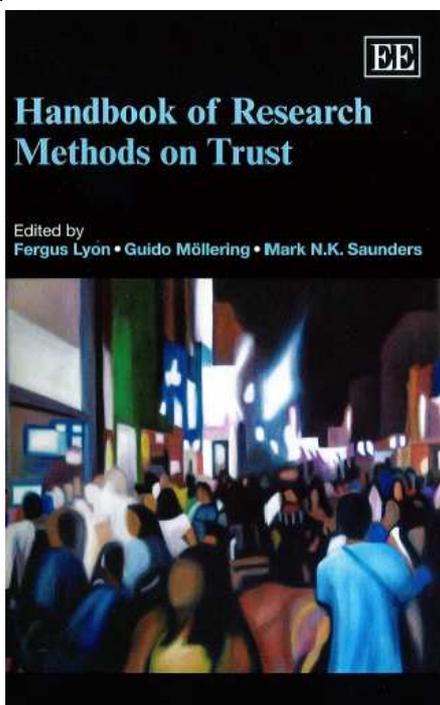


***Handbook of Research Methods on Trust*, by Fergus Lyon, Guido Møllering and Mark N.K. Saunders (eds), Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA, 2012, ISBN 978-1-84844-767-7**

Book review by Constantin Oprean  
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The book provides an authoritative in-depth examination of both qualitative and quantitative methods for the study of trust in the field of social sciences. As such, it is conceived as an extensive overview of the various directions in which the multi-faceted phenomenon of trust can be explored, with an eye to the journeys of trust researchers across academia searching for a better understanding of the concept and its working ways. The ethos of the volume is concentrated in the belief that no one method, be it quantitative or qualitative, is stronger or weaker than the other, rather it is the very context of its usage and the particular experimentation of the method that makes all trust research hardly any definitive but sharing.

Part I of the book conceptualizes trust and identifies six clusters to approach it, all based on a set of literature that draws on a wide range of disciplines. Of particular importance we find the chapter on lack of trust, distrust, mistrust and repair (Chapter 6), which shows the multiple ways in which trust can be eroded and misplaced. The next two sections adopt the widely used division of qualitative and quantitative methods examined in great detail, however of great interest is the fact that both qualitative and quantitative methods can be also used concurrently in trust research, such as card sort methods (Mark N.K. Saunders, Chapter 11, or Miriam Muethel Chapter 12) or repertory grid methods (Reinhard Bachmann, Chapter 13, and

Melanie J. Ashleigh and Edgar Meyer, Chapter 14). The final part looks ahead and draws the conclusions for the future of trust research and the challenges that lie ahead (Katinka Bijlsma-Frankema and Denise Rousseau, Chapter 24). It is shown that the emerging focus on culture and the cultural differences between countries, professions and sectors can bespeak a set of underlying cultural interpretations that undermines the universality of trust constructs. Likewise, that the international financial systems (such as e-commerce or virtual networking) and community-level engagement and relationships are apt to reveal new forms of trust-building, showing in fact the full potential for interdisciplinary approaches to trust research, which in itself, we should add, requires an element of trust between the interdisciplinary groups of scholars. All issues pertaining to the field of trust research cover therefore topics that are sensitive in nature and the ethics of research on trust becomes of critical importance in any scholarly endeavour. The volume fills an important gap in the need to address a wide array of methodological and analytical challenges and is central to the advancement of research on trust, being invaluable for all students and academics in the social sciences.

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