



The Corporate Politician - A Systematic Review of Research on Board Work

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Abstract

The trend of using boards as a form of governance within and between public organizations presents new challenges for elected politicians who often hold positions as board members. They are now entering boardrooms and leading publicly owned companies that operate according to market-based logic. In this literature review, we examine research on corporate governance to identify potential new roles that politicians may undertake. Three board roles are discussed: supervisors, mentors, and connectors to external resources. We also examine the methods used by researchers to study corporate governance and find a significant dominance of quantitative methods, which may have influenced the creation of theoretical models and highlight potential gaps that future research could fill. The analysis shows that roles stemming from corporate governance do not necessarily conflict with classic political roles - they could complement them. The study is based on 129 articles published in four top journals from 2010 to 2019.

Keywords: publicly owned companies, board members, board roles, political roles.



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