



Walter W. Powell

Jacks Family Professor and Professor, by courtesy, of Communication, of Sociology and of Organizational Behavior at the Graduate School of Business
Graduate School of Education

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Admin. Support**

Elayne Weissler-Martello

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Bio

BIO

Woody Powell is Jacks Family Professor of Education, and (by courtesy) Sociology, Organizational Behavior, Management Science and Engineering, and Communication at Stanford University. He has been faculty co-director of the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society since its founding in 2006. He is the 2019 recipient of the School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. He has received honorary degrees from Uppsala University, Copenhagen Business School, and Aalto University, and is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Science, The British Academy, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has served on the board of directors of the Social Science Research Council since 2000. He was an external faculty member of the Santa Fe Institute from 2001-13 and continues involvement with SFI today. With Bob Gibbons (MIT), he has led the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) summer institute on Organizations and their Effectiveness since 2016.

His interests focus on the processes through which ideas and practices move across organizations, and the role of networks in facilitating or hindering the transfer of ideas.

He is the author or editor of Books: *The Culture and Commerce of Publishing*, with Lewis Coser and Charles Kadushin (Basic Books, 1982); *Getting into Print: The Decision-Making Process in Scholarly Publishing* (U. of Chicago Press, 1985); *The New Institutionalism in Organizational Analysis*, with Paul DiMaggio (U. of Chicago Press, 1991); *Private Action and the Public Good*, with Elisabeth Clemens (Yale U. Press, 1997); *The Emergence of Organizations and Markets*, with John Padgett (Princeton U. Press, 2012), and *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook*, with Patricia Bromley (Stanford U. Press, 2020). His 1990 article, "Neither Market Nor Hierarchy: Network Forms of Organization," won the Max Weber award; "Network Dynamics and Field Evolution: The Growth of Inter-Organizational Collaboration in the Life Sciences," (2005), received the Viviana Zelizer prize. "Technological Change and the Locus of Innovation: Networks of Learning in Biotechnology," with K. Koput and L. Smith-Doerr (1996), was recognized by *Administrative Science Quarterly* as one of its most influential publications. His 1983 paper with Paul DiMaggio, "The Iron Cage Revisited: Institutional Isomorphism and Collective Rationality in Organizational Fields," is the most cited article in the history of the *American Sociological Review*.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Graduate School of Education
- Professor (By courtesy), Sociology

- Professor (By courtesy), Organizational Behavior
- Professor (By courtesy), Communication

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Faculty Co-Director, Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, (2005- present)
- Professor (by courtesy) of Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University, (1999- present)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2025)
- Fellow, Academy of Management (2023)
- International fellow, The British Academy (2020)
- Doctor of Philosophy, honoris causa, Uppsala University (2007)
- Foreign member, Swedish Royal Academy of Science (2007)
- Doctor of Philosophy, honoris causa, Aalto University/Helsinki School of Economics (2006)
- Doctor Mercaturae honoris causa in Economics and Business Administration, Copenhagen Business School (2005)
- External faculty, The Santa Fe Institute (2001)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Board of Directors, Social Science Research Council (2000 - present)
- Sara Miller McCune Interim Director, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (2022 - 2023)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (2008 - 2009)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (1986 - 1987)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Public Policy
- Science, Technology and Society

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, SUNY-Stony Brook , Sociology (1978)
- MA, SUNY-Stony Brook , Sociology (1975)
- BA, Florida State University (1971)

LINKS

- Personal Web Link: <http://woodypowell.com>

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Higher Education
- Leadership and Organization
- Sociology

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Please go to my webpage for more info on research:

<https://woodypowell.com>

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Nonprofits, Philanthropy & Society: EDUC 321, PUBLPOL 321, SOC 321 (Win)
- Seminar on Organizational Theory: EDUC 375A, MS&E 389, SOC 363A (Win)
- Workshop: Networks and Organizations: EDUC 361, SOC 361W (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Nonprofits, Philanthropy & Society: EDUC 321, PUBLPOL 321, SOC 321 (Win)
- Philanthropy and Civil Society: EDUC 374, POLISCI 334, SOC 374, SUSTAIN 324 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Seminar on Organizational Theory: EDUC 375A, MS&E 389, SOC 363A (Aut)
- Workshop: Networks and Organizations: EDUC 361, SOC 361W (Aut, Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Nonprofits, Philanthropy & Society: EDUC 321, PUBLPOL 321, SOC 321 (Spr)
- Philanthropy and Civil Society: EDUC 374, POLISCI 334, SOC 374, SUSTAIN 324 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Workshop: Networks and Organizations: EDUC 361, SOC 361W (Aut, Win, Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Priyam Saraf, Nick Sherefkin

