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Dear EGOSians,

Many years after my first EGOS Colloquium in 2005, in which I helped out as a student assistant by carrying cables and setting up projectors, I would now like to put my service to EGOS as a member of the Executive Board to support not only the smooth running of our annual EGOS Colloquia, but to collaborate with others in representing the diverse needs of our professional community.

Since 2016, I am a Professor of Business Administration and Head of the Institute of Organization Science at Johannes Kepler University in Linz. Before I was Assistant Professor of Organization Theory at Freie Universität Berlin, which I joined as a doctoral student after completing my bachelor and master studies in Brighton and London and working for some years in a tech-start-up in Berlin. I have regularly participated in EGOS Colloquia throughout my academic career and have co-organized three sub-themes on topics related to creativity and creative work, which is one of my main streams of research. My other stream of research is concerned with sustainable forms of organizing and related dynamics of institutional persistence and change.

This agenda has made me increasingly reflective of our own practices as an academic community. I am hereby not only concerned about the future of our planet, but also about the sustainability of academic careers in the light of an intensified focus on metrics, short-term research contracts and mobility, and burgeoning administrative and reporting tasks. I believe that social change starts in our own universities and professional associations. In the last few years, I have, among other things, become director of a new master's program and head of the study commission of the JKU Business School so as to drive a stronger attention to societal challenges, human rights, diversity and sustainability in our teaching. I also support OS4future, a social movement aiming to inspire fellow academics to take action on climate change.

As a new EGOS Board member, I would advocate for considering the sustainability of our academic careers in multiple facets – regarding our climate impact, but also our publishing and reviewing system and its underlying business model, our dominant metrics and resulting forms of misconduct, and the inclusiveness and responsibility of our practices. I have joined the organizing team of the EGOS Early Career Workshop this year where we are prototyping a new format that focuses less on publishing as the sole aim of early scholars, but rather on how to balance multiple and partially conflicting demands and aspirations while maintaining a sense of integrity and meaningfulness.

I strongly appreciate the EGOS community for its scholarly tradition that, despite many changes over the years, remains highly interdisciplinary, open-minded and often inspiringly unconventional. I believe that professional associations such as EGOS have a strong role to play in (de-)institutionalizing academic practices, and I want to support EGOS in maintaining its role as a critical and inspirational community – for meaningful academic research as well as for social change.

Elke Schüßler

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