Motivation of higher education faculty: Theoretical approaches, empirical evidence, and future directions

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ABSTRACT

We explore and elaborate on four questions to inspire future research on faculty motivation. The first question asks why we should be concerned with the motivations of higher education faculty in the first place, particularly in regard to studying them empirically? Moreover, if research on higher education faculty motivation is important, why is it still rather underdeveloped? Building on this, considering the plethora of motivation frameworks, we wondered which theories apply well to faculty members and how they align with one another? Finally, what should thorough international research on faculty motivation entail? This question encompasses a search for solutions on what could be done to broaden the scope of this important line research.

With this Special Issue, we aim to advance the (international) research on higher education faculty motivation. When reflecting on the current state of this field of research, crucial questions arose. The first question asks why we should be concerned with the motivations of higher education faculty in the first place, particularly in regard to studying them empirically? Moreover, if research on higher education faculty motivation is important, why is research on this topic still rather underdeveloped? Building on this, considering the plethora of motivation frameworks, we wondered which theories apply well to faculty members and how they align with one another? Finally, given the limited geographical distribution of this research to date, what should thorough international research on faculty motivation entail? This question encompasses a search for solutions on what could be done to broaden the scope of this research. In this introduction to the special issue, we do not aim to provide final answers to these questions, but rather to explore and elaborate on them to inspire future research on faculty motivation. Given the high importance of faculty motivation and the limited volume and scope of research, our objective was to bring together studies from around the world utilizing a range of

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established theories to understand the role of motivation in faculty success and well-being.

1. Why should researchers study the motivations of university faculty?

The quality of higher education (i.e., university, post secondary college) faculty performance is critical to society. Effective instruction at higher education institutions has been consistently linked to the quality of student engagement, differences in their learning outcomes, and their persistence (BrckaLorenz, Ribera, Kinzie, & Cole, 2012; McKeachie, 2007; Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991, 2005; Umbach & Wawrzynski, 2005). University faculty are also top producers of innovative research, enhance disciplinary progress, contribute to institutional visibility, and are the largest contributors to scientific progress (e.g., Javitz et al., 2010). Finally, at a societal level, faculty teaching and research can be a fundamental component of informed citizenship, scientific advancement, economic activity, and government decision-making (Landry, Lamari, & Amara, 2003; Perkmann et al., 2013; Weinberg et al., 2014).

Despite the importance of faculty teaching and research, there are several concerning trends regarding the cognitions and behaviors of faculty. For example, in the USA, the number of articles published in the world's major peer-reviewed journals has plateaued while research expenditures have increased, suggesting less return on investment in research (Hill, Rapoport, Lehming, & Bell, 2007; Javitz et al., 2010; Litwin, 2014). Relatedly, teaching is regularly de-emphasized, with even traditionally teaching-focused institutions being put under pressure to meet challenging research expectations (Eagan et al., 2014; Wilkesmann & Schmid, 2014). This burden contributes to the high stress and burnout levels frequently reported by faculty members, e.g., in the USA (Padilla & Thompson, 2016), Canada (Catano et al., 2010), United Kingdom (Kinman, Jones, & Kinman, 2006), Australia (Winefield, Boyd, Saebel, & Pignata, 2008), and South Africa (Barkhuizen & Rothmann, 2008).

It is a significant challenge for faculty members to perform well and make important contributions in an ever-changing working environment characterized by high teaching and research demands. Research on faculty performance to date has focused on demographic, institutional, and social-environmental factors; however, these variables have been found to explain limited variability in faculty affect and behaviors (Harrison & Kelly, 1996; Ponjuan, Conley, & Trower, 2011; Stupnisky, Weaver-Hightower, & Kartoshkina, 2015). What has received less attention by researchers is how motivations and emotions relate to faculty experiences and behaviors such as job performance, well-being, and job satisfaction. The predictive utility of motivational variables on performance and well-being, over and above demographic factors, has consistently been documented among students (Lazowski & Hulleman, 2016; Robbins et al., 2004) and K-12 teachers (Richardson, Karabenick, & Watt, 2014; Tönjes & Dickhäuser, 2009). It is reasonable that the theories and concepts of achievement motivation are just as applicable to faculty, as universities constitute achievement contexts where individual faculty are under observation to perform well in teaching and/or research.

Beyond being able to better understand and support university faculty, research on the motivations of this population can furthermore be important on a theoretical level regarding the generalizability of motivational theories (e.g., testing if constructs work in similar ways, or must be modified), their domain specificity (aside from students, university faculty are special in that they are active in multiple, fairly equal achievement domains, see <u>Daumiller & Dresel</u>, this special issue), and possible differences in the nomological net of different motivations (that can help identifying possible moderators that serve a more thorough theoretical understanding of human motivation). Research that applies concepts of achievement motivation to the work of faculty members, however, is scarce.

