



Apr 9th, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

## A Web of Connections: The Role of Social Capital and Trust in the Formation of Virtual Organizations

Paige Maynard  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Meghan Burke, Faculty Advisor  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>



Part of the [Sociology Commons](#)

---

Maynard, Paige and Burke, Faculty Advisor, Meghan, "A Web of Connections: The Role of Social Capital and Trust in the Formation of Virtual Organizations" (2011). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 3.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2011/oralpres12/3>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O12.3

**A WEB OF CONNECTIONS: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL AND TRUST IN THE  
FORMATION OF VIRTUAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Paige Maynard and Meghan Burke\*  
Sociology Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Many community based agencies engage in collaboration in order to solve community problems no one organization can accomplish on its own. One such form of collaboration is the virtual organization. A virtual organization is an organization that relies on multi-party, co-operative agreements between structural, temporal, and sometimes geographic boundaries. Looking narrowly at virtual organizations on the community level is one approach which allows for better understanding of why and how community based collaboration takes place. The objective of this research is to examine the extent to which virtual organizations are utilized by community agencies while simultaneously understanding the role both social capital and trust play in the formation of these organizations. By surveying human service agencies in Bloomington-Normal, IL, both qualitative and quantitative data was collected on virtual organizations that exist in this community. Both social capital and trust appear to be two of the driving forces in the formation of virtual organizations across social service agencies. This research seeks to better understand virtual organizations as well as the associated successes and failures.