Supply chain risk management research agenda – from a literature review to a call for future research directions

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**Supply chain risk management research agenda – from a literature review to a call for future research direction**

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<th>Journal:</th>
<th>Business Process Management Journal</th>
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<td>BPMJ-02-2017-0021.R1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manuscript Type:</td>
<td>Original Article</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keywords:</td>
<td>Supply chain, Risk Management, risk, literature review, structured literature review</td>
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Supply chain risk management research agenda – from a literature review to a call for future research directions

Abstract

**Purpose** - Supply chain risk has increasingly attracted academic and corporate interest, however the supply chain risk debate in academic literature are rather limited to case and location specific studies. Hence, this paper utilised a systematic literature review to explore the supply chain risk research trends and gaps within the management literature.

**Design/methodology/approach** - To achieve the research objective a systematic literature review (SLR), looking into 25 years since 1990, into supply chain risk management was conducted, which resulted in 114 papers.

**Findings** - While the supply chain risk management literature is growing, results from the systematic literature review identified limited organized understanding of what constitutes holistic supply chain risk process, and high reliance of particular categories for supply chain risk, such as the high reliance on specific country settings (the USA and the UK); limited presence of cross competitive supply chain risk process analysis and challenges in developing conceptual supply chain risk frameworks.

**Originality/value** - Current literature on supply chain risk have been assessed based on its definition and utilisation. The current paper bridges this gap by synthesizing the diverse academic journal papers into the categories based on design continuum, relationship continuum, process continuum and economic continuum. In addition it highlighted the gaps in industry context, theoretical contribution, geographic location, and research methods applied and addresses the scope for further research.

**Research limitations** – The supply chain risk embeds categories of location, scope of supply chain, risk management tools and industry sectors involved, The search for related publications was mainly used from a wide range of coverage from accountancy to design in supply chain risk, hence although there is indication to specific industries, and foci of risk, this could be further explored.

**Practical implications** – This review of supply chain risk management identifies various research gaps and directions for future research to develop theory and practical understanding of supply chain risk.
Introduction
Crisis and catastrophes such as volcano eruptions in Ireland, earthquake in Taiwan and Japan, and Hurricanes in US gulf coast has led the companies to asses “how vulnerable their global supply chains” actually were (Wieland and Wallenburg, 2012:890) with an increasing interest from supply chain practitioners as well as academics (Christopher and Holweg, 2010; Wieland and Wallenburg, 2012; Colicchia and Strozzi, 2012). In a study 400 senior supply chain executives classified supply chain risk (SCRM) as one of the biggest challenges, despite only 69 percent reporting that they had risk monitoring processes present (McKinsey, 2010, Butner, 2010). The supply chain risk (SCR) is not a new phenomenon as “doing business require[d] the acceptance of some level of risk within organisations” (Olson and Wu, 2011:401). Nevertheless, the supply chain risk management (SCRM) has gained in momentum as it became a supply chain capability, one that supported businesses (Colicchia and Strozzi, 2012) and had the potential to reduce cost (Nelson et al, 1998), considering that a cost of a crisis for a day can surmount to companies 72$ million in profits (Pettit et al. 2013). Barry (2004) noted that it is also imperative to keep a risk and the uncertainty lens as one of the firm’s capabilities and for its competitiveness and viability. Due to the fact that “a supply chain […] can never be risk free, that is, one cannot eradicate the chance of an undesirable/desirable event occurring” (Tummola and Schoenherr, 2011:474), the importance of the concept supply chain risk is here to stay.

Equally, supply chain risk has been associated with vulnerability, disruption, and uncertainty and in also in some cases with supply chain security (Autry and Bobbitt, 2008; Ghadge et al. 2012). The SCR can be defined as the “variation in the distribution of possible supply chain outcomes and their likelihoods, and their subjective values” (Juttner et al. 2003)” as well as an “expected outcome of an uncertain event, i.e. uncertain events lead to existence of risk” (Manuj and Metzer, 2008:196). “[T]ypically risk contexts [involves] … often somewhere in the middle of risk-uncertainty spectrum (i.e. neither pure risk taking nor complete uncertainty)”(Ritchie and Brindley, 2007:306; Collicchia and Strozzi, 2012). However, some authors highlighted the difference between supply chain risk and vulnerability (Ritchie and Brindley, 2007; Collicchia and Strozzi, 2012; Barry, 2004) which can be
differentiated both terms based on probability and outcome (Sanches-Rodrigues et al. 2010). Sanches-Rodrigues et al. (2010:62) noted that “uncertainty occurs when decision makers cannot estimate the outcome of an event or the probability of its occurrence. By contrast, the risk is the function of outcome and probability and hence its something that can be estimated”. The variations in definitions, terminology and its scope reflects the “challenge to capture the multi-dimensional and interdependent behavior of the risk” (Ghadge et al. 2013) “owing to the high interconnectedness of today's supply chain” (Pfohl et al., 2011:840), which may be time-based on an event (Heckman et al. 2015:127) as well as the dynamic nature of the supply chain risk, which is inherently difficult to assess (Qazi et al., 2017). In this paper the discussion of supply chain will include the terms vulnerability, disruption and security as it is interlinked to supply chain risk.

