

Cambridge Elements

Elements in Organization Theory

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HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND ORGANIZATION THEORY

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-009-00518-0 — Health Care Research and Organization Theory
Trish Reay
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
79 Anson Road, #06–04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009005180
DOI: 10.1017/9781009036375

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First published 2021

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-009-00518-0 Paperback
ISSN 2397-947X (online)
ISSN 2514-3859 (print)

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Healthcare Research and Organization Theory

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DOI: 10.1017/9781009036375
First published online: May 2021

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Abstract: In this Element, we examine how organizational researchers have published articles contributing to organization theory in high-quality organizational journals, and we examine how healthcare researchers have drawn on organization theory in healthcare management journals. We have two main aims in writing this Element.

The first is to motivate scholars working in the field of general organizational and management studies to increasingly use healthcare settings as an empirical context for their work in theory development. Our second aim is to encourage healthcare researchers to increase their use of organizational theory to advance knowledge about the provision of healthcare services. Our investigations revealed a growing number of organizational studies situated in healthcare. We also found a disappointing level of connection between research published in organization journals and research published in healthcare journals. We provide explanations for this division, and encourage more cross-disciplinary work in the future.

Keywords: organization theory, healthcare research, institutional theory, professions, organizational change

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ISBNs: 9781009005180 (PB), 9781009036375 (OC)
ISSNs: 2397-947X (online), 2514-3859 (print)

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