

CO^{RE}
CONCEPTS
IN HIGHER
EDUCATION

THIRD EDITION

ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY IN HIGHER EDUCATION



KATHLEEN MANNING



“This updated, theory-rich volume is peppered with practical applications throughout, making it the tutorial that this generation of academic leaders, faculty, and graduate students need to understand and respond to routine and non-routine actions and events, on and off the campus.”

George D. Kuh, *Chancellor's Professor Emeritus of Higher Education, Indiana University, USA*

“Manning has precisely condensed, updated, and translated the germinal organizational theoretical texts and meticulously interpreted the material with an intuitively global lens. The cases in *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* provide a refreshing perspective on the current trends and issues impacting higher education. Readers see and hear the voices of minoritized people and women throughout the text, which is a testament to Manning’s understanding of the shifting organizational landscape of this ‘mature industry.’”

Mary Howard-Hamilton, *Distinguished Research Professor of Educational Leadership, Indiana State University, USA*

“Manning highlights multiple theoretical frameworks that contribute to understanding the organization and administration of higher education. This edition is required reading for graduate students to acquire an understanding of ‘traditional’ and contemporary theories that explain, in part, how higher education functions. Although the text is written primarily for doctoral and master’s students, it is a worthy read for administrators, faculty, and staff seeking to enhance their understanding of the complex structure that is US higher education, particularly given the current socio-political climate and the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Dorian L. McCoy, *Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies, and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA*



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Organizational Theory in Higher Education

The third edition of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* is a comprehensive and accessible treatment of organizational theory and higher education administration. Through her presentation of both traditional and contemporary organizational theories, noted scholar Kathleen Manning offers a multi-faceted take on the models and lenses through which higher education can be viewed.

Chapters discuss the disciplinary foundation, uses, constructs, and assumptions of each organizational theory, including theories often excluded from the literature like organized anarchy, feminist, loosely coupled systems, and queer theory. Each chapter concludes with a case study and discussion questions that encourage the reader to make connections to their practice. Combining theory and practice, Manning's rich, interdisciplinary treatment enables leaders to gain a fuller understanding of the perspectives that operate on college campuses and ways to enact inclusive, ethical change in the context of new and continuing challenges.

New to this edition:

- A new chapter on queer theory that presents more socially just approaches to institutional organization;
- A new chapter on loosely coupled systems presenting the application of this theory to higher education settings;
- Revised chapters, updated theory, and new coverage that reflect current issues, such as pandemic, crisis responses, and social media;
- Several new and revised case studies to address contemporary issues and align with current realities of higher education;
- Updated and enhanced discussion questions to continue the conversation.

Kathleen Manning is Professor Emerita of Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of Vermont, USA.

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Core Concepts in Higher Education is a textbook series for the education of new professionals, covering the core areas of study in the field of higher education and student affairs. This timely and dependable series provides the necessary tools to ensure practice is informed by theory and research. The books in this series invite students to think critically about the field to discover what has been left out and what needs to be learned and also provide frameworks and constructs for addressing challenges facing higher education. The Core Concepts in Higher Education series moves thought, action, and scholarship forward by valuing, reconstructing, and building on the foundations of the field. Through a rich combination of research, theory, and practice, this series aims to move the field into a new generation of scholarship to better prepare students for authentic leadership of our colleges, universities, and academic communities.

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Organizational Theory in Higher Education
Third Edition
Kathleen Manning

Organizational Theory in Higher Education

Third Edition

Kathleen Manning

Third edition published 2024
by Routledge
605 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10158

and by Routledge
4 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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First edition published by Routledge 2013
Second edition published by Routledge 2018

ISBN: 9781032392615 (hbk)
ISBN: 9781032389806 (pbk)
ISBN: 9781003349068 (ebk)

DOI: [10.4324/9781003349068](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003349068)

Typeset in Minion
by KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd.

**To my partner, Keith Kennedy, who has unfailingly supported and
accompanied me through many personal and professional adventures.**



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SERIES INTRODUCTION

It is a pleasure to include Kathleen Manning's *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* (Third Edition) in the Core Concepts in Higher Education Series with Routledge Press.

Throughout this edition, Manning has meticulously revised all the chapters from the previous edition, incorporating the latest developments in higher education. Given the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education, she addresses the changes brought about by the crisis, including the shift to hybrid and online teaching, administrative decision-making, and crisis management.

