20 Years of Academic Publishing in M@n@gement: A Bibliometric Analysis

Alexandre Renaud ● Raphaël Maucuer

Abstract. M@n@gement has become one of the most influential French academic journals in the field of Strategy & Organization. In this article, we have drawn on a quantitative methodology to understand how this unique journal has been built over its 20 years of existence. In doing so, we employed statistical and bibliometric methods to analyze and characterize the trends and research fronts corresponding to the journal’s three lead editorial teams. By drawing on our results, we point to two key challenges that M@n@gement may face in the years to come: how to foster a more consistent thematic identity and strengthen its international authorship.

Keywords: M@n@gement, bibliometrics, bibliographic coupling, research front, editors

INTRODUCTION

In 1998, Bernard Forgues created the journal M@n@gement in an effort to support the development of the emerging business education ecosystem in France and Europe. At its inception, the new journal’s objectives were threefold: to provide a top-quality outlet for promising French and non-English research involving a thorough and demanding peer-review process; to promote diverse research traditions by allowing researchers to submit and publish articles in their native languages; and to support the diffusion of these traditions through an open-access model.

In the two decades that have since passed, M@n@gement has become one of the most influential French academic journals in the field of Strategy & Organization. Over the years, the journal has contributed to the quality and impact of French research in management, built strong institutional relationships and increased its visibility at both the national and international levels.

These outcomes are the direct result of the remarkable work carried out by the journal’s three successive—and all highly motivated—editorial teams: Bernard Forgues, Martin Evans and Alain Desreumaux (1998-2008); Emmanuel Josserand (2008-2013);1 and Laure Cabantous and Sébastien Liarte (2014-2017). Each of these teams has functioned as far more than a simple group of editors. Instead, each has contributed to the greater, more ambitious goals of helping a large group of diverse researchers produce and diffuse their research, respecting the traditions and heritages of those researchers, and in the process, refusing to compromise the journal’s impressively high editorial standards.

In this article, we have drawn on a quantitative methodology to better understand how this unique journal has been built over its 20 years

1. Josserand served as the editor for M@n@gement's final issue of 2008 (11.3).
of existence. In doing so, we employed two different statistical methods to analyze and characterize the trends corresponding to the journal's three lead editorial teams. First, we identified these trends in terms of the types of papers, the methodologies used therein and the origins and languages of the various teams of contributors from each period. We then considered the main research themes from each of these three periods using Bibliographic Coupling Analysis.

The resulting article is composed of three sections. In the first, we describe and justify the methodology that we used for our research. We then introduce and consider the results of our analyses of each of the three editorial periods. Finally, we discuss the challenges raised by these analyses and suggest possible editorial strategies for M@n@gement's next 20 years.

Happy birthday, M@n@gement.

METHODOLOGY

For this article, we rely on a bibliometric approach (De Solla Price, 1965, Garfield, 1963; Pritchard, 1969)—more precisely Bibliographic Coupling Analysis (BCA) (Kessler, 1963)—to understand M@n@gement's developmental patterns.

Bibliometric analysis consists of a set of quantitative techniques that are used to cluster and map specific sets of scientific publications. This method provides graphic representations that enable researchers to shed light on specific research patterns by analyzing these publications' citations and references. Moreover, because it is based on the analysis of big data, a bibliometric approach can help researchers to consider large sets of publications and to subsequently sharpen their focus on those citations that appear to be the most consistently referenced. Within such a method, a wide range of techniques are available to researchers (Zupic & Čater, 2015). As we were seeking to understand how a specific journal had been shaped over its 20-year history, we decided to concentrate our efforts on bibliographic analysis, complemented by descriptive analyses of our samples.

In what follows, the specific methodology that we adopted functions as a response to Walsh and Renaud's (2017) call for researchers to combine BCA with Co-Citation Analysis (CCA) (Garfield, 1979). We can cite two reasons why these methods are compatible: while CCA can effectively highlight the otherwise “invisible colleges” (Crane, 1972; Noma, 1984) of a corpus of research (i.e. its intellectual grounding), BCA reveals the "research front" (i.e. the then-current research trends for the corpus in question) (Jarvening, 2005). After performing CCA, we realized that this method had not produced relevant results, as only a handful of the references being considered had been sufficiently cited and co-cited. We will consider this particular insight at greater length in our discussion.

BCA relies on a simple assumption: if two documents cite the same literature, they can be understood to cover the same research themes, perspectives and positioning. In other words, the more two documents share in terms of their bibliographic references, the closer their affinities in terms of perspectives, issues and/or approaches.

In bibliographic studies, researchers traditionally collect data by relying on databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. As M@n@gement is not fully indexed on these platforms, we downloaded all the journal's publications through its website as a means of creating our bibliometric database. Three types of publications were available: research articles, literature reviews and “unplugged” contributions. We decided to
exclude the “unplugged” contributions as they are not subject to peer-review and are “not intended to take the form of a series of research articles or research notes without evaluation.” Our final database was ultimately made up of 229 articles. To analyze the evolution of the journal, we divided this sample into the three periods corresponding to each editorial team’s term (see Table 1 for details).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1 (1998-2008)</th>
<th>100 articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Forgues, Martin Evans and Alain Desreumaux</td>
<td>100 articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 2 (2008-2013)</td>
<td>75 articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Josserand</td>
<td>75 articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 (2014-2017)</td>
<td>54 articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laure Cabantous and Sébastien Liarte</td>
<td>54 articles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Sample description

The second stage of a BCA consists of computing the bibliographic coupling indexes that exist between various documents in question. While we will not be detailing this procedure at length in the present article, it is important to note that we reduced the scope of our analysis to focus on documents that explicitly structure the journal’s research front, i.e. to focus on articles with more numerous total links between them. We then determined the size of the sample through a trial-and-error process and were thus able to strike a balance between statistical relevance and the significance of our resulting data (Zupic & Čater, 2015). Finally, we distributed the findings related to this research front into clusters using VosViewer. We detail the composition of these research fronts in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

RESULTS

THE TERM OF BERNARD FORGUES, MARTIN EVANS, ALAIN DESREUMAUX (1998-2008)

Bernard Forgues’s term focused on three key strategic goals: developing academic institutions’ recognition of M@n@gement; supporting French (but more generally non-English) research in management and bringing that research into compliance with international academic standards; and promoting the French tradition and perspective on management (Forgues & Liarte, 2013). Our analysis of the 100 articles published (10 per year) during this period demonstrates that the editorial team largely achieved these goals.