In the supply chain literature we can find different supply chain risk classifications based on; variation in distribution in supply chain outcomes and subjective values (Juttner et al. 2003), contextual factors (such as organizational risk, network risk, and other risks, i.e. environmental, political, social and exchange rate risks) (Ghadge et al. 2012; Juttner et al. 2003; Ritchie and Brindley, 2007); content of risk and its management (risk drivers, risk management influencers, decision maker characteristics, risk management response and performance outcomes) (Ritchie and Brindley, 2007); situational factors of risk between suppliers and buyers (i.e. Degree of product technology, the need for security, importance of supplier and the purchasers prior experience) (Giunipero and Eltantawy, 2003); assessing the risk the probability factor and impact level (Wieland, 2013); and dependencies of vulnerabilities which are (1) time dependence (i.e. time delays, lead times, and delivery schedule); (2) functional dependence (i.e. Inventories, production, products, transport) (Zpeda et al. 2016); (3) relational dependence (knowledge, social aspects, communication, suppliers and customers). Considering that global supply chains are complex, lengthy and distanced from their markets, supply chains are forced to find ways to be responsive on how to manage the risks (Khan and Creazza, 2009; Wieland and Wallenburg, 2012). Hence, not only the definition of supply chain risk, but also the categorization of the supply chain risk becomes problematic (Pfohl et al., 2011). Considering the potential impact of collaborative relationship characteristics the impact on supply chain risk can vary(Fan et al. 2015). As seen from the terminology
and its classification, risk assessment and measurement may be difficult to quantify where the risk never materializes, making any investment in supply chain risk prevention difficult to justify (Zsidin et al. 2000). However understanding the supply chain risk may “…foster internal integration and training competencies in order to strengthen warning and recovery capabilities, which enables firms to identify supply chain risks earlier and/or shorten the duration of manifest consequences” (Riley et al., 2016:971). Hence, a SLR was conducted aiming to collect and analyse all relevant papers in the field of supply chain risk as well as understanding the need for establishing supply chain risk processes. It is with this motive that this literature review was undertaken,

- To develop an understanding of the supply chain risk areas that have created an interest for academic research
- To discuss some of the major issues and relationship addressed in supply chain risk.
- Moving beyond the systematic literature review (SLR) analysis, the gap in supply chain risk literature is identified.

The next part of the paper provides the process of the systematic review and the paper selection criteria. Followed by an analysis of supply chain categories, highlight the main trends in. Finally drawing upon the key trends and areas with potential for further research.

**Research methodology**

Shapira (1995) noted that that not one definition of risk could encompass all circumstances, as the risk has multiple facets. Hence, the use of systematic literature review (SLR) provides “a key tool …to manage the diversity of knowledge for a specific academic inquiry” (Tranfield et al. 2003:208) with the benefit of an evidence trail, whilst minimizing the level of possible bias and error (Tranfield et al. 2003). Adopted from the NHS Center for Review and Dissemination (2001), Tranfield et al. (2006) suggest a three stage approach; (1) planning the review, (2) conducting the review, and (3) reporting and dissemination of the review, enabling the researchers to assure internal validity, reduce potential possible bias in the analysis. However, in order to reduce the human-error the so-called data extraction forms have been used to
ascertain the information from sources such as title, author and year of publication; methods utilized, and emerging theories and concept synthesized (Tranfield et al. 2006).

Hence, as Ghadge et al. (2012) also noted supply chain risk profile, functionality and impact levels is underdeveloped in the literature. One way to overcome this challenge is to evaluate the risk areas, such an attempt, for categorization was made by Richie and Brindley (2007) in which they categorized the definitions in three areas; (1) likelihood of occurrence of a particular event or outcome; (2) consequences of the particular event or outcome occurring; and the (3) causal pathway leading to the event. In the area of SCR we can find literature review papers based on; (1) systematic literature review on supply chain risk for last 10 years (2000-2010) including only last two years ABS with an average of 3* rated papers (Ghadge et al. 2012); as well as only few studies which contributed to SC risk interrelationships (Kayis and Karningsih, 2012); Colicchia and Strozzi based on 15 years SLR and citation network analysis (2012) to understand the process of knowledge creation and transfer and development; valuable efforts for advancement in this discipline has been made by Wieland and Wallenburg (2012), through evaluation of inherent supply chain risks and relevant strategies to overcome these.