2. Why has faculty motivation been studied so little?

The amount of research on faculty motivation conducted to date is less than the amount of research in many other higher education and professional populations. Case in point, a literature search on Psycinfo on October 16, 2019 (terms searched 'intitle') yielded 2,698 publications for 'student + motivation', 758 publications for 'teacher + motivation', and 87 publications for 'faculty + motivation'. One may rationalize this low volume of publications by suggesting faculty constitute a small labor force and therefore may not be studied very much in general; however, a search for 'faculty + development' yielded 579 publications, indicating that there is a great deal of effort and interest invested in understanding faculty. Similar distributions are found when searching through presentations at large conferences (e.g., at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Associations since 2010 there were 116 presentations on teacher motivation and 28 on faculty motivation with most of the latter directed at faculty development but not teaching or research). Finally, compared to research on school teachers, we are not aware of any meta-analyses or systematic literature reviews focused on the motivations of this particular population.

Relative to the motivation of students and K-12 teachers, one might wonder: why has the motivation of university faculty been studied so little? One explanation for this phenomenon could be grounded in the perception that faculty are highly motivated; in other words, researchers may disregard studying this population as they perceive there is no issue to resolve. Indeed, given the large investment of time required to obtain a PhD (and its preceding degrees), the low chances of obtaining an academic position (Woolston, 2015), and low satisfaction with salary (Cyranoski, Gilbert, Ledford, Nayar, & Yahia, 2011), it is logical to assume that people who persevere to become faculty must be highly motivated. However, a high quantitative level of motivation does not necessarily reflect optimal motivation. Indeed, many faculty members report considerable levels of maladaptive types of motivation that implores further empirical investigation. For example, Stupnisky, BrckaLorenz, and Nelson Laid (this special issue) found faculty reported considerable levels of introjected and external motivation for research, which are unfavorable types of motivation according

¹ We also included other descriptors by searching for '(faculty OR university instructor OR higher education teacher OR university scholar OR researcher) AND motivation'.

to Self-determination Theory (Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2008). Similarly, besides favourable motivations such as strong learning goals, research also finds substantial levels of maladaptive goal pursuit in the form of performance avoidance or work avoidance goals (e.g., Daumiller, Grassinger, Dickhäuser, & Dresel, 2016; Daumiller, Bieg, Dickhäuser, & Dresel, 2019; Daumiller & Dresel, this special issue). Besides this, there are many possible demotivators of faculty, such as receiving rejections, unclear goals and guidelines, and committee work that is often perceived as unproductive (Minter, 2009).

A second reason for the low volume of research is that the task of researching faculty motivation can be socially intimidating and methodologically challenging. Indeed, many researchers might feel uncomfortable knocking on a colleague's office door and asking them 'how motivated are you to do your job?'. They may also consider fellow faculty too busy or stressed to participate in empirical studies (Barkhuizen & Rothmann, 2008; Catano et al., 2010; Kinman et al., 2006; Winefield et al., 2008). As such, researchers avoid approaching faculty members who could be unengaged or bothering colleagues to complete yet another task. Due to the scientific expertise of faculty, it may also be a concern by researchers that faculty members will critically critique their methods, or deduce their research questions and provide socially desirable responses. Despite the reality of these challenges, faculty members, as fellow researchers, know about the importance of answering truthfully and may therefore be more likely to do so. Similarly, survey response rates and quality are problematic across many populations due to factors including survey fatigue (Fan & Yan, 2010), yet insufficient effort responding can be reduced (Huang, Curran, Keeney, Poposki, & DeShon, 2012).

Logistics may also play a role in the low levels of research on faculty motivation. For instance, samples large and diverse enough to generate generalizability and statistical significance may be harder to obtain as university faculty make up a relatively smaller population than college students or K-12 teachers. For example, in Fall 2015 there were nearly 13 times more students and three times more K-12 teachers than full-time faculty in the United States (19,977,270 vs 3,633,000 vs 1,552,256; NCES, 2018; HEGIS, 2017; HEGIS 2019), which is similar to the proportions in other countries such as Germany (2,900,000 vs 814,657 vs 254,967; Statistisches Bundesamt, 2019a, 2019b, 2019c). At the same time, many students are incentivized to participate in research studies (e.g., monetary incentives, course credit). Finally, many theories of motivation have not been rigorously or regularly conceptualized to faculty, nor have the respective motivation survey scales been repeatedly tested for validity and reliability. Even though it may be logistically challenging to investigate faculty motivation, it is possible given that research can rely on the same sampling techniques that have been used for other specialized groups of the labor force such as K-12 teachers. Analogously to those groups, faculty is organized within institutions (universities) and the communication channels of these organizations could be used as a contact strategy. Also, the recent increase in research on faculty motivation is leading to many theories and measures being applied to faculty (see next section), so they are being increasingly vetted for quality and may soon be more readily available.

