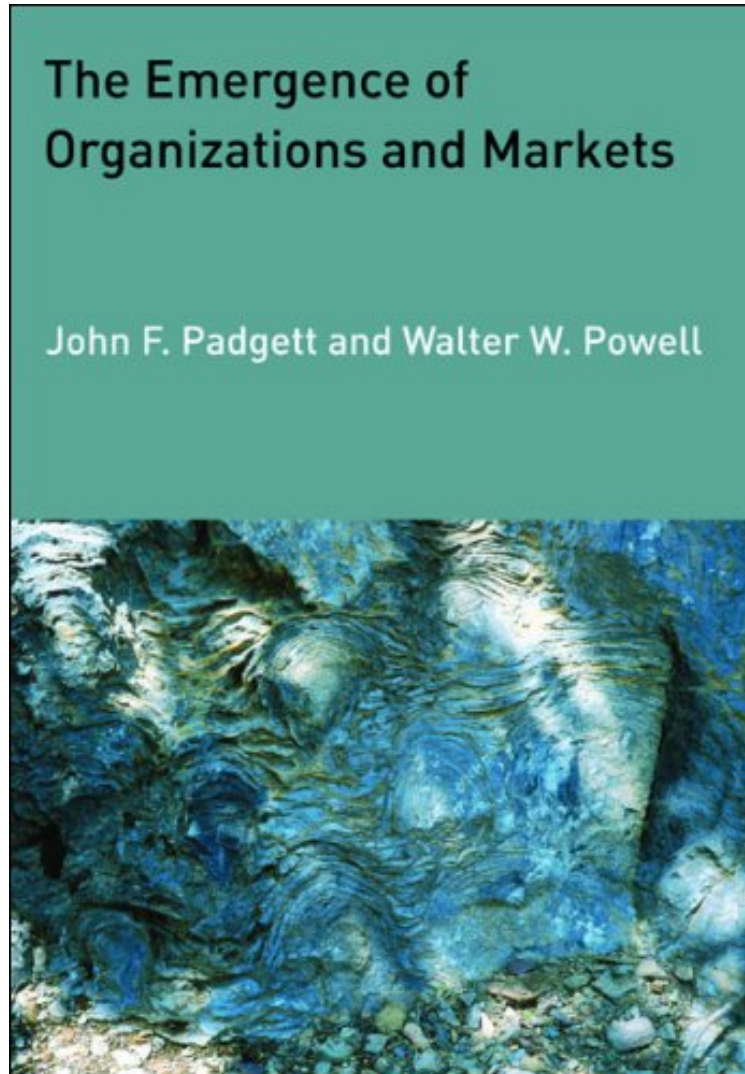


The Emergence of Organizations and Markets

John F. Padgett, Walter W. Powell

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John F. Padgett, Walter W. Powell : The Emergence of Organizations and Markets before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of Organizations and Markets:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended. By ECA stellar work that presents complex ideas in an engaging and clear manner. The case studies demonstrate different elements of emergence and how these shape organizations and systems. Highly recommended. 1 of 4 people found the following review helpful. origin of life By Luis Villarreal Best short write up on origin of life I have read so far. Also, as I was around San Diego and Stanford when the biotech industry emerged, I find the chapters on this to be very well written. 3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A heavy book with tremendous intellectual ambition By H. Zhu Once a while I run across something that pushes me to think hard, and even reshapes my intellectual identity. This book is definitely one of

them. What sets this book apart from the universe of social networks/organization literature is, from my perspective, story telling. The rich content and analysis of history data constructed a convincing framework explaining how social network as a fundamental mechanism to organize social processes as well as to propell societal change. In simpler words, how a simple mechanism, namely social networks, gives order to seemly complex social life and produce new social phenomena/properties---"emergence" in social context. Though the difference between "innovation" and "invention" is somewhat confusing, the book's basic logic and research agenda were well laid out in the first two chapters--- I even think the first two chapters alone deserve my forever appreciation at highest level. The groundbreaking theory, coupled with well-written empirical case studies, gave me the feeling I was watching an intellectual porn, if there is anything like that. Although some chapters are less coherent with the core argument of the book --- they were not written by Padgett nor Powell --- I have no doubt that this book has the potential to enlighten a generation of multiple network scholars, or even generate a new paradigm within social sciences. Absolutely five stars.