Delimitations and the search for literature
In order to complete the systematic literature review each defined category in the literature was systematically analyzed based on the occurrences. For the SLR following boundaries were set which resulted in 114 academic journal articles encompassing;

1. Based on the academic and professional discussions on supply chain risk, several key themes have been used, including the interchangeable terminology (see discussions on supply chain risk definitions by Ghadge et al, 2012; Ritchie and Brindley, 2007:306; Collicchia and Strozzi, 2012) the search included five sets of “keyword search strings” in main text (1) “supply chain”, “risk” ; (2) “supply chain”, “disruption”; (3) “supply chain”, “vulnerability”; (4) “supply chain”, “uncertainty”; (5) “supply chain”, “security”.


2. Publications including supply chain risk in law aspects has not been
considered as this may include a broader range of complexity which may not
fall under the supply chain scope (Seuring and Mueller, 2008).

3. The search for related publications was mainly used from management
literature with a wide range of coverage from accountancy to design in supply
chain risk from looking into 25 years from 1990, excluding dissertations,
conference papers and magazine articles. SLR coverage has been noted to be
sufficient when carried out for 10-15 years, indicating the changes and
developments in the literature (Colicchia and Strozzi, 2012).

Each of these has been examined independently with respect to the supply chain risk
literature review areas. Major databases were used such as Elsevier, Springer,
Emerald, Wiley and other library services such as Ebschost. Considering the
delimitations of the current study the results yielded with 114 papers. The categories
of the papers have been established using the following categories in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Description of the categories coded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Author 1-7</td>
<td>Refers to incl. of all co-authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Year of publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authors Affiliation</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Location of authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Paper type</td>
<td>Classification of article type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Timeframe for the articles if stated i.e. literature review, longitudinal studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Keywords</td>
<td>Keywords as utilized alongside the table 1 chosen key strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>Industry context</td>
<td>Industries involved in the research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling</td>
<td>Sample size</td>
<td>This category highlights the sample size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Contextual setting</td>
<td>This category identifies size of network, country and industry context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Method</td>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>Research Methods utilized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specific methods used</td>
<td>Includes AHP, ANP and others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Findings</td>
<td>Supply chain risk impact area</td>
<td>Associated with the supply chain risk impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Title</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Journal article titles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Coding categories for journal papers

**Descriptive Analysis**

*Distribution of paper categories*

Analyzing the distribution of the journal papers, we see that the supply chain risk has
been evaluated based on research papers and through conceptual papers, practitioner
driven papers and viewpoints remain rather limited (Figure 3). Considering the dates
of the articles the peaks of supply chain risk papers in 2004, 2009, and consequently
in 2013 were partly due to “special issues” assigned particularly to supply chain risk, supply chain security (i.e. special issues of International Journal of Operations and Production Management, Supply Chain Management an International Journal and International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper Type</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Study</td>
<td>Bloset al. (2009), Khan et al. (2008), Khan et al. (2012), Khan and Creaze (2009), Kumar et al. (2009), Ritchie and Brindley (2002), Shih and Wen (2005), Wai and Wongasurat (2013)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Table 2: Categories for journal papers**

**Global distribution of supply chain risk research**

The geographical distribution of the authors provided another interesting category with three countries USA, UK and India leading the supply chain risk research. When looked into the country selection researchers have linked country context profile to the nature of supply chain risk, for example, Lin and Zhou (2011) note in their paper on supply chain risk based on the product design can be observed in developing countries, such as Brazil, China and India, which has also drawn interest from...
academics and practitioners (Lin and Zhou, 2011) as the SCRM is relatively new in developing country context. Blos et al. (2009). However the global distribution also may stem from a common language setting authors carrying work out in three German-speaking countries Germany, Austria and Switzerland (Wieland and Wallenburg, 2012). It is interesting to observe, that some of the locations generating more research on the supply chain risk area, whereas others, such as Africa, Near East, South America and limited research (Figure 1). Only a few studies included a wider geographical context, one such example is the study from Zhao et al. (2013) which has built upon a sub data set of a global investigation in 2005 included ten locations including Australia, China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, USA.

![Geographical location of authors](image.png)

**Figure 1:** Geographical location of authors

It is nevertheless interesting that the research interest seems to outweigh particularly in the USA and in the UK, this may be also due to the globalisation and the impact on the particular country profiles (Kern et al., 2012). The majority of supply chain risk studies conducted did not entail an indication to country specific details, with a 56 per cent. In some of the studies the region has been mentioned, but no specific country context; Europe five times, consequently Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East, North America. The SLR indicated a research profile that has been carried on geographically weighted in the UK and the USA. This may be also due to fact that cross comparisons across locations and geographically dispersed areas are difficult to conduct as Juttner (2005) stated it is not easy for an organization to assess and identify the likelihood of risks and their possible impact upon its operations, as it is rather complex and difficult task to carry out.
Some studies tried to overcome this challenge with a comparative risk profile, while providing a risk focal area, i.e., specific region (Lin and Zhou, 2011). Lin and Zhou (2011) also note that the risk may also correlate to the increased number of global customers outsourcing their products to China. Khan and Creazza (2009) research was carried in the UK and in one global organization. They reported within the risk strategies of one company entailed for volatile items the shift to cost neutral countries such as in this case Turkey, Spain, and Italy and sourcing the basic common and stable products from China. Another study which was conducted in China has looked into the Chinese remanufacturing products in the automotive industry and addressed the purchasing risk involved (Wang et al., 2013). Another study carried out again by the same authors in 2009 looked into risk in relation with design centric supply chains based on three UK companies. In some cases, these companies were ill prepared when it comes to termination looked into Slovenian outsourcing companies (Kavcic and Tavcar, 2008, 2010). Faisal et al. (2006) in their work investigated three Indian SME clusters on risk and customer sensitivity dimensions and noted the importance of the outsourcing scope.