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Konstantinos Kostas, Miguel Morillas

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Daniella Efrat

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **ORGANIZATIONS AS CARRIERS OF STATUS AND CLASS DYNAMICS: A HISTORICAL ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE EMERGENCE OF BORDEAUX'S CORK ARISTOCRACY** *SOCIOLOGICAL THINKING IN CONTEMPORARY ORGANIZATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP*
Croidieu, G., Powell, W. W.
edited by Clegg, S., Grothe-Hammer, M., Velarde, K. S.
2024; 90: 141-173
- **Passing It On** *SOCIOLOGICA-INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL FOR SOCIOLOGICAL DEBATE*
Powell, W. W.
2024; 18 (3): 37-47
- **From Iron Cage to Glass House: Repurposing of bureaucratic management and the turn to openness** *ORGANIZATION STUDIES*
Brandtner, C., Powell, W. W., Horvath, A.
2023
- **The Iron Cage Redux: Looking Back and Forward** *ORGANIZATION THEORY*
Powell, W. W., Dimaggio, P. J.
2023; 4 (4)

- **Living Just in Time: Reflections on Arne L. Kalleberg, Precarious Lives: Job Insecurity and Well-Being in Rich Democracies** *CONTEMPORARY SOCIOLOGY-A JOURNAL OF REVIEWS*
Powell, W. W.
2021; 50 (2): 108–11
- **Amphibious Entrepreneurs and the Origins of Invention** *Oxford Handbook on Entrepreneurship and Collaboration*
Powell, W., Sandholtz, K.
edited by Reuer, J., Matusik, S., Jones, J.
Oxford University Press.2019: 541–567
- **Serve or Conserve: Mission, Strategy, and Multi-Level Nonprofit Change During the Great Recession** *VOLUNTAS*
Horvath, A., Brandtner, C., Powell, W. W.
2018; 29 (5): 976–93
- **A sociologist looks at crowds: Innovation or invention?** *STRATEGIC ORGANIZATION*
Powell, W. W.
2017; 15 (2): 289-297
- **Opening the Black Box: The Microfoundations of Institutions** *The SAGE Handbook of Organizational Institutionalism*
Powell, W. W., Rerup, C.
Sage.2017; 2nd: 328–55
- **Organizational Poisedness and the Transformation of Civic Order in 19th Century New York City** *Organizations, Civil Society, and the Roots of Development*
Powell, W., Johnson, V. .
edited by Lamoreaux , N., Wallis, J.
University of Chicago Press.2017: 179–230
- **Click and mortar: Organizations on the web** *RESEARCH IN ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR: AN ANNUAL SERIES OF ANALYTICAL ESSAYS AND CRITICAL REVIEWS, VOL 36*
Powell, W. W., Horvath, A., Brandtner, C.
2016; 36: 101-120
- **Contributory or Disruptive: Do New Forms of Philanthropy Erode Democracy?** *Philanthropy in Democratic Societies*
Powell, W., Horvath, A.
edited by Reich, R., Bernholz, L., Cordelli, C.
Univ. of Chicago Press.2016: 87–122
- **The Explanation of Social Action. By John Levi Martin. New York: Oxford University Press (Book Review)** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY*
Book Review Authored by: Powell, W. W.
2013; 119 (3): 891–94
- **Amphibious entrepreneurs and the emergence of organizational forms** *STRATEGIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP JOURNAL*
Powell, W. W., Sandholtz, K. W.
2012; 6 (2): 94-115
- **From Smoke and Mirrors to Walking the Talk: Decoupling in the Contemporary World** *ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT ANNALS*
Bromley, P., Powell, W. W.
2012; 6: 483-530
- **The emergence of organizations and markets**
Padgett, J. F., Powell, W. W.
Princeton University Press.2012
- **The new institutionalism in organizational analysis**
Powell, W. W., DiMaggio, P. J.
University of Chicago Press.2012