Between 1998 and 2008, 75% of the articles published in M@n@gement were written exclusively by international research teams, whereas 20% were written by French teams and the remaining 5% under the banner of French/international collaborations (see Figures 1 and 2). M@n@gement also regularly featured international researchers who were already acquainted with the academic standards of other leading journals in the field of management. Among these contributors, 44% were...
European, 31% American, 10% Canadian and 9% were Australian (the remaining 6% hailed from other countries). The resulting predominance of the English language—which was especially pronounced during the first half of this period (1998-2003), when 49 out of 54 articles published were written by international research teams—can be partly explained by the journal’s reliance on its affiliation with the Academy of Management (AOM) (Forgues & Liarte, 2013: 751). Furthermore, beginning in 2004, one can note the rising influence of the French researchers within the journal, when 20 out of 46 articles were written by French or French/international research teams. This pattern is consistent with the journal’s initial strategic intent, i.e. to promote and ameliorate French (and non-English) research in management without compromising its commitment to international academic standards. This period also saw M@n@gement offering researchers the opportunity to write and publish in languages other than English (e.g. Spanish, German, Italian), even though the majority of its published articles remained in English.

Another noticeable characteristic of this period was the journal’s special issues, which allowed both renowned and promising researchers to publish their works. More than 50% of the articles in this period’s special issues were essays on themes as diverse as Organizational Downsizing (1999, 2.3), Deconstructing Las Vegas (2001, 4.3), Careers in a Complex World (2002, 5.1), Friends or Foes? Practicing Collaboration (2004, 7.3), Interorganizational Relationships (2005, 8.4), Ethnography Methodology (2006, 9.3), and Corporate Governance and Ethics (2008, 11.2). These special issues helped M@n@gement to improve its institutional grounding, reputation and legitimacy. Finally, during this period, one finds a relative balance between qualitative and quantitative research—52% and 39%, respectively, of the published articles (excluding essays). The remainder of the articles consisted of mixed-method research projects.

Figure 1. The origins of research teams (per issue; Term 1)
Through our BCA, we were able to identify five main issues that structured the research front during this period: 1) team cooperation and management; 2) extended firm and collaborative networks; 3) reflections on management; 4) organizational dynamics; and 5) firm governance and ethics.
Cluster 1. Team Cooperation and Management

The first cluster (green; 13 articles) is structured around two sub-clusters. The first sub-cluster, dedicated to team cooperation and management, is composed of articles that were published in *M@n@gement*’s special issue on collaboration (Josserand, Clegg, Kornberger & Pitsis, 2004). Together, these articles develop the concepts of teamwork (Chedotel, 2004; Dameron, 2004), communities of practice (Josserand, 2004) and trust (Loïlier & Tellier, 2004). Within this sub-cluster, we were also able to identify publications related solely to team management, which dealt with various managerial contexts, including post-fusion (Vaara, 2000), post-acquisition (Koenig & Meier, 2001) and uncertain or more ambiguous managerial situations (Journé & Raulet-Croset, 2008). Finally, this special issue also contained a discussion on inter-organizational cooperation in the context of specific projects (Levin-Rozalis & Tubin, 2005). These articles were all based in qualitative research methods, which explains their relationship with the second sub-cluster, which is largely rooted in a special issue of *M@n@gement* dedicated to qualitative methodologies. A number of articles in this sub-cluster focus on researcher subjectivity in the context of qualitative data collection and analysis (Down, Garrety & Badham, 2006; Kisfalvi, 2006). Still others, such as the work of Langley and Royer (2006) and Musca (2006), focus on the various methodologies associated with case studies, while Chabaud and Germain (2006) insist on the “re-use” methodology for analyzing qualitative data.

Cluster 2. Extended Firm and Collaborative Networks

Cluster 2 (red; 13 articles) deals with extended firm and collaborative networks. Five of these articles were published in *M@n@gement*’s special issue on collaboration (Josserand, et al., 2004), dealing with questions ranging from opportunism (Lecocq, 2004) and trust among network actors (Nielse, 2004) to social and information relations (Casanueva & Galán González, 2004). Other articles from this special issue focus on the organizational impact of networks (Pavlovich & Kearins, 2004), participants’ ability to develop dynamic capabilities (Bucic & Gudergan, 2004) and the intra-organizational mechanisms involved in knowledge transfer (Perin & Rolland, 2007). In addition, Meschi (2008) proposes an analysis of the link between foreign direct investments in international joint-ventures and corruption in developing countries.

Articles from this cluster published in a second special issue relate to other concepts such as extended value chains (in particular logistics partnerships) (Knoppen & Cristiaanse, 2005), partners’ experiences (Brulhart, 2005), power relationships (O’Sullivan, 2005) and knowledge transfer in the context of external growth (Boari, Fratocchi & Presutti, 2005). In their articles, López Sintas and García Alvarez (1999) and Donada and Dostaler (2005) all address the issue of extended value-chain performance.

