

Title & Authors “Objectives of platform research: A co-citation and systematic literature review analysis”

Authors: Fabian Schueler & Dimitri Petrik (2022)

### 1. Summary of the Introduction

The paper begins by explaining that platform research (i.e., research about digital platforms and platform ecosystems) is an increasingly important area in business economics and management. However, despite the rapid growth, the field suffers from conceptual ambiguity and inconsistent findings because different subfields of research use varied definitions and approaches. To address this problem, the authors argue that research objectives within platform research have not been clearly grouped or systematically studied, which hinders cumulative knowledge development. The introduction sets up the importance of clarifying these objectives to unify and advance understanding in the research area.

### 2. Name of the Paper with Author’s Name

“Objectives of platform research: A co-citation and systematic literature review analysis”

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### 3. Summary of the Problem Statement

The core problem the paper addresses is that platform research is fragmented: scholars use diverse definitions of platforms, pursue different research goals, and focus on varied aspects of platform ecosystems. This fragmentation leads to conceptual ambiguity, inconsistent findings, and a lack of integration across studies. The authors argue that without systematically identifying and categorizing research objectives across the literature, the field cannot develop a coherent collective understanding or cumulative theory.

### 4. Research Objectives

The paper’s objectives (what the authors set out to do) are:

1. Summarize and categorize the main research objectives found in platform research using systematic and bibliometric methods.
2. Identify dominant themes and clusters in the literature that show how researchers approach platform ecosystems from various angles.
3. Provide a clearer conceptual map that can help scholars understand how different strands of platform research relate to one another and guide future studies.

## 5. Research Gap

The gap this paper fills is the lack of a systematic synthesis of research objectives in the platform research field. Prior to this study, there was no comprehensive overview showing what researchers are trying to achieve when they study platforms, how those goals cluster together, and what areas are underexplored. This gap meant the field lacked clarity about its core purposes, leading to fragmentation and unexplained differences in findings across studies. By identifying key categories of research objectives (such as foundational definitional work, ecosystem exploitation strategies, and platform improvement studies), the authors highlight what has been done and what remains to be explored