Manning introduces two new organizational perspectives—Loosely Coupled Systems and Queer Theory—alongside the existing theoretical frameworks. These additions reflect the evolving landscape of higher education and its dynamic organizational structures.

Additionally, to offer practical insights into the application of these perspectives, she presents a case study at the end of each chapter. These real-world examples illustrate how each organizational perspective can be used to analyze critical issues in higher education.

In this edition, she continues a commitment to exploring the multifaceted nature of higher education organizations. She presents a holistic understanding of these institutions, informed by diverse organizational theories, believing it is essential for improving effectiveness, building inclusive communities, and achieving positive outcomes.

Whether you are a faculty member, administrator, student, or stakeholder in higher education, this book aims to equip you with valuable insights to navigate and contribute to the transformation of our educational institutions.

Marybeth Gasman, Series Co-editor
Rutgers University

PREFACE

Colleges and universities are among the oldest institutions in the Western world. Many higher education institutions are based on organizational ideas that framed the earliest colleges and universities. It is now widely believed that these long-standing principles must change for higher education to endure and respond to the current needs of students and societies.

The COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. Higher education, long a field known for its resistance to change, was transformed overnight. Faculty and academic administrators resisting online learning became instant practitioners of this medium. Students were required to be flexible as academic calendars changed mid-year and on-campus services transitioned to a virtual environment. While there is no doubt that the paradigm has shifted, the question remains, what is the new organizational paradigm?

PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The purpose of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* is to provide an accessible introduction to nine organizational theories as applied to higher education institutions. Through a reading of the text, educators can better understand the dynamics driving organizational practices, administrative functions, and educational priorities. This understanding can frame effective leadership, management, and administration that shapes day-to-day educational practice.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS

This book was written as a concise treatment of the voluminous area of organizational theory, its constructs, assumptions, and uses. Eschewing an encyclopedic approach, this text concisely reviews organizational perspectives relevant to higher education. Readers are encouraged to read each perspective in the context of their personal practice and understanding of higher education institutions. Through that approach, educators can

comprehend the various perspectives and “see” the shape and nature of colleges or universities. With this knowledge, those involved in higher education institutions can better understand how these organizations operate and how to undertake institutional change and improvement.

The goal of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* is for readers to view higher education organizations and administrative practice from several vantage points. This multi-faceted, multi-modal view helps educators better understand complex organizational dynamics and issues within higher education institutions. In fact, an analysis using more than one organizational perspective (e.g., the political combined with the cultural; queer combined with bureaucratic) may offer ideas and solutions for long-standing, formidable issues within this field.

The act of writing about organization or any theory risks readers assuming that some approaches are “true,” and others “less true.” The presentation of the organizational perspectives in this book is not an endorsement of their use. As a feminist and LGBTQA+ ally, I prefer that organizations reflect inclusive, socially just principles. Only a few of the organizational perspectives offered in this book are grounded in those principles. Realistically, I know that organizations adhere to dominant cultures, privilege some identities over others, and disadvantage particular ways of being. Colleges and universities retain elements of bureaucracies, embody oppressive images and messages, and privilege some participants over those who do not fit the norm of representation. Although some organizational forms have persisted in higher education institutions long past their usefulness, elements of these forms remain and need to be understood if they are to be transformed. An assumption underscoring this text is that an understanding of institutional structures and dynamics, even persistent ones with inadequate social justice practices, is essential if higher education leaders are to undertake sound, ethical practices.

This book was written with the realism of history, culture, and past organizational practices as a backdrop for discussion. Without an understanding of the historical and cultural antecedents of organizational theory, educators will misunderstand why their institution operates the way that it does. Although I, as the author, may not agree with or adhere to some organizational principles and elements presented, I sought to write about the theories accurately. The chapters contain critiques through a review of strengths and weaknesses and commentary about the effective and ineffective aspects of that perspective. I invite you to continue these critiques by adding yours.

Organizations are built in the past, exist in the present, and continue into the future. The organizational perspectives presented are both retrospective and aspirational. Retrospective through descriptions of the anachronisms and vestiges of the older theories (e.g., bureaucracy, collegium, cultural) that persist on college campuses. The presentation is aspirational through descriptions of newer theories (e.g., queer theory, spirituality, feminist) that provide updated insights and more inclusive, socially just approaches to organizational life. Readers are strongly urged to augment *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* with additional resources that extend the discussion introduced in this text. The book, *Organizational Theory for Equity and Diversity: Leading integrated, socially just education* (Capper, 2019), is an excellent choice. Capper’s book extends the theories presented in this text and contains information precluded from this text due to space limitations and the book’s purpose as an introduction.