7. This work was published in the special issue on inter-organizational relationships (see Cluster 2).
Cluster 3. Reflections on Management

The third cluster (yellow; 5 articles), which links Clusters 1 and 2, provides theoretical reflections on collaboration and cooperation. The work of Hibbert and McQuade (2005) addresses the issue of tradition within inter-organizational relationships, while Pitsis, Kornberger and Clegg (2004) describe several fundamental building blocks to designing interorganizational collaboration and ensuring interorganizational synthesis in complex, uncertain and ambiguous conditions. Elsewhere, Jorgensen’s (2004) article focuses on the issue of power in changing environments, while Tyrell’s (2004) article considers communication as a tool for cohesion. Finally, Reihlen, Klaas-Wissing and Rinberg (2007) consider the broader implications of these reflections by discussing three paradigms—which they name “individualism,” “holism” and “systemic”—that can be used to cope with organizational issues.

Cluster 4. Organizational Dynamics

Cluster 4 (blue; 11 articles) is structured around two complementary special issues dealing with downsizing (Rabin, 1999) and career management (Bird, Gunz & Arthur, 2002). With regard to the first of these, Rust's work considers the ideological grounding and varying impacts of downsizing, while Gregory (1999) and Evans, Gunz and Jalland (1999) reflect on the issue of professional development (through training and career management) in the context of downsizing. Here, we can identify two contrasting perspectives that exist in the literature regarding the role and forms of career management: one complex (Gunz, Lichtenstein & Long, 2002; Parker & Arthur, 2002) and another traditional (Baruch, 2002; Chakrabarti & Chakrabarti, 2002). Elsewhere, Mignonac (2001) discusses the issue of intra-organizational mobility. Finally, we can point to two other contributions that consider strategic decisions in the context of complex environments (Sachs & Rühli, 2001; Yanes Estevez, 2003).

Cluster 5. Firm Governance and Ethics

Cluster 5 (purple; 4 articles) is centered on 3 articles that were published in M@n@gement's special issue on governance and ethics. These articles cover a number of important themes, such as shareholder trust (Alonso Almeida & Bueno Campos, 2008), status (Dessain, Meier & Salas, 2008), and management (Rodriguez Fernandez, 2008). Arrègle, Durand and Very (2004) complete this cluster by considering the link between the composition of the social capital of family firms and these firms’ ability to develop competitive advantage.

THE TERM OF EMMANUEL JOSserand (2008-2013)

Our analysis of the 75 articles published between 2008 and 2013 (15 articles per year) demonstrates that the term of Emmanuel Josserand continued the legacy first solidified by the previous editorial team and met two of the journal’s central strategic goals, i.e. supporting and diffusing French management research. It should be noted that the organization of the editorial board evolved during this period: Emmanuel Josserand became Editor-in-Chief and was surrounded by an international team consisting of nine editors, two assistants and two emeritus editors (Martin Evans and Bernard Forgues). From this point on, M@n@gement’s board was organized identically to the boards of many other major scientific
This is consistent with the journal’s initial objective of becoming a reference journal in management studies. Moreover, the international nature of the board is also a mark of its legitimacy in the broader academic environment. Of M@n@gement’s new international editors during this term, two had already published in M@n@gement as authors or had assisted in coordinating special issues (Pitsis and Clegg). This demonstrates that the journal had succeeded in both retaining and attracting researchers to support its continued development.

With regard to the origins of the authors representative of this term (see Figures 4 and 5), we can note that the proportion of articles authored by French researchers rose to 60% of the articles published (a figure which includes the 16% authored by French/international collaboration teams). This is consistent with trends at the end of Bernard Forgues’s term. In turn, the share of articles published by non-French international research teams declined by 35%. Here, it is important to note that the articles included in the special issue dedicated to the journal’s 15th anniversary (16 articles) accounted for 50% of the total articles published by international teams during this period (15 out of 30 articles).

In sum, these trends illustrate that French research had become mature enough to be consistently published in high-level journals. Despite the rising number of French researchers publishing in the journal during this period, M@n@gement remained attractive to international contributors. Indeed, in his last act as Editor-in-Chief, Emmanuel Josserand celebrated M@n@gement’s 15th anniversary by putting together a “mind-blowing special issue with contributions from well renowned scholars, highlighting the international recognition of the journal.”

That said, although the internationalization of the journal was less pronounced during this term, the diversity in the origins of its contributors remained stable (15 countries vs. 17 in the previous term). Nevertheless, the share of North-American contributors decreased sharply from 33% to 17.3%. As a result, American contributors—who made up the majority of authors during the first period—were now the third-largest group (with nine individual contributors). Canadian contributors, however, increased their share during this term (from 7.6% to 11.3%). Over the period, 74.3% of European contributors were French. While diversity did generally remain stable, the relative importance of various countries decreased. For example, contributors from Spain—who were the second-largest European group during the first period (27 out of 95 contributors)—only accounted for 8 out of 115 contributors in the second period. At the margin, it should be noted that Africa was represented for the first time during this period, with one contributor hailing from Tunisia.

Among the articles published during this term, we found a relative balance between qualitative and quantitative approaches (22 articles vs. 18), while mixed-method approaches remained marginal (2). It is also interesting to note that the essay form gained importance during this period, representing 33 of the period’s 75 articles (16 of which were published in the term’s culminating special issue).

