The book provides an innovative perspective in the study of power, a central concept not adequately conceptualized in the social sciences... Theoretically robust and empirically grounded, the volume is rewarding reading for all those who are interested in the governance and change of contemporary global society.

Alberto Martinelli, University of Milan, Italy, Former President of the International Sociological Association

In this book that all micro-theorists should welcome, Tom Burns and Peter Hall, along with other leading scholars, develop models that permit the connection of... interaction and meaning with a deep recognition of how institutions and social systems operate. It... belongs on the shelves of all sociologists who wish to understand the linkage between action and structure.

Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University, USA

Meta-Power offers a superb and all too rare combination of theoretical framing and empirical studies. Grasping power as action rather than property or attribute, Burns and Hall forge fresh sociological lenses that dissolve tired agency/structure dualisms. They detail many and diverse forms of powering and a spectrum of powering mechanisms, demonstrating how these transect human, natural, material and technoscientific phenomena, all of which are themselves active. They do not flinch at the complexities of life on earth but engage them. Bravo indeed!

Adele Clark, University of California, San Francisco, USA

This work presents, elaborates, and illustrates what is arguably the most important concept in the social sciences: power. It focuses particularly on a major class of power phenomena, meta-power, that is, power over power, transformative and structuring power. This encompasses powers to establish, reform, and transform social systems (institutions, power hierarchies, cultural formations, and socio-technical and infrastructural systems). Understanding meta-power is essential to the effective analysis of the formation of societal structures, their dynamics and evolution. This collection presents numerous illustrations and case studies at local, meso, and macro levels, showing how meta-powering is mobilized and operates in different contexts. The book should be of particular interest to business and management researchers, anthropologists, historians, legal scholars, political scientists, and, of course, sociologists.

Tom R. Burns is Professor Emeritus at Uppsala University (Sweden), Visiting Scholar, Woods Institute, Stanford University, and Senior Research Associate at ISCTE, Lisbon. He is a widely recognized social theorist and researcher and one of the founding members of the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere (MAHB).

Peter M. Hall is Affiliate Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Missouri. His areas of interest include political sociology, radical movements, organizations and work, policy processes, social theory, science, and the environment. He has served as editor of the journal Symbolic Interaction and president of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He received the Society’s George Herbert Mead Award for career contributions in 1994.

www.peterlang.de
This work presents, elaborates, and illustrates what is arguably the most important concept in the social sciences: power. It focuses particularly on a major class of power phenomena, meta-power, that is, power over power, transformative and structuring power. This encompasses powers to establish, reform, and transform social systems (institutions, power hierarchies, cultural formations, and socio-technical and infrastructural systems). Understanding meta-power is essential to the effective analysis of the formation of societal structures, their dynamics and evolution. This collection presents numerous illustrations and case studies at local, meso, and macro levels, showing how meta-powering is mobilized and operates in different contexts. The book should be of particular interest to business and management researchers, anthropologists, historians, legal scholars, political scientists, and, of course, sociologists.

"The book provides an innovative perspective in the study of power, a central concept not adequately conceptualized in the social sciences... Theoretically robust and empirically grounded, the volume is rewarding reading for all those who are interested in the governance and change of contemporary global society."
Alberto Martinelli, University of Milan, Italy,
Former President of the International Sociological Association

"In this book that all micro-theorists should welcome, Tom Burns and Peter Hall, along with other leading scholars, develop models that permit the connection of... interaction and meaning with a deep recognition of how institutions and social systems operate. It... belongs on the shelves of all sociologists who wish to understand the linkage between action and structure."
Gary Alan Fine, Northwestern University, USA

"Meta-Power offers a superb and all too rare combination of theoretical framing and empirical studies. Grasping power as action rather than property or attribute, Burns and Hall forge fresh sociological lenses that dissolve tired agency/structure dualisms. They detail many and diverse forms of powering and a spectrum of powering mechanisms, demonstrating how these transect human, natural, material and technoscientific phenomena, all of which are themselves active. They do not flinch at the complexities of life on earth but engage them. Bravo indeed!"
Adele Clark, University of California, San Francisco, USA

Tom R. Burns is Professor Emeritus at Uppsala University (Sweden), Visiting Scholar, Woods Institute, Stanford University, and Senior Research Associate at ISCTE, Lisbon. He is a widely recognized social theorist and researcher and one of the founding members of the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere (MAHB).

Peter M. Hall is Affiliate Professor of Sociology at Colorado State University and Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Missouri. His areas of interest include political sociology, radical movements, organizations and work, policy processes, social theory, science, and the environment. He has served as editor of the journal Symbolic Interaction and president of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction. He received the Society’s George Herbert Mead Award for career contributions in 1994.
THE META-POWER PARADIGM:

Impacts and Transformations of Agents, Institutions, and Social Systems –
– Capitalism, State, and Democracy in a Global Context

Tom R. Burns and Peter M. Hall (editors)

in collaboration with
Thomas Baumgartner, Ulrich Beck, Walter Buckley (deceased), Philippe DeVille, Anne Marie Kalliokoski, Stephen D. Krasner, Kevin McElmurry, Nora Machado, Patrick W. McGinty, Hannes Peltonen, Ewa Roszkowska, Dusko Sekulic, & J. P. Singh
Table of Contents

Preface

Part I: Selected Classic Studies of Meta-power
1. Conceptualizing Power and Meta-power: Causalities, Mechanisms, and Constructions
   Tom R. Burns (with Peter M. Hall and Patrick McGinty)

2. Meta-power and Relational Control in Social Life
   Tom Baumgartner, Walter Buckley, and Tom R. Burns

3. Interactions and the Study of Social Organization
   Peter M. Hall

4. Meta-power and the Structuring of International Economic Institutions and Exchange
   Tom Baumgartner, Tom R. Burns, and Phillipe DeVille

5. Meta-power and the Struggle over International Regimes: The Case of the Third World against Global Liberalism
   Stephen D. Krasner

Part II: Meta-power Paradigm Extended

   Tom R. Burns in collaboration with Peter M. Hall

7. Meta-Power, Social Organization, and the Shaping of Social Action
   Peter M. Hall

8. The Cultural Domain: Extensions and Applications of Meta-power and Structural Power
   Peter M. Hall in collaboration with Tom R. Burns and Nora Machado
9. Societal Systems of Power and Meta-Power: Capitalism, State, and Democratic Arrangements
   Tom R. Burns in collaboration with Philippe DeVille and Anne Marie Kolliokoski

Part III: Agential Meta-powering (Micro-Meso-Macro Case Studies)

10. Meta-power, Staging Work, and Constructing a Religious Experience
    Kevin McElmurry and Peter M. Hall

    Tom Baumgartner, Tom R. Burns, and Philippe DeVille

12. Social Organization across Space and Time: The Policy Process, Mesodomain Analysis, and Breadth of Perspective
    Peter M. Hall and Patrick W. McGinty

13. Meta-power and the Disintegration of Yugoslavia
    Dusko Sekulic

Part IV: Meta-power and the Structuring of the International Global Systems

    Hannes Peltonen

15. The Meta-power of Interactions: Security and Commerce in Networked Environments
    J.P. Singh

16. Redefining Power in the Global Age: Eight Theses
    Ulrich Beck

    Tom R. Burns

Epilogue
References 523
Index 547