The reader will, hopefully, discover a theory or theories (perspectives as they are called in this text) that resonate with them. This choice of perspective can enlarge your

worldview, open possibilities, and increase effectiveness. Readers are particularly encouraged to wrestle with perspectives with which they disagree. Elements of the less preferred ones may exist at your institution. Understanding organizational perspectives with which you disagree can empower you to see aspects of the institution hidden if only one, especially a favorite, perspective is employed.

Each of us has an opinion about how organizations do or should operate. Although these individual opinions inform how we exist in organizations, they can often lead us to view organizations from a limited point of view. *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* seeks to move beyond opinions about organizations to present how others, including theorists and scholars with whom we disagree, view these organizations. Understanding organizational theory from a wide perspective enables college and university participants to possess a broad, multifaceted view of organizational operations.

WHAT THIS BOOK IS NOT

Although tempting to include, *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* does not delve deeply into leadership, student development theory, and other relevant higher education theories. There are many existing texts that discuss these theories and readers are urged to enhance their knowledge of higher education organizations through these sources. In addition to these non-organizational theories, time, space, and desire to keep the book manageable precluded the inclusion of several well-known organizational theories (e.g., systems theory, theories of action, espoused theories). Equally tempting was to provide a comprehensive, thorough overview of the organizational perspectives included. This approach would negate the goal of providing an accessible introduction to higher education organizational theory. A third temptation was to cover current issues impacting organizational functioning including unionization, state legislatures, and federal financing, among others. This text, however, focuses on organizational theory with cases to illustrate how practice and theory intersect. Professors using this text are urged to supplement the book with content about current trends impacting higher education. Because the higher education environment changes quickly, readers are encouraged to follow trends within the field and use those as context for understanding how colleges and universities work.

US higher education is a complex system of diverse institutional forms including four- and two-year, community colleges, public and private, for-profit and not-for-profit, highly competitive and open admissions, urban and rural. Each aspect of the system demands expertise and a thorough understanding of that form. Although the structures, forms, and functions discussed in this book have relevance across a range of higher education institutions, this book was not written specifically about community colleges, for-profit institutions, Historically Black Institutions, women's colleges, branch campuses, international campuses, and institutions with a specialized mission and purpose. Community colleges and the other institution types mentioned above are important sectors of US higher education with distinctive organizational structures and practices. They deserve a text focused on their specific forms and functions; a text which falls outside the purposes of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education*. Readers are encouraged to augment the organizational perspectives discussed in this book with their understanding of higher education functioning gained from their personal and professional experiences with different types of higher education institutions.

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD EDITION TOPICS

The third edition of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* differs from the second edition with the addition of two new organizational perspectives: loosely coupled systems and queer theory. Loosely coupled systems is an organizational theory most familiar in pre-K through 12 education systems. The literature on loosely coupled systems was summarized in this text and applied to higher education settings. Queer theory, currently in an early stage of development in organizational contexts, its concepts, and tenets were applied to higher education institutions. All chapters from the second edition were revised to include information on the current state of higher education and updates from recent literature. A case study at the end of each chapter illustrates ways the organizational perspective can be used to analyze an issue of importance to higher education institutions. Full descriptions of additions and changes by chapter are offered below.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Higher education has changed dramatically with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, moves to hybrid and online teaching, and crisis management prioritizing administrative decision-making. Organizational theory provides an important way to understand higher education institutions, improve effectiveness, build community, and achieve outcomes. Chapter One is an overview of the nine organizational perspectives summarized in the book and sets the context for the elements discussed: theoretical foundation; structure; metaphor; major characteristics, concepts, and principles; strengths and weaknesses; and next steps regarding the perspective. Readers are strongly advised to prepare for the discussion in subsequent chapters by reviewing [Table 1.2](#). This table summarizes the nine perspectives by disciplinary foundation, decision-making mode, actions, mechanisms for reality creation, sources of meaning, power, structure, metaphor, examples/archetype, leadership, communication, scope of influence, reward structure, source of structure, and how co-workers are perceived. This information-rich table is an overview of the organizational perspectives and serves as a summary of each organizational perspective. Readers are encouraged to go back to this table frequently to discern the differences and similarities between and among the organizational perspectives.