During this period, the rate of publication of special issues was regular (1 per year). They addressed a number of topics such as Organizational Identity and Resilience (2009, 12.4), Business Models (2010, 13.4), Critical Management Studies and Managerial Education (2011, 14.5), and New Institutionalism (2012, 15.5). As previously noted, the last of these special issues commemorated M@n@gement’s 15th anniversary.
Our use of BCA in this context helped us to identify six main issues that characterize the period in question (Figure 6). In contrast to those of the previous period, these particular themes were less rooted in the articles published in special issues. They include: 1) general management; 2)
institutionalism; 3) business models; 4) strategy-as-practice; 5) corporate social responsibility; and 6) rigor/relevance debate.

Cluster 1. General Management

Cluster 1 (red; 15 articles) deals with a large variety of managerial issues. This cluster can be subdivided into several sub-clusters focusing on themes such as entrepreneurship, extended firms, product development, crisis management, power in organizations and human resources management.

In his contribution, Bureau (2013) analyzes how entrepreneurs’ subversive activities can at times destroy rules and values, and thus limit the development (and expansion) of their projects. Boissin, Chollet and Emin (2009) identify factors that lead to students desiring to start their own businesses, while Fayolle and Gailly (2009) analyze the impact of the formation content on such desires. Relatedly, Brunel and Grima (2010) reflect on the school/work conflict, i.e. the coping strategies that working students use to deal with the inherent stress of their situations. Grima (2009) goes on to shed light on the environment particular to business schools, showing how critical management scholars behave with regard to the ideological tension of working in such institutions.

Regarding the subject of the extended firm, Delerue and Lejeune (2013) analyze situations defined by joint patenting via R&D partnerships, as well as how such situations raise questions about both the allocation of control rights and the attribution of resources. In their contribution, Dumez and Jeunemaître (2010) offer up a case study through which they develop the ambiguity of firms’ boundaries.

Figure 6. Research front (Term 2)

10. In this way, this cluster is related to Cluster 2 from Term 1.
Chollet, Brion, Chauvet, Mothe and Géraudel (2011) explore the issue of product development, analyzing how a project leader's social capital can influence upper-management's support of new product development projects, whereas Merminod, Mothe and Rowe (2009) discuss how product lifecycle management technologies contribute to product development.

Altinas and Royer (2009) and Hasel (2013) both contribute work on crisis management, with the former focusing on the role of learning in the context of the development of organizational resilience, and the latter analyzing the influence of trust on leadership in the context of a crisis. Two other articles from this term could in fact be linked with Cluster 4 of the first period. These focus on the evolution of employees' behavior toward employers (Grima & Glaymann, 2012) as well as on the link between stress and employee creativity (Dominguez, 2013).

Finally, we can find two articles from this cluster that are reminiscent of those of Cluster 2 (Term 1), as their authors adopt a neo-institutionalist approach in analyzing both the influence of organizational isomorphism on corruption (Venard, 2009) and the reasons why firms in highly uncertain markets opt for temporal agglomeration regardless of the fact that doing so impedes their market performance (Cartier & Liarte, 2010).

Cluster 2. Institutionalism

This term’s second cluster—Cluster 2 (green; 7 articles)—is composed of articles that were all published in a special issue on new institutionalism edited by Forgues et al. (2012), as well as two other articles on the same theme. The special issue offers various perspectives on new institutionalism: Bromley, Hwang and Powell (2012) explain how organizations from the same industry enact shared practices differently. Dansou and Langley (2012) use the concept of “institutional work” as a means of understanding how institutions may be disrupted, maintained or created. In the same vein, Ben Slimane (2012) focuses on “discursive” institutional work. Elsewhere, Taupin (2012) identifies the mechanisms that lead to institutional maintenance, while Delacour and Leca (2011) analyze the deinstitutionalization of an organization and its consequences. Finally, Weik (2012) introduces the framework of “creative action” with the aim of overcoming the inherent bias of institutional theory.

Cluster 3. Business Models

Cluster 3 (blue; 6 articles) is largely rooted in Management's special issue on business models, itself published in 2010. There, Lecocq, Demil and Ventura (2010) provide an overview of the literature on business models, positioning it as a new research area in its own right. For their part, Camisón and Villar-Lopez (2010) develop the concept of business models and propose a new taxonomy for analyzing it. Other articles from this cluster/special issue develop various other dimensions of business models, in particular issues such as the organizational impact of a change in business model (Moingeon & Lehmann-Ortega, 2010), the specificities of open innovation (Chanal & Caron-Fason, 2010) and customer-oriented business models (Plé, 2013; Plé, Lecocq & Angot, 2010).

Cluster 4. Strategy-as-Practice

Cluster 4 (yellow; 4 articles) is composed exclusively of essays published in the 15th anniversary special issue, which are themselves
rooted in the strategy-as-practice perspective. While Rouleau (2013) considers the future of strategy-as-practice research, Guerard, Langley and Seidl (2013) question the concept of performance and call for a renewed perspective on performativity. The remaining articles adopt a more discursive perspective: Vaara and Reff Pedersen (2013) analyze how time and space are considered in strategic narratives and how both impact organizational strategizing, and Michaud (2013) works through the tensions and paradoxes associated with discourse in organizations.

Cluster 5. Corporate Social Responsibility

This cluster (purple; 3 articles) considers various aspects of issues related to corporate social responsibility (CSR). For example, taking a managerial and organizational stance, Acquier, Daudigeos and Valiorgue (2011) plead for more focused research on the intra-organizational impacts of CSR programs. Meanwhile, Barin Cruz, Chebbi and Chtourou (2011) analyze the process of strategic formation in firms while considering CSR, and El Abboubi and Nicolopoulou (2012) attempt to comprehend if and how stakeholders are involved in developing socially conscious international accountability standards.

Cluster 6. Emotions in Organizations

Cluster 6 (orange; 2 articles) deals with the role that emotion plays in two separate environments: Haag and Laroche (2009) argue that emotions are a fundamental factor in steering committees’ performance and propose a model for emotional contagion, while Coget, Haag and Bonnefous (2009) analyze the influence of emotions on intuitive decision making.