- **Organizational and Institutional Genesis The Emergence of High-Tech Clusters in the Life Sciences** *EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETS*
Powell, W. W., Packalen, K., Whittington, K., Padgett, J., Powell, W.
2012: 434–65
- **The Problem of Emergence** *EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETS*
Padgett, J. F., Powell, W. W., Padgett, J., Powell, W.
2012: 1–29
- **Coda Reflections on the Study of Multiple Networks** *EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETS*
Powell, W. W., Padgett, J. F., Padgett, J., Powell, W.
2012: 566–70
- **An Open Elite Arbiters, Catalysts, or Gatekeepers in the Dynamics of Industry Evolution?** *EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETS*
Powell, W. W., Owen-Smith, J., Padgett, J., Powell, W.
2012: 466–95
- **Chance, Necessite, et Naivete Ingredients to Create a New Organizational Form** *EMERGENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND MARKETS*
Powell, W. W., Sandholtz, K., Padgett, J., Powell, W.
2012: 379–433
- **COLLECTIVE INVENTION AND INVENTOR NETWORKS** *HANDBOOK OF THE ECONOMICS OF INNOVATION, VOL 1*
Powell, W. W., Giannella, E.
edited by Hall, B. H., Rosenberg, N.
2012; 1: 575–605
- **Decoupling revisited: Common pressures, divergent strategies in the U.S. nonprofit sector** *MANAGEMENT*
Bromley, P., Hwang, H., Powell, W. W.
2012; 15 (5): 469–501
- **17 Networks and Economic Life** *The handbook of economic sociology*
Smith-Doerr, L., Powell, W. W.
2010: 379
- **Intellectual capital or signal? The effects of scientists on alliance formation in knowledge-intensive industries** *RESEARCH POLICY*
Luo, X. R., Koput, K. W., Powell, W. W.
2009; 38 (8): 1313-1325
- **The Rationalization of Charity: The Influences of Professionalism in the Nonprofit Sector** *ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE QUARTERLY*
Hwang, H., Powell, W. W.
2009; 54 (2): 268-298
- **Networks, Propinquity, and Innovation in Knowledge-intensive Industries** *ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE QUARTERLY*
Whittington, K. B., Owen-Smith, J., Powell, W. W.
2009; 54 (1): 90-122
- **Plans, takes, and mis-takes** *Outlines. Critical Practice Studies*
Klemp, N., McDermott, R., Raley, J., Thibeault, M., Powell, K., Levitin, D. J.
2008; 10 (1): 4-21
- **Innovaton and emulation: Lessons from American universities in selling private rights to public knowledge** *Conference on Science and the Creation of Value - From Alchemy to Proteomics*
Powell, W. W., Owen-Smith, J., Colyvas, J. A.
SPRINGER.2007: 121–42
- **Biotechnology: Its origins, organization, and outputs** *RESEARCH POLICY*
Ebers, M., Powell, W. W.
2007; 36 (4): 433-437

- **FROM VULNERABLE TO VENERATED: THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF ACADEMIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE LIFE SCIENCES** *SOCIOLOGY OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP*
Colyvas, J. A., Powell, W. W.
edited by Ruef, M., Lounsbury, M.
2007; 25: 219–59
- **The frontiers of intellectual property: Expanded protection versus new models of open science** *Annu. Rev. Law Soc. Sci.*
Rhoten, D., Powell, W. W.
2007; 3: 345-373
- **ROADS TO INSTITUTIONALIZATION: THE REMAKING OF BOUNDARIES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCIENCE** *RESEARCH IN ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR, VOL 27*
Colyvas, J. A., Powell, W. W.
2006; 27: 305-353
- **Universities and the production of knowledge - Introduction** *HIGHER EDUCATION*
Bleiklie, I., Powell, W. W.
2005; 49 (1-2): 1-8
- **Networks and Economic Life** *HANDBOOK OF ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY, SECOND EDITION*
Smith-Doerr, L., Powell, W. W.
edited by Smelser, N. J., Swedberg, R.
2005: 379–402
- **Network dynamics and field evolution: The growth of interorganizational collaboration in the life sciences** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY*
Powell, W. W., White, D. R., Koput, K. W., Owen-Smith, J.
2005; 110 (4): 1132-1205
- **Careers and contradictions: Faculty responses to the transformation of knowledge and its uses in the life sciences** *SOCIOLOGIE DU TRAVAIL*
Owen-Smith, J., Powell, W. W.
2004; 46 (3): 347-377
- **Knowledge networks as channels and conduits: The effects of spillovers in the Boston biotechnology community** *ORGANIZATION SCIENCE*
Owen-Smith, J., Powell, W. W.
2004; 15 (1): 5-21
- **The knowledge economy** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF SOCIOLOGY*
Powell, W. W., Snellman, K.
2004; 30: 199-220
- **The expanding role of university patenting in the life sciences: assessing the importance of experience and connectivity** *RESEARCH POLICY*
Owen-Smith, J., Powell, W. W.
2003; 32 (9): 1695-1711
- **Neither market nor hierarchy** *The sociology of organizations: classic, contemporary, and critical readings*
Powell, W.
2003; 315: 104-117
- **Europe and the United States: The power of networks** *BIOFUTUR*
Pammolli, F., Riccaboni, M., Owen-Smith, J., Powell, W. W.
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- **The spatial clustering of science and capital: Accounting for biotech firm-venture capital relationships** *REGIONAL STUDIES*
Powell, W. W., Koput, K. W., Bowie, J. I., Smith-Doerr, L.
2002; 36 (3): 291-305