Chapter 2 Bureaucracy

Bureaucracy, a theory introduced by Max Weber, is often vilified for its rigidity, resistance to change, and propensity for “red tape.” Despite these criticisms, bureaucratic standard operating procedures and routinized characteristics transformed patriarchal and family-owned organizations into the modern structures recognized today. This chapter discusses bureaucracy from an organizational perspective and relates its concepts to higher education institutions. The perspective is brought into current use through a discussion of heterarchy and social networks. Given the historical nature of bureaucracy, this chapter contains few revisions from the first and second editions.

Chapter 3 Collegium

The collegium model contains longstanding, enduring forms and functions within colleges and universities. Characterized by shared governance, peer review, leadership as

first among equals, academic freedom, and loyalty to discipline, collegial concepts inform significant aspects of faculty life and higher education administration. This chapter focuses on faculty and the curriculum with an eye for how these forms shape the overall organization of colleges and universities. The perspective is brought into current use through a discussion of academic capitalism. The revised chapter for the third edition includes implications for collegial practice changes undertaken over the last 20 years and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chapter 4 Cultural

Originating with a theory about Japan's corporate success based on cultural values, organizational culture spread to the US in the 1980s. Inspired by the corporate organizational literature, scholars brought organizational culture concepts into higher education through the 1990s. The frequent practice of rituals, the presence of multiple campus cultures, reliance on cultural artifacts to convey meaning, and other cultural practices are examples of how organizational culture is applied to higher education institutions. Revision for the third edition entails a discussion of intellectual reconstruction and abolitionist education, theories that bring the cultural perspective into current use.

Chapter 5 Feminist

Feminist theories on organizations provide a valuable way to imagine higher education institutions. Colleges and universities, with their social justice emphasis and commitment to educational development and growth, are ripe for the incorporation of feminist theories into their functioning. Four strands of feminist theory related to organizations are discussed. Connective leadership in the context of traditional male roles is provided as an alternative to the established command-and-control style of leadership models. Earlier editions included information about queer organizational theory to bring the feminist organizational perspective into current use. Queer organizational theory is now a separate chapter. The feminist perspective is brought into current use through a brief discussion of the erasure of all genders in feminist theory and references to the chapter on queer organizational perspectives.

Chapter 6 Loosely Coupled Systems (New Chapter)

[Chapter 6](#) is a new addition to the third edition of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education*. In the 1970s and 1980s, Weick and colleagues proposed loosely coupled systems as an organizational theory alternative to the rational, objective views on organizational functioning. Originating in pre-K-12 educational organizations, the theory was extended to higher education by Robert Birnbaum, James March, Michael Cohen, and others. Using richly crafted metaphors to describe concepts such as enactment and sensemaking, loosely coupled systems provide a means to conceive organizations in creative, imaginative ways. The perspective is brought into current use through a new discussion of decoupled bureaucracies.

Chapter 7 Organized Anarchy

The organized anarchy perspective is the only organizational theory specifically written for higher education institutions. Using a playful metaphor, Cohen and March described leadership in institutions that have multiple goals, unclear technology,

and fluid participation. Eschewing traditional bureaucratic and collegial models, organized anarchy theorists used metaphors to describe decision-making, leadership, and organizational activities. An often-frustrating organizational perspective to understand, organized anarchy theorists challenge the assumption that higher educational institutions operate as rational bureaucracies. The organized anarchy metaphor can be used to understand various old and new tensions existing in today's higher education institutions and is brought into current use through a discussion of change and innovation.

Chapter 8 Political

The chapter on politics, another traditional perspective on higher education institutions, has limited revisions from the first two editions. The organizational concepts advanced by Baldridge and colleagues are reviewed to explore the positive and constructive understanding of higher education institutions as political entities. The chapter discusses the characteristics and concepts of political organizations including conflict as normal, interest groups and coalitions, interest convergence, inactivity prevails, fluid participation, attention cues and privilege, and decision-making. Organizational democracy is newly added in the third edition to bring the theory into current use.

Chapter 10 Queer Theory (New Chapter)

Queer organizational theory is a liberating, affirming, and deeply political approach with much to offer higher education. This chapter deepens the diversity, equity, and inclusion discussions prevalent in organizations by introducing the topics of heteronormativity, heterosexism, heterogenderism, normative social relations, and gender binaries. The perspective is brought into current use through a brief discussion of its lack of representation in most higher education institutions.