Supply chain risk in industrial context

Today’s’ supply chain risk profile involves a multitude of levels involving a myriad of inter-organisational relationships within dynamic and complex context of globalization (Kern et al., 2012). The SCRM moved from traditional risk of product and services to future capabilities to broader scope entailing; the security of internal information systems, relationships between supply chain partners, the corporate
sustainability and liability (Spekman and Davies, 2004), design decisions (Khan and Creazze, 2009), loss of innovation and image (Cavainato, 2004). Specimen and Davis (2004) note that risk definition differs based on the discipline being queried, such as in the medical field to risk of dying from a disease, or in accountancy it may be at risk of having irregularities in audit data. When looked into the industry context of the papers we note that 20% of the papers are assigned to manufacturing industry without highlighting the particular industry, this may be due to the fact that manufacturing can entail a variety of industries from mining industry to third party logistics. However the next stand alone industry category was aerospace with 8%, followed by automotive with 7%, transportation and logistics, electronics by 7% and remainder with 4-5% of chemical products, textile and fashion, food, wood and timber and construction industry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Context</th>
<th>Poultry &amp; Meat</th>
<th>Agricultural equipment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Industry</td>
<td>Small medium enterprises</td>
<td>Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automotive</td>
<td>Telecommunication</td>
<td>Heating ventilating and air conditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Logistics</td>
<td>Paper and printing</td>
<td>Wine industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics</td>
<td>Retailer</td>
<td>Public sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical products</td>
<td>Computer*</td>
<td>Non-Government organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textile &amp; Fashion industry</td>
<td>Mining &amp; Metal Industry</td>
<td>Outsourcing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Industry**</td>
<td>Personal Computer Manufacturers</td>
<td>Packaged Food Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood &amp; Timber</td>
<td>Semiconductor</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Industry</td>
<td>Slovenian outsourcing companies</td>
<td>Public Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal articles</td>
<td>Rail</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Others</td>
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Table 3: Industries mentioned based on their occurrence in the journal papers
* Includes hardware and software
** Including Packaged food

Considering that risk evaluation can be inherently subjective, as it relies on the analyst observations on what constitutes inherent risk and what's not (Gaudenzi and Orghesi, 2006) lead to a widening gap between supply chain risk definition and its scope (Anderson et al. 2001). Hence, defining the risk is also closely interlinked with how the risk could be mitigated, for example, looking into the natural resource scarcity as one of the areas for supply chain risk, which natural resources are “earths’ natural occurring tangible, physical entities that can be considered assets for companies because of their inherent value” (Bell et al. 2013: 352). In their conceptual paper they highlighted a closed-loop supply chain as a means of managing the natural
resource scarcity in supply chains considering the impact of the European legislation on manufacturers to recover products as a means to avoid the landfills. Hence the supply chain design to mitigate the risk of resource scarcity needs to include the risks associated with returns and recycling.

When looked into industry specific developments in the poultry and meat supply chains Manning and Baines (2004:831) note “complete elimination of risk and reduced to an acceptable level is not always possible especially in a livestock supply chain”. Nijhoff-Savvaki et al. (2012) has looked specifically in pork supply chains in the UK, Spain and Greece. The pork supply chain has a number of barriers which may also contribute to risk; which are, lack of visibility of customer demand; weak collaborative relationship; lack of trust and shared information. Another research into a pork supply chain was conducted by Leat and Reveardo-Giha (2013) based on seven senior managers highlighting some similar issues such as importance of supply chain partners collaboration, however, they also highlight the need to design a supply chain which incorporates resilience as well as development of risk management focus within the supply chain. The supply chain risk in food, however, can stem from different scenarios such as falling prices, oversupply, and weather conditions, etc. (Grimmudell, 1996) as well as political subsidies (Hamdar, 1999). Similarly, a study conducted on 100 Australian SME wine supply chains reported to be unable to meet the demand, unit price increase and the risk for non-supply (Aylward and Clements, 2008) as “both the grower and winery take the majority of risk and receive disproportionately small returns” (Aylward and Clements, 2008: 83). Finch (2004:190) noted that large companies have to “comply with certain legal requirements relating to risk, however this is not the case for SMES” this also related to the fact to what extent SMEs is ready to include the assessment of risk within their supply chain context. Faisal et al. (2006, pp.889) in their work investigated three Indian SME clusters on risk and customer sensitivity dimensions indicating that “managing risks in supply chain require a lot of information sharing, close relationship and on the partners, alignment of incentives and knowledge about risk”. However, Christopher and Peck argue (2004:11) that there is a “requirement to create a risk management culture within the business”. Ritchie and Brindley’s (2000) conceptual paper noted SMEs need to manage a multitude of different and interrelated relationships across the supply chain.
Although one way of reducing the supply chain risk has been seen as redesigning and designing the supply chain with risk in mind in other industries such as fashion, textile and manufacturing (Khan et al., 2008, Khan et al., 2008). The inherent supply chain risk may involve capital cost during the product deployment, process and also in positioning products in the market (Tang and Musa, 2011), which may differ in terms of the industry bound by its product and process design (Khan et al., 2008) and design related dimensions, of internal (R&D, production, plan, information, and organisation), and external (supply, policy and delivery) processes (Lin and Zhou, 2011).

