

**Interorganizational Strategic Relationships:
A Definition for Theory Development**

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Since Alderson's (1951) piece on symbiosis, more than forty years ago, there have been several definitions and synonyms offered to explain strategic interorganizational relationships in the marketplace. The lack of a consensus definition hinders theory development and general understanding. This research has examined over 1,300 published works and synthesized them into one encompassing definition of interorganizational strategic relationships. The research also presents common elements of strategic interorganizational relationships found in the literature.

KEYWORDS:

SYMBIOSIS, COLLABORATION, STRATEGIC ALLIANCE,
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT, JOINT VENTURE, STRATEGIC
ALLIANCE, STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP, CONSTRUCT VALIDITY,
THEORY DEVELOPMENT