Chapter 11 Spiritual

Reviews of the first and second editions of *Organizational Theory in Higher Education* indicate the spirituality chapter as one of the most provocative. This perspective dates to the mid-1990s when Zohar, Briskin, Marshall, and others saw the need to include topics such as wisdom, beauty, spirit, and soul in traditional organizational theory. This chapter reviews spiritual intelligence, leadership, and vision and their place in higher education. The perspective is brought into current use through a discussion of the ways higher education institutions can reduce the Cartesian split prevalent within the curriculum and colleges and universities as a whole.

Chapter 12 Conclusions

Organizational Theory in Higher Education seeks to provide insights about how colleges and universities work so faculty, administrators, students, and stakeholders can best utilize the potential of these institutions to achieve social change, educational excellence, administrative efficiencies, and social justice. Groups of higher education participants are discussed regarding how they can use the organizational perspectives discussed in the book to improve their practice and understanding. Discussion includes the caution that the perspectives cannot be understood from a one-size-fits-all, monolithic standpoint. Only a multi-modal, integrative perspective employing more than one perspective can most effectively understand higher education institutions.

Cases

A case study is included at the end of each chapter to illustrate the use of that organizational perspective in a practical situation. The cases were written with current higher education topics and issues in mind. Although the cases were written for specific organizational perspectives, readers are encouraged to imagine how other organizational perspectives could inform the case. In this way, the multi-model, integrative approach to organizational analysis is encouraged.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Several organizational perspectives could be considered old and read from a historical perspective. Despite some outmoded points of view, these organizational perspectives (e.g., bureaucracy) were included because elements of their use remain on college and university campuses. Furthermore, characteristics and concepts in these theories, including antiquated approaches, can inform newer ways of thinking about organizations even if that thinking is cautionary. Readers can approach these chapters by thinking about the vestiges of these theories that still exist in higher education institutions.

The chapters in this book, written as stand-alone entities, can be read in any order. They can be mixed and matched depending on the needs of course instructors and others. The organizational perspectives were placed in alphabetical order so readers could make their own choices about emphasis. For some readers, the traditional perspectives (e.g., bureaucracy, collegium, cultural, political), read first, may provide a foundation for the other perspectives. For other readers, a review of the more recent, non-traditional perspectives (e.g., loosely coupled systems, organized anarchy, queer, spiritual) may be read first to more openly and creatively think about organizational functioning.

CONCLUSIONS

Colleges and universities are remarkable organizations. They have the power to transform lives and open doors previously unimagined. As educators who work in these institutions, we have accepted a calling to create organizations that best fulfill their potential. Understanding how theory and practice interrelate is one path toward meeting this goal.

Reference

Capper, C. A. (2019). *Organizational theory for equity and diversity*. New York, NY: Routledge.

1

INTRODUCTION

Higher education has changed dramatically with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, hybrid and online teaching, and crisis management prioritizing administrative decision making. Organizational theory provides an important way to understand higher education institutions, improve effectiveness, build community, and achieve outcomes. This chapter introduces the nine organizational theories summarized in this book.

No single theory accounts for the entire range of administrative and organizational behavior. ([Lutz, 1983](#), p. 653)

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to view organizations. The theory or perspective used depends on the worldview, institutional position, and identities of the viewer. One person may see the organization from a cultural perspective and base their actions on symbolism, ritual, and creating meaning. A politically minded person may see the organization through the lens of power and view organizational actions as a compromise among competing goals. Yet another uses queer theory to think about how the organization can be “queered” to consider leadership approaches without the traditional male/female binary that characterizes other organizational theories. This book discusses nine organizational theories, called perspectives in this text, in the context of colleges and universities.

STRUCTURE AS SHAPE

A helpful metaphor or way to understand organizational theory is to imagine that each of the nine perspectives offered in this book describes a shape. “Organizations...[are] superimposed structures....[they are] inventions of people, inventions superimposed on flows of experience and momentarily imposing some order on these streams” ([Weick, 1979](#), pp. 11–12). Some organizational perspectives refer to a specific and obvious shape

(e.g., bureaucracies, collegial, feminist). Other organizational perspectives describe shapes that are more difficult to imagine or see (e.g., loosely coupled systems, organized anarchies). Some perspectives describe organizations with diffuse structures (e.g., cultural, queer, spiritual) or structures similar to other organizational perspectives but different in approach and character. These latter theories concentrate their attention on functioning, behavior, and characteristics more than the shape. As you read the theories summarized in this book, imagine the shape of the organizations in which you are associated. How does that shape (or shapes) assist or interfere with organizational goals and purposes? Does the shape promote ease of operation, or does it impose layers or distances that complicate functioning? If you were to design an organization, what shape would you create?

