

PhD research projects

Supervisor: Carlos Sato

1. The use of projects and programmes to deliver business transformation

Potential PhD students would be welcome with interests in looking at large/mature firms overcoming severe competitive environments, focusing on the role and use of projects and programmes for business transformation, or for transformative change and innovation...at the firm level.

2. The improvement of performance of major projects managed by government This is largely motivated by the initiative in the UK called Major Projects Authority (MPA) established by the Prime Minister David Cameron in 2011. The idea is to 'compare' and contrast this initiative in the UK with the way other country governments (or where government is a significant stakeholder) are managing their own 'problematic' major projects such as infrastructure (transport, dams, etc.), megaevents (Olympic Games, World Cup), etc.), starting with the 'comparison' between the UK/MPA and major projects led by the Brazilian Government. The aim here is to inform practice and policy of the Brazilian Government in the management of their 'problematic' major projects. Here again, most, if not all, projects and programmes led by Government are supposed to deliver 'transformation' which goes beyond the usual performance measured in meeting cost, deadline and specification. Potential PhD students with interests in the management of their own country major projects would be welcome.

3. The use of projects and programmes to build innovation systems.

This is motivated by some potential research projects in Brazil where certain 'programmes' are used to build technological capabilities/innovation systems in the country, in this case, a developing country. For example, the acquisition programme of jet fighters by the Brazilian Government, and also the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite programme: to what extent are they effective for building technological capabilities/innovation system in the Brazilian aeronautics and space research sectors? Also here the aim is to inform practice and policy. Potential PhD students with interests in other national 'programmes' for building innovation systems in their own country would be welcome.