

# Supply Chain Finance: Solutions for Financial Sustainability, Risk Management and Resilience in the Supply Chain

## Call for papers for Contributions to an Edited Collection Published by Kogan Page

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The management of financial flows in the supply chain is an area that needs further definition and conceptual foundation. Recent economic downturns fostered research in this topic, particularly concerning bankruptcy or over-leveraging of debt. Also, continued growth of outsourced spend has further increased the need for and spread of solutions and programs that help to mitigate and better manage financial flows within and across the supply chain.

One approach being used to examine this issue is termed Supply Chain Finance (SCF) (Gelsomino et al., 2016; Pfohl and Gomm, 2009; Wuttke et al., 2013a). SCF is currently defined as an approach for two or more organizations in a supply chain, including external service providers, to jointly create value on an inter-organizational level through means of planning, steering, and controlling the flow of financial resources (Hofmann, 2005; Wuttke et al., 2013b). It involves taking an inter-company view of financial flows with customers, suppliers and service providers to better share the risks and value of financial flows among the supply chain members (Pfohl and Gomm, 2009). Supply chain financial processes, methods and solutions are designed to improve financial supply chain effectiveness by preventing detrimental cost shifting and improving the visibility, availability, delivery and cost of cash for all global value chain partners (Lamoureux and Evans, 2011). The potential benefits of the SCF approach include reduction of working capital, access to more funding at lower costs, risk reduction, as well as increase of trust, commitment, and profitability through the chain (Randall and Farris II, 2009).

In general, there are two major views of managing finance across the supply chain. The first is more short-term, focused on accounts payables and receivables. The second is more holistic – which may or may not involve a financial institution, focused on working capital optimization in terms of accounts payable, receivable, inventory, asset management (Gelsomino et al., 2016). Financial Supply Chain Management (FSCM) “embraces the planning, management and monitoring of all processes and transactions associated with financial flows along the entire value chain” (Templar, Hofmann and Findlay, 2016, p. xi).

Research using the lens of SCF needs further development and more definition. In particular, empirical evidence would prove useful for testing existing models and hypotheses, addressing the more innovative schemes and investigating the adoption level and the state of the art of different solutions (Gelsomino et al., 2016). There is a need for further theory building in SCF. There is also limited research that focuses on the link between supply chain financial tools and supply chain financial/social/environmental performance, linking the field of SCF to that of the overarching problem of sustainability. Finally, considering the plurality of solutions that shape the SCF landscape, literature should move towards the identification of approaches to select the best SCF strategy for a supply chain that meets the needs of multiple stakeholders (economic and noneconomic), considering the financial performance of the supply chain and contextual variables (e.g. power structures).

## Potential topics

We invite chapters from a variety of research perspectives, as well as perspectives from business, civil society, and policy-makers. The purpose of this collection of chapters is to publish high-quality, theoretical and empirical pieces as well as case studies addressing advances in the area of Supply Chain Finance and also to build a community of researchers focused on this important topic. We explicitly encourage the submission of empirical case studies, addressing how to design and implement SCF in supply chains. We also welcome conceptual papers that help us to understand, analyze and reflect upon new approaches to SCF, and identify areas for future research.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- Theory development, concept and definition of SCF
- Taxonomy of SCF solutions
- Financing sustainability improvements in multi-tier supply chains
- Offering SCF as an incentive to suppliers to invest into sustainability
- Granting suppliers and/or customers access to products via SCF
- Strategic cost management across the supply chain
- Total cost of ownership; life cycle assessment and analysis; cost-benefit analysis
- Commodity risk and pricing volatility
- Supply chain financial metrics and measures
- Organization of SCF (e.g. departmental structures, cross-functional set-ups)
- Competences and Job Roles in SCF
- Relationship implications of SCF
- Tax and transfer pricing in the supply chain
- Foreign exchange and global currency and financing risk
- Financial network design and financial supply chain flows
- The organizational perspective on SCF and the implementation process
- Role of innovative technologies to support SCF (e.g. block chain, internet of things)
- Supply chain collaboration for improved supply chain financial solutions
- SCF adoption models, enablers and barriers
- SCF from different party perspectives (especially suppliers and providers)
- SCF and risk mitigation and management

## Chapter preparation and submission

Conceptual/theoretical and empirical contributions should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length. (Illustrative) case studies should be between 2,500 and 4,000 words in length. When submitting such case studies authors should ensure that these are positioned in the broader context of SCM.

Papers must be submitted, without exception, as per the editorial guidelines. The respective style guide and permissions & copyrights guide will be sent to prospective authors after the abstract stage.

### Abstract submission

**As a first step, please submit abstracts of no more than 1,000 words, together with a CV, as email attachments directly to the Editors:**

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## Timeline

Abstract submission	September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017 (early submissions are welcome)
Full chapter submission	January 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2018
Peer Review process	February 1 <sup>st</sup> – March 1 <sup>st</sup>
Revised chapter submission	April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2018
Publication	January 2019

## Further information

For further information, or to discuss ideas for contributions, please contact the Editors.

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## About the Editors

Wendy Tate, Ph.D. (Arizona State University, 2006) is Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management, Department of Marketing and Supply Chain Management at the University of Tennessee. She teaches undergraduate, MBA and PhD students Strategic Sourcing and Manufacturing and Service Operations and has an interest in the financial impacts of business decisions across the supply chain. Dr. Tate has published in both academic and practitioner top-rated journals in supply chain management. She enjoys research and takes a special interest in translating academic work into classroom learning activities and disseminating her work globally. Her research can be broadly classified under the umbrella of purchasing but focuses primarily on two different types of business problems. The first is in the area of services purchasing including outsourcing and offshoring. This area of research has recently expanded into “reshoring”, or bringing manufacturing back to the home country. The second area is on environmental business practices and trying to understand how these initiatives can be diffused across a supply chain and a supply network. She presents at many different venues including both academic- and practitioner-oriented conferences. She has published research in many top-tier academic journals including the *Journal of Operations Management*, *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *California Management Review* and others. She co-authored a book on environmental purchasing and also a learning guide for SC Pro Certification.

Lydia Bals, Dr., is Professor of Supply Chain & Operations Management at the University of Applied Sciences Mainz, Germany, since beginning of 2014 and since 2008 a Visiting Scholar at the Department for Strategic Management & Globalization at Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. Until the end of 2013 she was head of the global department of Procurement Solutions (e.g. Sustainability, Methods, Tools & Systems; Benchmarking and Excellence) at Bayer CropScience AG, also steering the international Procurement Solutions network in Germany, North America, France, India, China and Brazil. Prior to that she worked as a Project Manager at Bayer Business Consulting, managing projects in various functional areas and countries (e.g. Spain, Mexico, Turkey). Her main research areas are Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Offshoring and Procurement Organization. She has published in the *Journal of Supply Chain Management*, *Journal of International Management*, *Industrial Marketing Management*, *Journal of Purchasing & Supply Management* and other academic outlets.

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