The complexity of US higher education demands that administrators and faculty understand and use multiple organizational perspectives to view institutional issues and functioning. A single organizational perspective is insufficient to address many issues currently facing college and university systems. The nine perspectives (i.e., bureaucracy, collegium, cultural, feminist, loosely coupled systems, organized anarchy, political, queer theory, and spiritual) offered in this book are only several perspectives available. (Previous editions of this book included new science and institutional theory perspectives, eliminated due to space constraints and the desire to highlight a different set of theories.)

While tempting, it would be difficult for anyone to simultaneously hold all nine organizational perspectives offered here at the same time. Each person has a favorite way to view an organization and, for that matter, the world. As you, the reader, consider the organizational perspectives, imagine the ways that using a different approach from your usual might expose decisions, solutions, and ways of operating not previously available to you. Because some perspectives have increased explanatory power for specific areas or units within college and university functioning, an understanding of multiple organizational perspectives can increase effectiveness, inclusion, and equity. Increased proficiency with several organizational perspectives allows educators to explore aspects of organizational functioning that open in some perspectives but close in others. [Table 1.1](#) offers suggestions for how some organizational perspectives correspond to some but not all areas within higher education institutions. Readers are urged to consider what can be “seen” from one perspective that is hidden by another. Skilled educators must be multimodal to adeptly switch their views from one perspective to another to enable change, transformation, and day-to-day management.

The areas and activities listed in [Table 1.1](#) are incomplete and written only from the perspective of this author. A reader’s personal understanding of the nine organizational perspectives, their individual experiences, and specific organizational role would result in different conclusions and configurations. After reading the text, readers are urged to come back to [Table 1.1](#), use their knowledge of the nine organizational perspectives and develop their way to “view” their organization and its functions. What organizational perspectives provide the most explanatory power for your area? Which organizational perspectives enable you to open possibilities not previously “seen”? How can knowledge of different organizational perspectives help you understand how others view the organization in which you work?

[Table 1.2](#) summarizes the organizational perspectives discussed in this book and its approach to organizational functioning. Written from a paradigmatic perspective, the

Table 1.1 Organizational Perspectives and Possible Corresponding Functional Areas

Organizational Perspective	Corresponding Area
<i>Bureaucracy</i>	Administration, especially when considering the delineation of tasks and definition of roles.
<i>Collegium</i>	Faculty; Student Affairs staff
<i>Cultural</i>	Executive Officers; Faculty; Students
<i>Feminist</i>	Student Affairs; Academic Departments; Gender Studies; Women's Advocacy Offices
<i>Loosely Coupled Systems</i>	Administration; Staff; Academic colleges and schools; Academic and Administrative Committees; Boards of Trustees
<i>Organized Anarchy</i>	Faculty, especially regarding fluid participation; Administration, particularly regarding decision making
<i>Political</i>	Faculty, especially regarding reappointment, promotion, and tenure decisions; Administration, especially regarding decision making; Boards of Trustees
<i>Queer Theory</i>	Academic and administrative departments that reject the traditional gender binary; Student Affairs; LGBTQA+ Advocacy Offices; Faculty
<i>Spiritual</i>	Departments and individuals seeking a holistic approach to mind, body, and spirit; Student Services Departments with direct student contact

table describes organizational elements and draws differences and similarities across the various organizational perspectives. Readers are encouraged to review this table frequently as you read the book. A first glance of [Table 1.2](#) fails to reveal the nuances evident when a deeper understanding of the nine perspectives is obtained. Readers are encouraged to interact with the table, revising the descriptions of the element for each organizational perspective as you come to understand how the perspective operates within a college or university.

Several organizational perspectives complement each other; others are too different to effectively coexist. Higher education institutions, unlike other organizations, contain multiple organizational perspectives, even perspectives that have conflicting elements. The presence of conflicting elements does not mean that this situation is problematic or something to be “fixed.” The presence of multiple organizational perspectives is a unique feature of higher education institutions; accounts for the complexity, tension, and uncertainty in the system; and, argue many, allows for multiple and simultaneous goals to be pursued.