The social sciences have sophisticated models of choice and equilibrium but little understanding of the emergence of novelty. Where do new alternatives, new organizational forms, and new types of people come from? Combining biochemical insights about the origin of life with innovative and historically oriented social network analyses, John Padgett and Walter Powell develop a theory about the emergence of organizational, market, and biographical novelty from the coevolution of multiple social networks. They demonstrate that novelty arises from spillovers across intertwined networks in different domains. In the short run actors make relations, but in the long run relations make actors. This theory of novelty emerging from intersecting production and biographical flows is developed through formal deductive modeling and through a wide range of original historical case studies. Padgett and Powell build on the biochemical concept of autocatalysis--the chemical definition of life--and then extend this autocatalytic reasoning to social processes of production and communication. Padgett and Powell, along with other colleagues, analyze a very wide range of cases of emergence. They look at the emergence of organizational novelty in early capitalism and state formation; they examine the transformation of communism; and they analyze with detailed network data contemporary science-based capitalism: the biotechnology industry, regional high-tech clusters, and the open source community.

"[Padgett and Powell] see the 'percolation of perturbations' through complex networks as the next research frontier in the program of study that they propose, and they hope their initial forays in *The Emergence of Organizations and Markets* will inspire readers across the sciences to pick up the torch. If that happens, this theoretically innovative contribution to social science will have catalyzed the regeneration of historical applications of complexity science."--Michael Macy, *Science*"This important book . . . combines insights from biochemical origins of life and social network analysis to study the emergence of organizational forms that have been important in the development of market societies. This unusual synthesis provides original perspectives to the fourteen case studies in the book. These studies make sense of detailed relational data through models of biological evolution. In addition to being informative on some of the major turning points in economic history, the case studies suggest new explanations for the background and origins of major organizational innovations."--Ozge Dilaver Kalkan, *JASSS*"Combining biochemical insights about the origin of life with innovative and historically oriented social network analyses, John Padgett and Walter Powell develop a theory about the emergence of organizational market, and biographical novelty from the coevolution of multiple social networks."--World Book Industry"Padgett and Powell have put together an imposing positive theoretical and empirical account of organizational novelty that bears even the potential to inspire the natural sciences in return, irrespective of any remaining qualms on the part of less naturalistic social scientists."--Guido Mouml;llering, *Economic Sociology European Newsletter*"*The Emergence of Organizations and Markets* will unquestionably change how scholars think about innovation and the economy, highlighting the importance of coevolution across multiple network domains and the duality between actors and social relations."--James N. Baron, *American Journal of Sociology*From the Inside Flap"The scholarship, analytical focus, and sheer energy of this work are nothing short of admirable. It will change the way historians and social scientists study large-scale economic and political transformations."--Jon Elster, *College de France and Columbia University*"This intellectual tour de force revolutionizes how we think about social transformations. It introduces a brilliant and surprisingly effective new model of explanation based on an analogy with the biochemistry of life-forms. The model's utility is convincingly demonstrated in fascinating case studies, ranging from medieval Florence to contemporary Silicon Valley. Every social scientist interested in the problem of social change should read this book."--William H. Sewell, Jr., *University of Chicago*"This book is about the old sociological truth that the substance of social structure--how it is known, how it operates, how it has effects--lies in the structure's history. That truth, here discussed in terms of network autocatalytic mechanisms, has never been said as well, as clearly, or with such profound implications for how we think about organizations and markets. A remarkable book."--Ronald S. Burt, *University of Chicago*"For the social sciences, which have been far better at explaining how institutions behave than at understanding where they come from, this is a landmark book. Operating at the horizon where theory and method converge, it presents a genuinely new explanation

of the emergence of novelty in a broad array of contexts. Representing social science at its best, this book will resonate through the disciplines for a long time."--Paul DiMaggio, Princeton University

"This book revitalizes the study of social, political, and economic change by linking it to the classic sociological understanding of society as interlocked institutions that borrow from and transform one another. Its rich and subtle merger of network analysis, organization theory, and historical institutionalism will catalyze a generation of new studies. It is the essential starting point for those seeking new and exciting theoretical departures."--Mark Granovetter, Stanford University

"This book is a towering achievement of methodological finesse, bridging multiple scales of structure and time to produce a polyoptic theory of organizational genesis and transformation in politics, economics, and science. A core thesis of this book is that multifunctional social actors and the heterarchical networks they induce coconstruct each other, yielding emergent organizations that shape structural and functional innovation in response to shocks. Padgett and Powell's fantastic demonstration of interdisciplinary conversation will provide systems biologists with thought-provoking ideas for developing a fresh look at the nature of emergence and evolution."--Walter Fontana, Harvard University

From the Back Cover

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