Cluster 7. Rigor/Relevance Debate

Cluster 7 (light blue; 3 articles) contributes three distinct takes and perspectives on the rigor/relevance debate. The first of these articles considers that management studies suffer from being a low-heed discipline, and in turn pushes for a more balanced situation (McKinley, Wood & Moon, 2011). Elsewhere, a second article attempts to mobilize Dewey’s conceptualization of pragmatism in order to overcome the traditional rigor/relevance debate (Vo, Mounoud & Rose, 2012). Finally, the third article of this cluster considers that the debate itself is misguided, and that it should instead be reframed in terms of traceability and controllability (Mesny & Mailhot, 2012). For these two authors, design science presents itself as a relevant lens for tackling such a reframing.


The duo formed by Laure Cabantous and Sébastien Liarte would ultimately fulfill M@n@gement's final editorial goal: promoting and diffusing high-level research in management produced by French scholars. From this third period forward, M@n@gement appears as a main international vehicle for best-in-class French research in management. An analysis of the 54 articles published between 2014 and 2017 (13.5 articles per year) reveals that 87% of these papers were authored by researchers from French institutions, of which 17% were the fruit of collaborations with foreign institutions (Figures 7 and 8). This trend is consistent with the journal's internal organization: in this period, its editorial board was
reduced in size and came to include three researchers from international institutions. Moreover, the rising influence of French authors can in part be attributed to the aforementioned two co-editors, and specifically to the energy and time that they spent strengthening the journal’s relationships with the larger (French) Association Internationale de Management Stratégique (AIMS) community. In this vein, they attempted to combat the notion that junior scholars should not publish in M@n@gement (Forgues & Liarte, 2013: 753); for example, they frequently promoted the journal as being a place where young and promising researchers could publish and improve their research, largely thanks to the journal’s development-focused peer-review process.

This trend should not be understood as the nationalization of the journal, but rather, as being linked to the internationalization of French management research. Indeed, due in large part to its editorial direction and its rigorous peer-review process, M@n@gement was able to maintain a high-quality output (in relation to articles published), being published almost entirely in English. This policy received support from AIMS, which shares the similar conception of quality benchmarks for management research.

Conversely, the research produced by scholars from international institutions generally decreased during this period, coming to represent only 13% of the journal’s total publications. Notably, US contributions largely vanished, with the term counting only one American contributor. Similarly, non-French European contributors were far less represented than they had been in the past: Spain, Italy and Germany were no longer represented, and European languages disappeared altogether (with the exception of a number of English-French bilingual versions of papers). In addition, most of the international collaborations during this period were initiated by French scholars (9 out of 16). This trend reflects the journal’s shifting strategy: whereas M@n@gement had originally conceived of itself as an avenue for promoting European research by offering researchers the opportunity to submit and publish work in their native languages, this period saw this priority sidelined. Indeed, the editorial thrust of this period saw the journal fully realize and act on the necessity of publishing in English as a means of increasing its impact and visibility. Nevertheless, the period saw other aspects of the journal’s “internationalization” grow, notably through the emergence of a South American contingent of contributors.

One of the challenges for M@n@gement’s future will be for it to maintain this growing internationalization by attracting new contributors from diverse nationalities—European and non-European alike—while at the same time remaining committed to developing and diffusing French management research at the international level. This challenge will be crucial, especially as the journal now finds itself enmeshed in international competition. To meet this challenge head on, the journal must restore the diversity of the research being published and increase its international collaborations and affiliations, all while continuing to promote the French research tradition.

Among the articles published during this third term, we found a relative equilibrium between qualitative and quantitative research approaches (23 articles vs. 16), while mixed-method research remained marginal (1). We also noted a decrease in the importance of essays in this period (14 of the 54 articles), half of which were published in special issues.

11. French authors are given the option of submitting and revising their paper in French; however, they must also provide an English version of the accepted manuscript. As a result of this practice, 23 articles of the period’s 54 articles are bilingual.
During this period, the rate of publication of special issues was not as regular as it had been during previous terms (0.75 vs. 1 per year). Nevertheless, these special issues addressed notably original and important topics, including *Internationalization, from a Southern Perspective* (2015, 18.1); *Alternatives to Capitalism* (2017, 20.1); and...
Critical Performativity (2017, 20.4). We note that the journal was able to maintain its commitment to international scholars, as 61% of the total international authors contributed to one of these three special issues.

Through our BCA (Figure 9), we were able to identify 7 main issues that characterize this period’s research front: 1) internationalization; 2) performativity; 3) theoretical reflections on management; 4) alternatives to capitalism; 5) open innovation; and 6) rigor/relevance debate.

Cluster 1. Internationalization

The first cluster from this period (red; 9 articles) deals with internationalization. It is structured around a special issue published in 2015, which sought to reverse the traditional view of internationalization by offering perspectives on economies of the Global South (Bandeira-de-Mello, Ghauri, Mayrhofer & Meschi, 2015). In that same issue, Marchand (2015) considers companies from the Global South’s takeovers of others in the Global North. The contributions of Lamotte and Colovic (2015) and Ricard and Saiyed (2015) identify different factors that can influence a new venture in an emerging country to decide to internationalize. Two other articles widen this perspective, first by considering information exchange within the networks of export companies (Dominguez, Mayrhofer & Obadia, 2017), and second by positioning “alliance” as a modality for internationalization (Chiambaretto, 2015).