Research methodologies applied

When assessed, the analysis indicated that case study and conceptual framework development seemed to be most often used reflecting the inherent complexity of supply chain risk as well as the multitude of supply chain risk avenues (Table 3). Case studies provide a good insight to supply chain risk when assessed, as it supported the analysis of wide ranging issues and its interlinkages into risk profile and tools, for example Rose-Anderssen et al. (2010) through a case study on aerospace industry were able to explore across USA, Japan and Europe. Ritchie and Brindley (2007) in the two case studies used the principal agent theory to investigate the interaction between performance and risk within the companies’ supply chains. Similarly Cheng and Kam (2008) explored the sharing of risk benefits in supplies network collaborations. Khan and Creazzza (2009) cross case analysis based on three UK based companies investigated how product design can be a tool for mitigating supply chain risk. In 2012 a case study on product design (Khan et al. 2012) highlighted managing product design as a significant tool for mitigating supply chain risk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agency theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheng and Kam (2008), Brindley and Ritchie (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bayesian Network Model</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Li and Chandra (2007), Lockamy and McCormack (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case study</td>
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In order to provide a wider picture of supply chain risk and how it could be approached, the second most utilised method has been the development of conceptual models and frameworks. Tse et al. (2011) for example created a conceptual framework for mitigating quality risk, in assessing the inherent supply chain risk behind the recent product recall due to the global supply chain vulnerabilities. Their study highlighted the importance of supply chain visibility and strategic supply management in a multilayered supply chain. Nooraie and Parast (2015:192) noted that “many situations that could lead to disruptions in the supply chain can be identified and defused long before they reach a critical state”, hence highlighted the importance of modeling. Jia and Rutherford (2010) in their conceptual paper looked into the cultural inferences between China and West and evaluated the causal relationship...
between adaptation based on culture and partnership performance to define the supply chain relational risk SCRR). Another conceptual paper by Elahi (2012) identified four types of risk; rewarded risks, anti-disruptive risks, disruptive risks, unrewarded risks. However, Elahi (2012:120) noted that also, that “dealing with risk is not the responsibility of a limited number of employees and managers, [rather] it should be throughout the company”. Ponomorov and Holcomb (2009) introduced a conceptual framework of the relationship between logistics capabilities in supply chain assessing supply chain resilience, based on supply chain risk sharing. However Wieland and Wallenburg (2013) findings indicated that supply chain integration has a rather limited role in enhancing resilience. Looking at the studies all conceptual papers iterated the absence of conceptual models developed within the supply chain arena.

