

2 The research gap: Limited knowledge on antecedents of social capital

Though extant studies on innovative activities and social capital of communities are helpful, one particular outstanding issue remains. As already mentioned, there is consensus in the literature that social capital is a crucial success factor in innovation communities (Dahlander & Frederiksen, 2012; Fleming & Waguespack, 2007). However, relatively little is known with respect to the antecedents of social capital (Payne et al., 2011). Those scholars who examine antecedents of social capital focus on single dimensions (e.g., Brass et al., 2004) or on single levels of analysis (e.g., Bolino et al., 2002). As an example, Dahlander and Wallin (2006) study how the fact that an individual is sponsored by a firm influences the position of the focal individual in the community network. Thus, Dahlander and Wallin (2006) focus on the individual level as well as the structural dimension of social capital. The goal of this dissertation is to draw a more holistic picture of antecedents of innovation community social capital (see Figure 3). To address the research gap outlined in this paragraph, I consider multiple dimensions as well as multiple levels of social capital and ask: *What are antecedents of social capital in corporate innovation communities?*

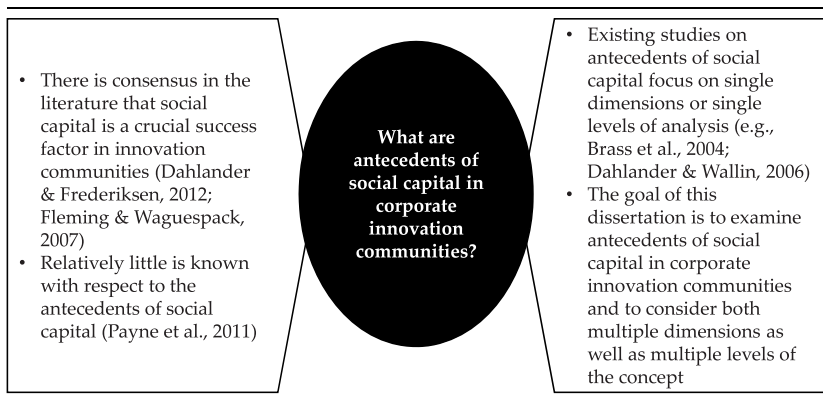


Figure 3: Research gap and research question