Cluster 2. Theoretical Reflections on Management

Cluster 2 (green; 5 articles) addresses a number of managerial issues by proposing new theoretical perspectives on them. Two of these articles attempt to overcome certain traditional oppositions in management...
thinking. For their part, Elbasha and Wright (2017) suggest that structuration theory might be useful in overcoming the dichotomy between agency and structure, which often arises in analyses of strategizing. Elsewhere, Orvain (2014) proposes an integrated perspective on attention theory that reconciles specific tools with cognitively oriented views through a reliance on the concept of “Organizational Qui-Vive.” Other articles in this cluster focus on the seemingly invisible dimensions of particular managerial issues. Koenig, Vandangeon-Desrumez, Marty, Auroy and Dumond (2016) focus on a set of basic managerial rules as a means of developing a more contextualized approach to compliance management in organizations. Martineau’s (2017) work considers management instruments and adopts an artifactual perspective in detailing how these instruments share a “listic” structure. Finally, Aggeri (2017) develops a theoretical framework aimed at managing the process of performance in organizations. This article, which was published in the special issue on performativity, links Cluster 2 with Cluster 3.

Cluster 3. Performativity

The third cluster (blue; 4 articles) is composed exclusively of articles published in a special issue on performativity, all of which draw on critical management studies (Huault, Karreman, Perret & Spicer, 2017). A number of varying perspectives are discussed in these articles, including Knudsen’s (2017) proposals vis-à-vis critical research strategy and critical science, and Reinhold’s (2017) suggestion that critical artists could become allies for critical researchers and enable them to understand organizational life and its impacts on workers’ bodies and behaviors. In his contribution, Küpers (2017) puts forward a phenomenological and relational approach for interpreting the interrelated roles of embodied processes of performance.

Cluster 4. Alternatives to Capitalism

This cluster (yellow; 3 articles) consists of articles published in the special issue dedicated to organizing alternatives to capitalism. In this vein, the editors of the issue claim that it is necessary to overcome the field’s traditional focus on singular organizational alternatives (Barin Cruz, Alves & Delbridge, 2017), and in turn suggest a relational approach to management aimed at connecting a set of key actors and institutions, including governments, universities, civil society and investors. In his contribution, Lallemand-Stempak (2017) demonstrates that hybrid organizations are more than the simple merging of traditional organizational forms, particularly given how they develop their own institutional logics. Taking a similar approach (though adopting a paradox perspective) is Audebrand (2017), who uses his contribution to analyze the specificities of workers’ cooperatives.

Cluster 5. Open Innovation

Cluster 5 (purple; 2 articles) is composed of two articles that deal with the notion of open innovation. Oberoi, Haon and Bodas Freitas (2014) acknowledge how firms acquire and exploit external contributions when engaged in open innovation. In turn, these authors consider the variable of “externality of control” as being able to moderate the relationship between “diversity of contribution” and a “firm’s innovative performance.” For their part, Fréchet and Goy (2017) reconsider the relationship between the
formalization and innovation of strategy by combining socio-material and open-innovation perspectives.

Cluster 6. Rigor/Relevance Debate

Cluster 6 (light blue; 2 articles) in many ways carries on the legacy of Cluster 7 from the journal’s previous period. Among these articles, Carton and Mouricou (2017) offer up a systematic analysis of the rigor and relevance debates across various top-tier journals. In doing so, they provide a framework for four typical positions toward academic research. Hamet and Maurer (2017) address the question of management research visibility for practitioners and show that (despite a general uptick in that visibility) such research remains limited in scope and restricted to top-tier journals.

DISCUSSION: SEEKING AND BRIDGING NEW TERRITORIES

Together, the results above reveal that each of M@n@gement's successive editorial teams has played different yet important roles in the development of the journal’s identity. The first of these teams—consisting of Forgues, Evans and Desreumaux—was able to rapidly cast the journal as an attractive, selective and relevant publication by adopting a peer-review process similar to those of its leading competitors, as well as by carrying out extensive institutional work in both the French and international research communities. During a second editorial term, Josserand reoriented the journal’s positioning to focus on strategic themes (institutional theory, strategy-as-practice, business models, etc.) all while maintaining the quality of M@n@gement’s output by overseeing the “professionalization” of the journal. Thanks to these efforts, the journal has found itself featured in both the Australian Business Deans Council (ABCD) and Danish Ministry Journal (DEN) journal rankings list. The third term—led by Cabantous and Liarte—saw the journal consolidate its twofold grounding in Strategy & Organization and strengthen its support of the French-speaking research community. This period’s editors also improved the journal’s standing in both the academic and practical spheres. As a result of these changes, M@n@gement was ultimately referenced in the “strategy” category in Association of Business Schools’s 2015 rankings (ABS), before being named as “the most relevant French research journal for managers” in 2016 (Kalika, Liarte & Moscarola, 2016).

As a result of these efforts, M@n@gement has been able to fulfill the core strategic objectives laid out at its inception. Indeed, the journal has succeeded in contributing to the internationalization and development of top-shelf French research. Over these years, the number of high-level publications authored by French contributors has sharply increased, both in M@n@gement and in other international scientific journals. Furthermore, the long-term efforts of M@n@gement's successive editorial boards have helped scholars to improve their research, largely thanks to the journal’s rigorous peer-review process. In parallel with these developments, M@n@gement has managed to secure scientific legitimacy and institutional capital. This comes as the result of relentless development of both national networks (with AIMS since 2006) and international affiliations (with AOM during Forgues’s term). This has all in turn translated into an ascent in the international rankings. Still, this institutional work must continue so that the journal can ultimately climb the ranks of other international rankings systems, such as European Journal of Information
One consistent variable during these years was M@n@gement's (ongoing) commitment to remaining a generalist journal. This has allowed the journal to contribute powerful insights and contributions to various domains in the fields of management and strategy. Relatedly, and thanks to its special issues, the journal has also been able to consistently publish sets of articles dealing with specific and topical areas of research, such as performativity, business models, strategy-as-practice, etc. Here, it is also important to note the originality of the research published. In addition to serving as a springboard for the more cultural dimension of the French academic tradition, these special issues, along with the journal’s “unplugged” articles, have played an important role in enabling contributors to provide readers with insightful reflections and creative perspectives.