Another method to evaluate the potential supply chain risk and its impact, modeling has been used throughout the studies. For example, in their work, Ganguly and Guin (2013) highlighted the need for quantification of risk, and the use of mathematical modeling as a tool for establishing the link between objectives and risk indicators, in order to mitigate the potential risk. In their research to assess the inbound supply chain risk they applied the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) involving the decomposition of supply chain risk areas including pairwise comparisons and use of priority vector. Similarly, Gaudenzi and Borghesi (2006) found AHP to be useful when prioritizing the risk within their model. This has also been an important part of the evaluation, as risk evaluation can be subjective, as each party, an individual may have different views on what constitutes risk or not (Gaudenzi and Borghesi, 2006). Pujavan and Geraldin (2009) created a similar work to House of Quality and termed it House of Risk wherein a first stage the risk are ranked and second stage the aggregate risk prioritized for action. For illustration a public organization case study has been included and the effectiveness of the framework has been discussed. Faisal et al. (2006, 2007) in their study utilised interpretive (ISM) to understand the interrelationships among the enablers of risk mitigation, they have utilised 12 variables for modelling the information risk. Pföhl et al. (2011) note that ISM proved to be a useful methodology to structure supply chain risk. It seems from the findings that supply chain risk modeling is used to explain the risk, however in most studies they have been accompanied by other methods, partially to provide an implementation context in some cases.
Other methods that have been utilized and would benefit from mentioning are; DEA simulation model and also a Monte Carlo Simulation, for example Olson and Wu (2011) analysed the outsourcing risk based on using a risk adjusted cost concept. According to the authors, the DEA method helps the buyer in supplier classifications into two categories: the efficient suppliers and the inefficient suppliers. From the consumer’s viewpoint perceived risk in connection with remanufactured products has been looked in an empirical study by Wang et al. (2013) in the Chinese automotive spare parts industry which involved 288 respondents using structural equation modelling. The findings iterated that perceive risk was jointly influenced by physical risk, performance risk, financial risk, time risk, resource risk, social risk and product knowledge. Another empirical testing based on structural equation modelling completed by Yeh (2005) included 851 raw material and spare parts suppliers for the Taiwanese motor industry. His research has indicated that there is a positive relationship between resource dependence, trust and relationship commitment and electronic supply chain relationship and a negative relationship to risk in the presence of cooperative electronic relationship. Lockamy and McCormack (2012) presented another modelling effort was done conducting the Bayesian networks on 15 casting suppliers in the US. Their research indicated that Bayesian networks can be used to develop supplier risk profiles to assess the suppliers potential risk exposure. Wieland and Wallenburg (2013) through data collected from three countries, Germany, Austria and Switzerland based on 270 returned responses run a structural equation modeling, which resulted with positive effect of communication and cooperative relationship upon resilience, and integration rather has a limited role in enhancing resilience. Although not a study on supply chain, risk mitigation was introduced by eight step simulation model development process by Manuj et al. (2009) in order to create a more rigorous simulation modeling in the supply chain.

**Developing Supply chain risk assessment tools**

It was interesting to observe that several studies attempted conceptual frameworks to evaluate the supply chain risk, to overcome the lack of supply chain wide risk assessment tools. The frameworks and tools moved from a generic supply chain wide frameworks to a specific industry and case based examples, which indicates the areas for future developments. For example, Farooq and O’Brien (2010) created a
technology selection framework investigating manufacturing environment, supply chain environment and general environment. Whereas, the manufacturing environment was interpreted in Svensson (2004) study into vulnerability and the differences between upstream and downstream supply chains based on 215 executives subcontractors in the Swedish automotive industry. Another study by Johnson et al. (2013) investigated in a specific setting, namely Network Rail, found that there is a high level of trust within the contractual network, even in crisis, there was evidence of willingness to work without formal contracts in place, showing that frameworks and tools can be also created informally during a specific need or emergency.

We see that supply chain risk identification system (SCRIS) have been used that is based upon causal and hierarchical structure in which the “causal interrelationships between risk sub-factors, risk factors and risk events which corresponds to IF-THEN statements” (Kayis and Karningsih, 2012:841). Stonebaker et al. (2009) created a fragility index including internal (such as product design, logistics, information systems, people, supplier and market); external (such as Government, Competition, Economic/Financial, Environment) and random factors (such as acts of nature, culture/time/language, war/error/piracy, and corruption). As supply chains are getting more complex with high level of interdependency. We see this also evidenced in the application as similar integral supplier risk assessment has taken place in the USA. The Defense Contract Agency (DCMA) with a risk rating for suppliers in the three key areas; performance, schedule and cost (Zsidin et al., 2004). Also department for transport (DFT) in England indicated that traditional risk assessment tools were used in supply chains with the exception of six sigma; which are brainstorming, process mapping, risk likelihood /impact analysis and scenario planning (Juttner, 2005). However, Ganguly (2014) noted that when categorizing supply chain risk and creating a portfolio of risk assessment the inability to incorporate all relevant risks into the model” may be problematic and potentially limit its effectiveness (Gangully, 2014: 98).

An evaluation of the supply chain risk impact areas

Based on the SLR there seems to be a wide ranging supply chain risk impact starting from initial raw material supplier to the end customer, including but not limited to, intangible impact areas, such as trust, confidentiality. One of the research papers
which looked into collaboration in the aerospace industry explored the risk impact based on risk-sharing partnerships, they found that reliance in supply chains contributed to risk mitigation (Rose-Anderssen et al. 2011). Earlier, in 2007, a risk performance study found that one of the companies sought to manage risk through good communication, close collaboration and building trust within the supply chain (Ritchie and Brindley, 2007). Collaboration has been also assessed by Cheng and Kam (2008) in the so called “risk footprint” as important to understand any SC risk impact and its flow throughout the supply chain. However, Yeh (2012) noted that the cooperation between the parties are affected if the risk perceptions acceptable by either partner.

