo 12 plus, Project Map Analysis on MSG Issues

The second is Networks issues. Multi-stakeholder governance requires a strong network to identify and evaluate the reasons for the success and failure of performance. So that allows multiple stakeholders to learn the real network. Because in a complex governance system, network governance faces obstacles and challenges (Haarich, 2018). On the other hand, however, relationship reflection is very important to cooperate in the MSG network, because when there is network-oriented cooperation, of course, in decision making, you must act collectively (Singer-Brodowski et al., 2020). Some of the issues that become of concern in the MSG network are; activist networks, advocacy networks and civil society networks, community networks, criminal networks, global justice networks, global production networks, innovation networks, multi-sectoral networks, network effectiveness, network evaluation, network structures, networked authoritarianism. Besides, the policy network and protecting information networks, public sector networks, self-organized networks and social networks, societal networks, and last special network.

**Proposition Eleven:** Multi-stakeholder governance seeks to present a complex network in inter-actors and organization or institution.
CONCLUSION

The current study provides a comprehensive approach with systematic literature analysis, mapping, and qualitative analysis in multi-stakeholders governance (MSG) studies from beginning to recent research. Therefore, it reveals that contemporary research themes in the multi-stakeholder governance will provide direction for the near-future directions of MSG research in setting up multiple actors. Furthermore, the main issues we found in the multi-stakeholder governance are emphasizing several issues in four clusters, such as: (1) actors, process, and organization, (2) political, development, and policy issues, (3) issues for interest, management, and systems, and (4) issues for networks and resources.

In short, in the eleven issues that had studied, we summarize several propositions, such as; a proposition for actors of MSG requires to involve inter-sector actors of the collective decision-making process. Proposition for the process of MSG contributed to the process/mechanism. Proposition for the organization of MSG tries to reflect of sharing-power between state-actors and private-actors. Proposition for political of MSG generates and maintains political consensus to encourage cooperation among diverse actors. Proposition for development of MSG making emphasis on development activity to solve common problems. Proposition for policy of MSG creates serious policy initiatives from diverse backgrounds of actors to the common good. Proposition for management of MSG seeks to create quality management by involving several actors in formulating solutions. Proposition for the interests of MSG tries to create bridges serving the interest of various actors. Proposition for the system of MSG establishes a system to build the capacity building for actors. Proposition for resources of MSG tries to mobilize resources to solve problems. Proposition for networks of MSG seeks to present a complex network in inter-actors and organization or institution.

However, for further studies, we suggest studying the issues in MSG that are still limitation, such as resources and networks, as well as systems, management and interest, which is a deductive or mix research approach, then research strategy by emphasizing surveys.

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