By drawing on both our results and conclusions, we can now point to two key challenges that the journal may face during its next 20 years of existence. The first of these challenges concerns the journal’s thematics: M@n@gement must continue to conquer new territories, but in order to do so it must: a) reconfigure its approach to promoting internal citations; and b) foster a more coherent thematic identity.

Regarding the former, the great diversity of M@n@gement’s publications may ultimately limit the journal’s capacity to serve as a well-identified forum for scientific conversations. This shortcoming is an issue for organization theory more generally—much as McKinley et al. (2011) have pointed out—and unfortunately, M@n@gement is no exception to this rule: of the roughly 13,750 single-citation references across M@n@gement’s corpus, only 90 are direct citations of the journal itself, (an overall count of only 137 internal citations out of a total of almost 17,000). Of these 90 “self-citations,” only 10 are cited more than 3 times. Moreover, of these 13,750 citations, only 27 references are cited more than 10 times. Thus, it seems that the majority of the journal’s contributors do not draw on, develop, confirm or refute other M@n@gement publications. Together, these figures illustrate the need for M@n@gement to involve itself more consciously in larger, more structured conversations regarding the “inside” and “outside” of the journal.

In addition to a more structured approach to its internal citations, M@n@gement must develop a more coherent thematic identity. Certainly, the journal’s special issues have offered readers innovative and exciting research and have thus positioned it as being at the forefront of the latest research trends. However, these special issues oftentimes appear as one-off publication opportunities, when they should instead be seen as launching pads for researchers and as being able to nurture larger scientific conversations. For example, despite the quality and noticeable impact of the articles found in M@n@gement’s special issue on business models, the issue represented the first time that the journal had published any new research dealing with this pivotal topic. Consequently, the special issue failed to attract a vast array of new work dealing with innovative approaches, such as social and digital business models (Lecocq, Mangematin, Maucuer & Ronteau, 2018). That said, since the journal’s latest editorial team began their term, the journal seems to be taking a more serious look at how it can best channel similar promising and emerging topics, particularly given the fact that other journals often take a much more conservative and incremental approach to such trends.

13. For further information concerning these rankings, see http://www.harzing.com.
In the decades to come, we suggest that M@n@gement consider its special issues as opportunities for shaping specific conversations in which it wishes to play a leading role. The journal must then follow up on these special issues (see AIMS’s thematic groups for a model of this). One potential solution to this issue might see each term marked by an editorial in which the journal’s new editorial board lays out its vision for M@n@gement's thematic identity and orientation. This would provide both thematic coherence and direction to the journal’s editors, contributors and readers alike.

A second issue facing the journal is its geographic reach. As noted above, M@n@gement was initially an ideal avenue for researchers wishing to submit and publish articles in their native tongues. This positioning led to a great diversity of research traditions (especially for North-American, Spanish, Australian and German research). Over the last terms, however, French research published in English has come to dominate the journal. Naturally, this trend has affected the international diversity of M@n@gement's contributors. Without losing sight of its commitment to the French research tradition, however, the journal should tap even more heavily into its American and European networks as a means of reinforcing its international presence. Similarly, we believe that the journal should seek out other opportunities for internationalization, for example by calling for contributions from emerging countries in Africa, South America and Asia. Such an endeavor would be supported by M@n@gement's ongoing commitment to remaining an open-access journal, a commitment that has been present since its founding. Moreover, this would be consistent with AIMS’s decision to hold its 2019 Conference in Dakar, Senegal.

In an effort to face such challenges and to continue fostering M@n@gement's evolution, the new Editors-in-Chief—Thibault Daudigeos and Thomas Roulet—have begun to reinforce the journal's presence at international conferences (such as Academy of Management and European Group for Organizational Studies) and have also drastically strengthened their social media presence. This latter effort has already paid dividends: the journal's Twitter account has more than 1,000 followers, the majority of whom are foreign-based researchers. Moreover, a number of international associate editors (based in the United Kingdom and Canada) have been involved in the development and promotion of the journal abroad. Thanks to these efforts, this year saw the number of international submissions to the journal rise to account for 40% of all total submissions.

So, what can we expect from M@n@gement over the next 20 years?

If one considers the work already begun by the journal’s new editors, as well as the extent to which the recommendations provided above could complement those efforts, we are confident that M@n@gement will continue to grow, both in scope and recognition. While its reference status as a leading outlet for French management research published in English is indisputable, we believe that the journal will ultimately become the lighthouse for the French tradition (among other high-impact international journals) in the decades to come. Indeed—and largely thanks to the new editors’ institutional work and the journal’s attempts to better balance international and French contributors—it seems that M@n@gement will continue to concretize the particular specificity of its output by developing, supporting and diffusing innovative research themes, while at the same time...
time becoming a lightning-rod (for alternative and original research still linked to mainstream scientific conversations) that is rooted in an open-access model.

In addition to these trends, we believe that M@n@gement will also be able to become a reference for specific themes in management research, just as long as its new editors are able to effectively orientate and structure the contributions that the journal decides to publish. Several of the research areas that we have identified as the journal’s strong points could thus be considered as ideal starting points for future publications or thematic orientation(s). Furthermore, we feel that it would be pertinent and helpful for M@n@gement to draw more heavily on its “unplugged” articles in identifying future key topics. Indeed, were it able to develop a stronger positioning on specific, high-potential topics, the journal would be better positioned to reinforce its international reputation and legitimacy in the long term.