- **A comparison of US and European university-industry relations in the life sciences** *Conference on University Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer*
Owen-Smith, J., Riccaboni, M., Pammolli, F., Powell, W. W.
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- **The capitalist firm in the 21st century: emerging patterns** *The 21st Century Firm: Changing Economic Organization in International Perspective*
Powell, W. W.
2001
- **The sources of management logics** *ADVANCES IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT, VOL 17, 2000*
Powell, W. W.
2000; 17: 175-179
- **The iron cage revisited institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields** *Economics meets sociology in strategic management*
DiMaggio, P. J., Powell, W. W.
Emerald Group Publishing Limited.2000: 143–166
- **The last word? Not a chance** *ADVANCES IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT, VOL 17, 2000*
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- **Under large pharmaceutical companies' umbrellas** *BIOFUTUR*
Powell, W. W.
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- **Learning from collaboration: Knowledge and networks in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries** *California management review*
Powell, W. W.
1998; 40 (3): 228-240
- **Universities as creators and retailers of intellectual property: Life-sciences research and commercial development** *To profit or not to profit: The commercial transformation of the nonprofit sector*
Powell, W. W., Owen-Smith, J.
1998: 169-193
- **Private action and the public good**
Clemens, E. S.
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- **Interorganizational collaboration and the locus of innovation: Networks of learning in biotechnology**
Powell, W. W., Koput, K. W., Smith-Doerr, L.
ADMINISTRATIVE, SCI QUARTERLY.1996: 116–45
- **Inter-organizational collaboration in the biotechnology industry**
Powell, W. W.
J C B MOHR.1996: 197–215
- **Commentary - On the nature of institutional embeddedness: Labels vs explanation** *ADVANCES IN STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT*
Powell, W. W.
1996; 13: 293–300
- **Inter-organizational collaboration in the biotechnology industry** *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics (JITE)/Zeitschrift für die gesamte Staatswissenschaft*
Powell, W. W.
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- **Interorganizational collaboration and the locus of innovation: Networks of learning in biotechnology** *Administrative science quarterly*
Powell, W. W., Koput, K. W., Smith-Doerr, L.
1996: 116-145

- **CAREERS IN PRINT - BOOKS, JOURNALS, AND SCHOLARLY REPUTATIONS** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY*
CLEMENS, E. S., POWELL, W. W., MCILWAINE, K., OKAMOTO, D.
1995; 101 (2): 433–94
- **NEITHER MARKET NOR HIERARCHY - NETWORK FORMS OF ORGANIZATION** *RESEARCH IN ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR*
POWELL, W. W.
1990; 12: 295–336
- **HYBRID ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS - NEW FORM OR TRANSITIONAL DEVELOPMENT** *CALIFORNIA MANAGEMENT REVIEW*
Powell, W. W.
1987; 30 (1): 67-87
- **Getting into print: The decision-making process in scholarly publishing**
Powell, W. W.
University of Chicago Press.1985
- **THE IRON CAGE REVISITED - INSTITUTIONAL ISOMORPHISM AND COLLECTIVE RATIONALITY IN ORGANIZATIONAL FIELDS** *AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW*
DIMAGGIO, P. J., POWELL, W. W.
1983; 48 (2): 147–60
- **Books: The culture and commerce of publishing**
Coser, L. A., Kadushin, C., Powell, W. W.
Basic Books New York.1982