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Thesis Title:

Multilevel Dynamics of Complexity in Institutions

Supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Narduzzo,
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Commission:

Prof. Simone Guercini, Università degli Studi di Firenze

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Multilevel Dynamics of Complexity in Institutions

Mechanisms of Institutional Change & Socioeconomic Complexity

Institutions are rules, norms, and historically patterned behaviors. They are practiced in the setting of complex social systems, where multiple interconnected levels of individual, organization, and field exist. Through the interaction between and within these interconnected levels, institutions change over time.

Despite the existing literature on institutional change, few studies show mechanisms within institutional change processes. Hence, the dynamics of complexity in institutions have remained underexplored. In this thesis, I address this gap over three distinct papers using agent-based simulation and qualitative methods.

In the thesis discussion session, while providing an introduction to my PhD thesis, I will focus on the third paper. This paper focuses on the complex socioeconomic setting of the emerging French private higher education sector. It further develops an agent-based model while calibrating the model with historical data. This paper's findings advance institutional theory by explaining the role of mechanisms such as economic conditions, risk-taking, mimetism, dynamic capability, and internationalization mindset in the process of emerging institutions.

Siavash Farahbakhsh Short Bio



Siavash is a PhD Candidate at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (unibz). He holds a MSc in Management Engineering from Politecnico di Milano and a BSc in Materials Engineering from Tehran Polytechnic. His research is focused on the complexity of social systems and institutional change processes. In doing so, he uses mainly qualitative and computational methods.