Supply chain risk can be also seen as an output of product design, and internal and external operations (Lin and Zhou 2011). As evidenced in the case of Western Digital’s 46 day recovery from the Thai flood disaster, the rapid comeback was possible due to the strong cash position, stakeholders support and supply mitigation (Wa and Wongsuwarat, 2013). An aerospace research conducted by Pérès and Grenouilleau (2002) proposed a method based on minimisation of a maintenance operation to reduce the residual risk. In order to overcome the SCRM challenges, Khan and Creazza (2009) highlighted to evaluate most common risk issues, which were capacity, planning and production; reaction to the changes in production schedules; as well as quality of supplies. In their research one of the companies to overcome the associated risk decided to procure one of the volatile items nearer to cost neutral countries. This is an interesting work which incorporated the concept of risk aversion in the supplier selection process and its implications upon the manufacturing environment; supply chain environment and general environment. Papadakis (2003, 2006) introduced the notion that after a short period of supply disruption (the so-called event window) the normal stock behavior does not take place as it is reasonable to assume that the disruption may impact the supply chain and hence the company’s stock prices. However, their study calculated the supply chain disruption impact might vary between the pull and push systems.

One of the areas, which is often overlooked in the supply chain context is the reputational risk management in supply chains (Lemke and Petersen, 2013). Juttner’s (2005) research indicated at the philosophical level to underpinnings; one the need for
openness to share risk related information and the other to accept the supply chain wide risk as a joint risk. The joint risk and interlinkage of the risks have been also highlighted in Manuj and Metzer’s work (2008) wherein the global supply risk has been seen as different to domestic one, one that linked to each other in a complex pattern with an increasing unpredictability and impact. In managing the global supply chain risk, their model highlighted three elements; (1) supply risk; (2) demand risk; and (3) operational risk and in an environment which entails other risk. When looked into industry specific needs the authors Manning and Baines (2004) suggest that in order to deal with the risk is to accept the risk; to transfer it to a third party or subcontract via insurance or risk sharing provisions, and reduce manage by adopting an exit strategy. The studies on supply chain risk and how it is mitigated rather proposes the use of modularisation of a product as a risk aversion strategy.

Supply chain risk categories

The literature review indicates different sources of supply chain risk and suggest that supply chain risk transforms over time. Hence, the initial relations throughout the supply chain may differ based on the supply chain structure and supply chain complexity. The research themes indicates a focus upon four consistent supply chain research themes as shown below in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**: Supply Chain Risk categories based on continuous themes
The themes in the SLR revolved around four supply chain risk continuum in the management area, including the design, relationship, economic and process continuum.

The design continuum, refers to how supply chain risk can be included at the initiation/design stage, such as the discussion of design led manufacturing (Khan et al, 2008; Manuj et al. 2014) including the physical design of supply chain (i.e. store layout, plant planning, inventory management) (Christopher and Creazza, 2012). This point echoed by Craighead et al. (2007) who indicated that the supply chain risk can be designed with the understanding of supply chain density and level of supply chain complexity, which may range between supply chain members and the extended supply chain network. However, Micheli et al. (2008) addressed the importance of focal points, such as the dyadic co-design with suppliers, which may be also a source of competitive advantage as well as a strategy for supply chain risk mitigation.

The relationship continuum, looking into the aspect of relationships between supply chain members the implication of associated risk, studies revolved around either on a particular dyad (i.e. supplier-buyer relationship) (Jia and Rutherford, 2010; Johnson et al, 2013) or characteristics of supply chain relationship (i.e. Long term relationship between supply chain members and its impact on supply chain risk) (Khan and Burnes, 2007; Jia and Rutherford, 2010). Kavcar and Tavcic (2008) in their work highlighted the high supply chain risk in the context of outsourcing and also insourcing, and discussed how the setting of contractual relationships may present itself as a supply chain risk mitigation strategy (Kavcar and Tavcic, 2008; Liu et al, 2010; Rose-Anderson et al, 2010. Svenson, 2004). However, in some cases the institutional risk may be high (Laequiddin et al, 2009), and sometimes context specific to companies residence and regulations that underpin the relationships (Nijhoff-Savvaki et al. 2012). To overcome regulatory and context specific challenges it is important to create the understanding of the relationship type, i.e. adversial versus partnership relationships (Ritchie and Brindley, 2007; Kavcar and Tavcic, 2008; Kolluru and Meredith, 2001; Rose-Anderson et al, 2010). Hence, it is important to understand the process continuum.
The process continuum, involves the processes necessary to identify, assess and mitigate the supply chain risk. The studies in this research agenda indicated a wide array of issues in relevance to processes, for example the discussion of integration, whether the supply chain risk process would involve a vertical or horizontal integration (Leat and Revaedo-Gida, 2013). However, the extended supply chain network included also a discussion of modular process applications (Pilgerman et al, 2006) as these may be able to pinpoint to the supply chain risk area more precisely. One way to reduce the burden of the supply chain risk processes is to establish risk sharing partnerships, to create risk mitigation processes together with the supply chain members which is mutually inclusive (Rose-Anderson et al. 2011). To understand the potential supply chain process risk, several studies included the use of modelling and simulation (Pfohl and Gallus 2011; Pujavan and Geraldin, 2009; Shin et al. 2012; Soni and Kodali, 2013; Wieland, 2013). However, although the supply chain risk processes can be identified and measured, due to its complex nature the processes that are involved needs to be prioritised in terms of the likelihood and if-when scenarios (Punniyamoorthy et al. 2013). A step further would be creating system integration which would enhance the risk visibility and transparency across the supply chain (Tse et al. 2010; Butner, 2010, Christopher, 2004). However the supply chain risk process identification and definition is an ongoing process which may change over time, i.e. a potential risk may not be a risk in the future due to new product or process development, hence supply chain risk process improvement is one of the areas highlighted in the literature (Zsidin, 2004).

