



> Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

> 10:00 – 11:30

> ICOR



EMPOWERING CHANGEMAKERS FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF POLITICAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

1. DISAMBIGUATING POLITICAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: A META-THEORETICAL REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

We confront the persistent conceptual ambiguity in Political Corporate Social Responsibility (PCSR) scholarship that drove theoretical fragmentation and unresolved debates by reviewing three core areas of contestations in this field: power dynamics and motivations for corporate political agency, the governance scope of corporate political action, and the socio-political outcomes of PCSR activities. Moving beyond descriptive syntheses, we conduct a meta-theoretical review of 197 articles (2014-2024) to explain how these areas of contestations are organised within and across three meta-theoretical paradigms: structural, anti-structural, and post-structural. We show how underlying ontological and epistemological commitments generate theoretical divergence, leading to sustained conceptual ambiguity.

Our review offers a novel, power-centric, and context-aware structured platform for dialogue that can bridge theoretical silos and offers an epistemic space for underrepresented theoretical lenses; this platform, in turn, can enable more inclusive theory development in the field. Leveraging our meta-theoretical framework, we develop an agenda for future research structured around the three areas of contestation that can generate new insights within and across paradigms. This agenda can support PCSR theory-building from various disciplines interested in business ethics, corporate power, governance, socio-political change, and sustainability.





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THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF POLITICAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

2. FROM POLITICAL TO GEOPOLITICAL CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: BUSINESS AMID INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFLICT

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ABSTRACT

To address how intergovernmental conflict affects the political role of business in society, we shift the analytical lens of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and theorize the construct of Geopolitical CSR (GCSR). To study and re-embed CSR within its geopolitical context, we develop a research agenda. We map the mis/alignments of assumptions about geopolitics in various streams of management studies dedicated to CSR, politics, and governments. We then leverage International Relations foundational schools (neorealism, neoliberal institutionalism, constructivism, and critical schools) to offer a pluralist approach to GCSR and evaluate how these streams of studies can be cross-fertilized to further develop GCSR research.

Our paper offers a threefold contribution to management theory. First, we conceptualize the notion of geopolitical CSR and provide it with pluralistic theoretical foundations from international relations. Second, we extend prior politically-informed streams of studies on CSR by offering a fully-fledged research agenda for GCSR. Third, we show the relevancy of a multi-paradigmatic approach to theory-building in emerging or new constructs that are likely to be contested.