CONCLUSION

An understanding of higher education institutions requires proficiency in several theories. Student development, enrollment management, critical race theory, cognitive, environmental, and student engagement are a few approaches necessary to act as a proficient educator in higher education settings. This book lays out nine organizational theories with an eye toward increasing understanding among faculty, administrators, staff, boards of trustees, legislators, and others involved in higher education decisions and policy. An understanding of how colleges and universities operate has

Table 1.2 Summary of Organizational Models

Organizational Elements	Chapter 2 Bureaucracy	Chapter 3 Collegium	Chapter 4 Cultural	Chapter 5 Feminist	Chapter 6 Loosely Coupled Systems	Chapter 7 Organized Anarchy	Chapter 8 Political	Chapter 9 Queer Theory	Chapter 10 Spiritual
<i>Disciplinary foundation</i>	Modernity	Sociology	Anthropology	Feminist theory	Psychology	Political philosophy	Sociology	Post-structuralism	Psychology
<i>Decision-making mode</i>	Rational decision-making	Participative decision-making	Meaning-making	Collaborative	Usually by one person	Garbage can model	Compromise; conflict	With many genders under consideration	Cooperative and collaborative
<i>Actions based on</i>	Technical; standard operating procedures	Consensus; discussion	Enactment	Shared purposes	Sense-making	Fluid participation	Conflict, loyalties, policy	Various means; fluid	Intellect and gut feeling; emotions allowed
<i>Mechanism for reality creation</i>	“Natural”; external; ideal type from nature	Shared constructions	Socially constructed	Shared meaning	Cognitive reasoning	Multiple realities	Defined by those in power	Socially constructed	Individual interpretation
<i>Sources of meaning</i>	Objective rules	Academic disciplines	Rituals, myths, sagas, language, tradition	Collaboration and relationships	Flux; unpredictability	Complexity	Conflict	Multiple, intersecting identities	Mind, body, spirit
<i>Power</i>	Legitimate	Expert; professional	Symbols, history, tradition	Egalitarian	Diffused	Diffused	Charisma; influence	Collaborative	Power emerges from all participants
<i>Structure</i>	Hierarchical; pyramid	Circular	Varied	Roughly circular; web	Individual units with loose connections	Varied	Flat	Varied	Varied
<i>Metaphor</i>	Machine	Circle	Carnival and theater	Web	Building blocks	Anarchy	Jungle	Performance	Journey

<i>Examples/ Archetype</i>	Military; church	Legal process; faculty senate; professional associations	Church; sports; fraternities and sororities	Corporations, colleges	K-12 and higher educational systems	Colleges and universities	Legislature; unions; private club	Colleges and universities; particularly student groups and academic departments	Corporations, colleges
<i>Leadership</i>	Top down; legitimate authority; leadership emanates from office	First among equals	Heroes and heroines; mythical; the stuff of saga	Rotating; transformational	In pockets	Constructed and symbolic	Coalitions; defined by power structures and influence	Located throughout the organization	Rotating; transformational
<i>Communication</i>	Top down; written predominates	Protracted; oral based	Explicit and implicit; oral; storytelling	Power shared through open communication and other networks	Periodic to close depending on the coupling	Intermittent	Covert	Multi-vocal	Power shared through open communication and other networks
<i>Scope of influence</i>	Institutional	Faculty	Institutional	Global	Institutional	Pockets	Institutional	Departmental	Global
<i>Reward structure</i>	Merit	Expertise in discipline; peer review	Tradition	Compromise between personal and organizational goals	Relational	Individual	Connections	Community-oriented	Compromise between personal and organizational goals
<i>Source of structure</i>	Nature	Academic disciplines	Culture	Whole; universe	Project or functional need	Chaos	Relationships; city-state	Through the performance in the moment	Whole; universe
<i>How you perceive co-workers</i>	Worker bees	Colleagues	Actors and cast	Fellow journeyers	Co-workers	Fellow professionals	Adversaries	Fellow travelers	Fellow journeyers

the potential to build community, increase equity and inclusion, and impact administrative and teaching effectiveness. Organizational theory is one of many areas of expertise needed to fully understand these complex organizations that play an essential role in US society.

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