

Interdisciplinary Approach to Collaborative Maritime Research: Doing Much with Little

	Name	Contact Information	Role
1	Joan P Mileski	Department Head Professor Department of Maritime Administration Texas a & M University at Galveston 200 Seaawolf Parkway Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-740-4978 Email: mileskij@tamug.edu	Session Organizer & Chair
2	Grace Wang	Associate Professor Department of Maritime Administration Texas a & M University at Galveston 200 Seaawolf Parkway Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-740-4496 Email: wangw@tamug.edu	Speaker
3	Ping Wang	Assistant Professor Department of Maritime Administration Texas a & M University at Galveston 200 Seaawolf Parkway Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-740-4441 Email: wangp@tamug.edu	Speaker
4	Cassia Bomer Galvao	Assistant Professor Department of Maritime Administration Texas a & M University at Galveston 200 Seaawolf Parkway Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-740-4451 Email: galvaoc@tamug.edu	Speaker
5	Mazen Brho	Assistant Professor Department of Maritime Administration Texas a & M University at Galveston 200 Seaawolf Parkway Galveston, TX 77553 Phone: 409-740-4447 Email: bhro.m@tamug.edu	Speaker

Joan P. Mileski, Texas A & M University at Galveston
Opening and Concluding Remarks and Panel Moderator

Presentations and Discussions

Grace Wang, associate professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston
“My views on trailblazing collaboration”

Ping Wang, assistant professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston
“How to collaborate across researcher level and borders”

Cassia Bomer Galvao, assistant professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston
“Assistant Professor’s Perspective with cross college/department researching”

Mazen Brho, assistant professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston
“As mentors become colleagues”

Joan Mileski, professor and department head, Texas A & M University at Galveston
“Creating a team, bringing them together, finding resources”

ABSTRACT

Truly impactful maritime business research can happen along the edges and intersections of business, science, engineering and social science disciplines. In order for maritime business researchers to participate in this type of interdisciplinary research, collaborations must be formed with researchers in science, engineering, and various social sciences. This panel presentation will address the importance of good collaborations with other maritime business researcher and with other researchers across disciplines to produce globally impactful and high quality maritime business research. We explore a case of a department whose research was relatively unknown less than 8 years ago. Now that same department is now ranked highly for its maritime business degree and research in its country. Critical to the success of collaborative research, a maritime business department, first and foremost, must have a strong departmental research program. The research program should have a strategy, personnel motivated to collaborate, and institutional support for interdisciplinary successful research. Success, in this case, is defined as research that has high impact on the literature and, more importantly, on the industry.

This panel presentation will address what works and what does not work in producing collaborative interdisciplinary maritime business research. Furthermore, we address what are the right, wrong and inappropriate behaviors in collaborative research. We discuss the planning an impactfulness strategy, overcoming independence by researchers to benefit collaboration and

impact, understanding that sharing is caring, brainstorming with all researchers along the interdisciplinary lines and looking for gaps in the research that can best be served with many lenses. We find that good collaboration strategies include 1. Exchanging ideas in weekly meetings among department members; 2. Using the department head to reach out across colleges to arrange forums for collaborative discussions on maritime topics; 3. Providing resources to travel to conferences within and outside the comfort zones of the researchers' areas; 4. And inviting and supporting researchers outside the university to meet and collaborate with internal researchers. The panelists bring their experiences and expertise to the roundtable format to begin a discussion of what they have learned and the keys to successful interdisciplinary collaborations.

OVERVIEW

Each panel presenter will discuss their collaborative experiences in the context of their own research streams. The panel presentation will open with the panel organizer and department head, Joan Mileski, of the Department of Maritime Administration at Texas A & M University at Galveston giving an overview of the history of the department's research program. Grace Wang, an associate professor and economist, will give her perspective on being one of the trailblazers in the group - how she met and worked with collaborators when the department was small. Ping Wang, assistant professor and an engineer with a PhD in management, will address his collaboration experiences with all levels of researchers across borders – from students to deans. Cassia Bomer Galvao, assistant professor and marketing and social science PhD, will discuss her crossing disciplines within the university – her trials with social scientists and business requirements. Mazen Brho, assistant professor and finance and logistics PhD, will explore collaborating with mentors as they become colleagues – across universities and departments. Finally, Joan Mileski, professor and international management PhD, discusses bringing the team together, creating a strategy, and seeking resources for the researchers. She will then wrap up the panel with brief comments and facilitate Q&A from the audience.

INTEREST TO IFSPA MEMBERS

This panel should be of interest across the IFSPA members interested in developing and maintaining successful collaborative relationships.