The economic continuum includes the risk assessment and its relevance to the economic area involving the discussion of investment risk, not only for the manufacturing company and supply chain processes but also investment risk for supply chain risk mitigation. As Zsidin noted (2010) risk assessment and measurement may be difficult to quantify where the risk never materializes, making any investment in supply chain risk prevention difficult to justify, whereby economic estimates becomes important to note (Dynes et al, 2007). Hoffmann (2011) highlights that financial risk analysis may indicate also the need for hedging for raw materials to overcome the potential price fluctuations of currency and commodity prices. Also the understanding of suppliers financial analysis may help to reduce the supplier risk (Cavinato, 2004). The degree of government intervention based on regulation and
investments may shape the supply chain risk such as political subsidies (Hamdar, 1999), leading to falling prices, oversupply etc. (Grimmdell, 1996). Whereby, Finch (2004:190) noted that in some government regulations large companies to “comply with certain legal requirements relating to risk”, whereas in some countries risk may be seen as the country profile (Laequiddin et al. 2009).

This research agenda has the potential to offer new insights into the points for supply chain risk assessment, which are design continuum and relationship continuum, process continuum, and economic continuum relevant to the supply chain risk initiation and assessment. This is supported by recognition that, whilst the economic and supply chain implication of supply chain risk is attracting growing policy, academic, and media interest, comparatively little is known about the time level processes upon which supply chain risk is handled. This problem has been exacerbated by a lack of understanding concerning the relationships continuum and the involvement of stakeholders in supply chain risk.

Discussion and Conclusion

The current study serves as the first step towards understanding the supply chain risk categories, connotations and context. Thereby this research represents a first attempt toward the mapping of supply chain risk management literature. The structured literature review assisted in the identification and development of categories that made up the current supply chain risk literature compromising of tools used, location and research methods undertaken. Based on the structured literature review, we have identified four undervalued themes in the literature.

- As stated by Hofmann (2012:138) although concrete risk management strategies are needed to evaluate the risk, it is nevertheless a “long-term plan and cannot be made from one day to the next”. The lack of availability of longitudinal studies in the supply chain risk area, makes it difficult for the researchers to build up a coherent research risk profile and changing risk management strategies over the years.

- Secondly, although a number of authors looked into what constitutes supply chain risk and its impact areas, such as Zsidin et al. (2000) defining inbound supply chain risk six dimensions; business risks, supplier capacity constraints,
quality, production technological changes, and product design change and disaster in the context of nine manufacturing companies, and Tummola and Schoenherr (2011) evaluating phases of risk identification, risk measurement and assessment, risk evaluation, risk mitigation and contingency planning, and risk control and monitoring, nevertheless there is lack of comparative case studies evaluating the impact of business processes management based on product types and supply chain structures upon the supply chain risk.

- The four categories including economic continuum, relationship continuum, design and process continuum highlighted the themes occurring in the supply chain risk area, however the interlinkage of these themes have not been developed at this stage, a further study is needed to develop it further.

- Finally, although categories of the literature review indicated that most supply chain risk studies were located in a specific location and region (in this case, UK, US, America and Europe) there is further research needed evaluating the different country settings and associated impact upon supply chain risk profiles. However, bearing in mind that global supply chains are complex, lengthy and distanced from their markets, supply chains are forced to find ways to be responsive on how to manage the risks (Khan and Creazza, 2009; Wieland and Wallenburg, 2012) which may be different to each other when compared.

Nevertheless the categories established in this study can bring a new perspective and angle for further research in the supply chain area and how these can be mitigated through business processes. Hence, comparative studies are needed to further evaluate and analyse the nuances between the different supply chain context and scope.

**Implications and further research**

This paper highlights the significant role that supply chain risk plays within the management literature context. The literature review highlighted the importance of understanding the supply chain risk management and the role supply chain members, its processes and resources as the key aspects. Further research in this vein should improve the understanding of the strategic supply chain risk, whilst identifying how supply chain members interact and collaborate, which resources are required and to
what extent the network of supply chain relationships are needed to mitigate the supply chain risk in the long run.

Acknowledging that the work in this stage is indicative and relates to management of supply chain risk, further conceptual studies are could for to assist beyond the development of four categories of supply chain risk, or how they relate to organisations. The lack of longitudinal studies also addresses that it can aid understanding the developmental aspect of supply chain risk management and the shifting role in mitigating, assessing the risk, which will inform a richer understanding of the supply chain risk management practices.

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