We strongly believe that M@n@gement’s growing “sympathetic capital”—both at the national and international levels—will allow it to reinforce its status as a platform for close-knit and inspiring networks. Moreover, by doing so, the journal will be able to continue to nurture its institutional relationships with both French and international academic ecosystems. Here, we wish to underline the key role that M@n@gement’s contributors do and will play in promoting the journal in their institutions in both France and abroad. Relatedly, the journal’s peer-review process—which aims at not only selecting, but at above all helping its contributors to improve their submissions—should be emphasized to encourage new colleagues to submit their work.

In conclusion, we believe that M@n@gement is on its way to becoming the premier international, high-impact journal in management studies rooted in the French tradition. In order to do so, however, the journal must remain focused on conquering new thematic and geographic territories, as well as on structuring its positioning vis-à-vis specific and promising academic conversations. That said, we have no doubt that the work initiated by Thibault Daudigeos and Thomas Roulet—itself built on the legacies of former editors—will be fruitful. We wish them the best of luck—long live M@n@gement!
APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. THE TERM OF BERNARD FORGUES, MARTIN EVANS, ALAIN DESREUMAUX (1998-2008)

CLUSTER 1. TEAM COOPERATION AND MANAGEMENT


Chedotel, F. (2004). Avoir le sentiment de faire partie d’une équipe : de l’identification à la coopération. M@n@gement, 7(3), 161-193.

Dameron, S. (2004). Opportunisme ou besoin d’appartenance ? La dualité coopérative dans le cas d’équipes Projet. M@n@gement, 7(3), 137-160.


CLUSTER 2. EXTENDED FIRM AND COLLABORATIVE NETWORKS


Casaneuva, C. & Galán González, J.L.G. (2004). Social and Information Relations in Networks of Small and Medium-Sized Firms. M@n@gement, 7(3), 215-238.


CLUSTER 3. REFLECTIONS ON MANAGEMENT


CLUSTER 4. ORGANIZATIONAL DYNAMICS


CLUSTER 5. FIRM GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS


APPENDIX 2. THE TERM OF EMMANUEL JOSSERAND (2008-2013)

CLUSTER 1. GENERAL MANAGEMENT


Brunel, O. & Grima, F. (2010). Dealing with Work-School Conflict: An Analysis of Coping Strategies. M@n@gement, 13(3), 172-204.


Fayolle, A. & Gailly (2009). L’évaluation d’une formation en entrepreneuriat : prédispositions et impact sur l’intention d’entreprendre. M@n@gement, 12(3), 176-203.


Merminod, V., Mothe, V. & Rowe, F. (2009). Effets de product lifecycle management sur la fiabilité et la productivité : une comparaison entre deux contextes de développement produit. M@n@gement, 12(4), 294-331.


CLUSTER 2. INSTITUTIONALISM


Delacour, H. & Lejeune, A. (2013). Joint Patenting in R&D Alliances: Control Rights and Resource Attributes. M@n@gement, 16(2), 113-140.


Taupin, B. (2012). The More Things Change... Institutional Maintenance as Justification Work in the Credit Rating Industry. M@n@gement, 15(5), 528-562.

CLUSTER 3. BUSINESS MODELS


Chanal, V. & Caron-Fason, M.-L. (2010). The Difficulties Involved in Developing Business Models Open to Innovation Communities: The Case of a Crowdsourcing Platform. *M@n@gement*, 13(4).


Plé, L. (2013). How Does the Customer Fit in Relational Coordination? An Empirical Study in Multichannel Retail Banking. *M@n@gement*, 16(1), 1-30.


CLUSTER 4. STRATEGY-AS-PRACTICE


Rouleau, L. (2013). Strategy-As-Practice Research at a Crossroads. *M@n@gement*, 16(5), 547-565.


CLUSTER 5. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY


CLUSTER 6. EMOTIONS IN ORGANIZATIONS


CLUSTER 7. RIGOR AND RELEVANCE DEBATE


CLUSTER 1. INTERNATIONALIZATION


Lamotte, O. & Colovic, A. (2015). Early Internationalization of New Ventures from Emerging Countries: The Case of Transition Economies. M@n@gement, 18(1), 8-30.


Marchand, M. (2015). When the South Takes Over the North: Dynamics of Up-Market Integrations by Emerging Multinationals. M@n@gement, 18(1), 31-53.


Ricard, A. & Saiyed, A.A. (2015). Attitude Toward Internationalization and Early Internationalization: Comparison of Indian and French SMEs’ Decision Makers. M@n@gement, 18(1), 54-77.

CLUSTER 2. THEORETICAL REFLECTIONS ON MANAGEMENT


CLUSTER 3. PERFORMATIVITY


CLUSTER 4. ALTERNATIVES TO CAPITALISM

Audebrand, L.K. (2017). Expanding the Scope of Paradox Scholarship on Social Enterprise: The Case For (Re)Introducing Worker Cooperatives. M@n@gement, 20(4), 368-393.


CLUSTER 5. OPEN INNOVATION


CLUSTER 6. RIGOR AND RELEVANCE DEBATE


REFERENCES

Crane, D. (1972), I
visible Colleges: Diffusion of Knowledge in Scientific Communities, Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.


**Raphaël Maucuer** is an Associate Professor of Strategy at ESSCA School of Management. He holds a PhD in Management Sciences from the University of Paris-Dauphine. His research interests include business models, strategic discourses and non-profit organizations.

**Alexandre Renaud** is an Associate Professor of Strategy at EM Normandie. He holds a PhD in Management Sciences from the University of Paris-Dauphine. His research interests include strategic alignment, project management and information systems reconfiguration.