FORMAT

The five panelists, Grace, Wang, Ping Wang, Cassia Galvao, Mazen Brho and Joan Mileski will make formal remarks. Joan Mileski will introduce the panelists, make opening and concluding remarks, facilitate Q&A from the audience and chair the session. The aim is to generate a discussion of what it means to develop and maintain good and productive collaborative relationships.

Seating is needed for five individuals in a panel format. A podium with a microphone is needed. Also, projection facilities (PowerPoint and photos) are required.

SYNOPSIS OF BRIEF PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTARIES

Joan P Mileski, Professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston and Department Head of Maritime Administration

Panelist, Opening and Concluding Remarks, Panel Moderator, Discussant and Facilitator of Q&A

Grace Wang, associate professor, Department of Maritime Administration, Texas A & M University at Galveston

Bio: Dr. Wang has published over 40 journal and conference papers as well as editing journal issues and has presented her research over 25 times. Her articles have appeared in journals such as Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review, Management Policy & Management, Maritime Economics and Logistics, Research in Transportation Business & Management, etc. Dr. Grace Wang has received several international research best paper awards and several grants including from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the International Association of Maritime Universities. She is also the President of the Young Professional Chapter of the Transportation Research Forum, and an active member of the International Association of Maritime Economists, Port Performance research Network, and PortEconomics.eu.

“My views on trailblazing collaboration”

I will discuss my experiences with collaboration over the course of my career. I will also discuss MY experiences in being the first to approach someone and being approached. I will discuss my research stream in detail.

Ping Wang, assistant professor, Department of Maritime Administration, Texas A & M University at Galveston

Bio: Dr. Ping Wang holds previous faculty appointments at Tianjin University (China, 2009-2013) and Southwest Jiaotong University (China, 2007-2008). He holds a B.S. in Electronics Engineering from Dalian Naval Academy (China, 1984), Master of Engineering in Computer Science from Chinese Academy of Science (1992), Master of Engineering in Logistics from MIT (2002), and Ph.D. in Business Logistics from The Ohio State University (2007).

Prior to entering academe, Dr. Wang had worked as a buyer and later a business manager, a researcher, and a naval officer for more than 10 years. Dr. Wang's research interests include inventory management, supply chain integration, quality management, and the theory and practice of lean transformation. He has been active in a number of Chinese professional organizations including China Association for Quality, Chinese Purchasing and Logistics Association, and Chinese Warehousing Association, and supervised more than 30 supply chain management /Lean Transformation projects with Chinese industry partners. He has published several articles in academic and professional journals and serves as a speaker at academic conferences, executive education seminars, and professional meetings. He serves as a principal investigator for a couple of national research projects in China. He has also chaired eight master students' theses.

“How to collaborate across researcher level and borders”

I will discuss working with engineers, students and across border. My main research interest in maritime transportation is how to adapt the dynamic capability theory in maritime transportation research. Dynamic capability work lends itself to many lenses. Dynamic capability has become a main stream in strategy and organization studies (Teece et al. 1997). Dynamic capability is a sub-stream of organizational capability. *“An organizational capability is (classsically) defined as a high-level routine (or a collection of routines) that, together with its implementing input flows, confers upon an organization’s management a set of decision options for producing significant outputs of a particular type (Winter 2003, P.991).* Dynamic capability, in the contrast of the classical definition, is concerned more with changes. However, less research has been done in maritime transportation with regard to the types and roles of organizational routines in the context of maritime transportation services. Even less has been done to investigate what dynamic capabilities a maritime organization should have and how to develop them.

I work on three subareas relating to the dynamic capability in maritime. The first is the interface between (maritime) business strategy and operations. I use container the phenomenon of terminal automation as the research context and investigate how maritime organizations exploit existing knowledge on container handling and market expansion or protection with different ways of improving their operational capabilities---an outside-in perspective (Wang, Mileski and Zeng 2017, 2018). The second is an inside-out perspective that looks at the complexity of operational routines in a chemical tanker movement context and how such complexities at the operational level affect business performance at the network level (Wang and Vogt 2018). The third is from the culture perspective---how a maritime organization develops dynamic capabilities by changing the way they think about and run their business in preparing, responding, and anticipating changes in the market, a way of lean transformation Wang et al 2018, R&R).

Cassia Bomer Galvao, assistant professor, Department of Maritime Administration, Texas A & M University at Galveston

Bio: Dr Cassia B. Galvao is an Economist by training and in 2016 she completed her PhD in Social Science also at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo. Her dissertation was about the port policies and development in the context of economic development. While developing her academic career, she has worked in the private sector and has 10+ years of experience in Marketing & Sales Division of multiple international container liners and freight forwarders. During her PhD studies she was selected to participate at CAPES/Fulbright Foundation Scholarship Program and so she carried out her research at the Department of Maritime Administration of Texas A&M University at Galveston (MARA/TAMUG). In the year 2016 she was selected to join as leader in the organization committee of WCTRS-Young, the Young Researchers Network of the World Conference on Transport Research Society. Dr Galvao has also experience of 8+ years in teaching International Economics; Global Entrepreneurship; Maritime Shipping & logistics; and Port Economics & Governance. Her publication covers niche topics in international maritime shipping (such as Refrigerated Cargo and Cruise Market) and issues in port governance issues, like the port law and reform policies. Presently Dr Galvao is working at MARA/TAMUG as Assistant Professor teaching Marketing with emphasis in Transportation Services and continuing the research on maritime shipping logistics and port

development related topics such as Corporate Social Responsibility; Stakeholder Management; Port-city relationship; cyber security, automation; digitization. Recently Dr Galvao was selected to integrate the IAME (International Association of Maritime Economists) Secretariat members assisting the Executive Team with her marketing expertise in their service to this Society.

“Assistant Professor’s Perspective with cross college/department researching”

I will discuss my crossing disciplines within my university. I will describe my trials with social scientists and business requirements. My research stream is port development. In general terms, when port activities develop to match trade volume increases, the port as a business enterprise needs different physical structures. This transformation of port activities goes over different stages and has an impact on the dynamics of the city where the port is located. In this panel I will explore the different dimensions of port development considering social, economic, political and environmental aspects as well as the various typologies for port-city community relationship. This talk is divided in three parts. First, is based on previous work in port governance and port development theories and models. Second, I will bring some of the findings of on-going research project that is carried out in an interdisciplinary team (the T3). Third, I will bring some managerial and policy implications considering not only the research findings, but also the expertise I developed over 10+ years of work in the maritime shipping industry.

Mazen Brho, Assistant Professor, Department of Maritime Administration, Texas A & M University at Galveston

Bio: Dr. Brho received his Ph.D. Logistics and Supply Chain Management with a Minor in Finance from University of North Texas, Denton, Texas. 2018. He joined Texas A & M University after graduation. His research addresses the importance of cash liquidity in supply chain management.

“As mentors become colleagues”

I will explore collaborating with mentors as they become colleagues – across universities and departments. I will address how a chair can be a colleague.

Joan P. Mileski, Professor, Texas A & M University at Galveston and Department Head of Maritime Administration

Bio: Dr. Joan P. Mileski is a tenured Professor in Maritime Administration and of Marine Science and the Head of the Maritime Administration Department at Texas A & M University at Galveston (TAMUG). She holds a PhD in International Management Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas, a M.S. in Taxation from Pace University and B.B.A in Accounting from the University of Notre Dame. She has transportation experience with Union Tank Car Corporation. She has also been a Certified Public Accountant for 39 years. She has been awarded several grants including from the U.S. and Texas Department of Transportation, has teaching and international research awards, and publishes in Research in Transportation Business & Management, Maritime Business Review, Marine Policy, Maritime Policy and Management, Maritime Economics and Logistics, World Maritime University Journal of Maritime Affairs, Ocean Yearbook, and the Asian Journal of Shipping. Her research activities currently include the impact on Maritime Industry firms’ competitive strategy of maritime security regulations,

cyber security in the maritime industry and the importance of disaster preparedness of transportation infrastructure. She is a Fulbright research scholar alumnae, a visiting Professor at the World Maritime University and past President of the Women in the Academy of International Business.

“Creating a team, bringing them together, finding resources”

I will discuss bringing the team together, creating a strategy, and seeking resources for the researchers. Further, I will discuss how different lenses are needed for my research such as maritime cyber security such agriculture experts, engineering, software experts, and policy makers. Cyber security is a problem within the maritime industry because of the introduction and continuous implementation of technologies, including automation and digitization of processes among others; consequently adding new vulnerabilities within ports, ships, offshore rigs and submersibles systems. Considering its nature, purpose and functionalities, the maritime industry is exposed to cyber risk potentially aggravated with the exponential use of Internet of Things (IoT). This means that any device using IoT can transmit and receive information that is captured and shared to various (unknown) purposes. This is the case with Automatic Identification System (AIS) data that has proliferated with no standards for transmission and receiving, which generates potentially safety and security issues. In this sense, two perspectives can be taken: public and private. In the U.S. the US Coast Guard is the entity responsible for taken care of the public dimension of maritime security involving cargo, people (passengers, crew members etc) and ships. On the private side, differently from other industries, in maritime there is no standardized or centralized monitoring over the information flow through traffic controllers (like aviation).