Collectively, the potential reasons for the lack of research on faculty motivation to date leads to a clear conclusion: this is a young and developing area of research experiencing normal growing pains that can be overcome. There is no reason to regard faculty as a sacrosanct population whose motivations would not matter or not need to be addressed by motivational researchers. On the contrary, merely accepting the blind spots that exist in research on faculty motivation would likely hinder further progress in providing optimal learning contexts in higher education settings. Identifying misleading assumptions and considering solutions to important challenges that may have historically led to less research might facilitate future research on this important topic. One particularly important premise to this end, is to identify how motivation theories can be applied to faculty.

3. What motivation theories are applicable to faculty and how do they align?

Motivation describes the reasons why someone decides to do something, how long someone is willing to sustain an activity, and how hard he or she will pursue this activity (Dresel & Hall, 2013; Ushioda & Dörnyei, 2011; Gagné & Deci, 2005; Latham & Pinder, 2005; Schunk, Pintrich, & Meece, 2008). Accordingly, motivation of university faculty can be defined as the overall processes that give rise to faculty members initiating, sustaining, and regulating goal-directed behaviors. To this end, differences in the quality of motivation (and not merely the quantity; see Pintrich, 2000a, 2000b) can be considered meaningful to describe differences in faculty members' behaviors (e.g., how much energy they invest in preparing their classes, how many research projects they engage in), cognitions (e.g., whether they appraise help-seeking as threatening or helpful), and affects (e.g., how they experience work stressors such as teaching evaluations or manuscript rejections). The relevance of using a theoretical framework that focuses on the quality of faculty motivation has also been seen in investigations into their intrinsic motivation where investigations typically report strong levels of intrinsic motivation with only little intraindividual differences (e.g., Becker, Wild, Stegmüller, & Tadsen, 2012; Esdar, Gorges, & Wild, 2012; Esdar, Gorges, & Wild, 2013; Wild, 2012).

In its core, an individual's current motivation is hypothesized to be composed of subjective expectations regarding the feasibility as well as the desirability of potential end states (e.g., Eccles, 1983, 2005, 2009). As such, we conceive expectancy beliefs as well as achievement goals and self-determination at the heart of ones current motivation in a specific achievement situation (see central box in Fig. 1). These aspects in turn are considered to be dependent on specific, expectancy-related (e.g., self-efficacy beliefs, self-concept) and value-related (e.g., achievement goal preferences) motivational tendencies as well as more overarching personal traits (e.g., motives and needs, career choice reasons, beliefs). Both current achievement motivation and these personal tendencies are in turn considered to be partly dependent on contextual features (e.g., opportunities for self-determination, competency experiences, social interaction, goal structures), while all factors are presumed to matter for the aforementioned differences in faculty members' cognitions, behaviors, and affects (see Fig. 1).

It follows that there are different theoretical-conceptual approaches to describe and understand the quantity and quality of motivation. Furthermore, depending on whether more overarching person-aspects or specific differences in a concrete achievement situation are of interest, motivation can be approached on different levels of hierarchy. Therefore, to describe and understand faculty

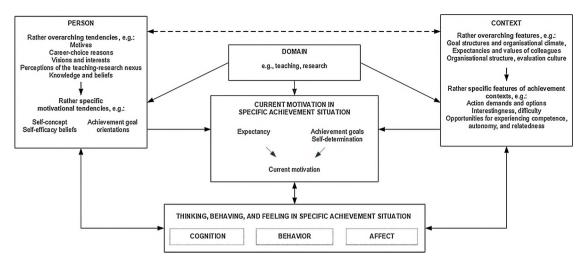


Fig. 1. Conceptual overview model of faculty motivation (adapted based on Daumiller, 2018 and Dresel & Hall, 2013).

motivation, we can derive the following central theoretical approaches that are also used in this Special Issue.

Self-efficacy beliefs (Bandura, 1977, 1997, 2001) are among the most well-researched constructs in motivation (Bong & Clark, 1999) and were one of the first theoretical frameworks to systematically conceptualize university faculty motivation (Pasupathy & Siwatu, 2014; Bailey, 1999; Forester, Kahn, & Hesson-McInnis, 2004; Hemmings & Kay, 2009; Hemmings & Kay, 2010; Morris & Usher, 2011; Young & Kline, 1996). This theoretical concept focuses on the subjective beliefs of a person regarding whether she or he believes to be able to conduct certain tasks successfully (Bandura, 1977, 1997, 2001; Klassen, Durksen, & Tze, 2014). This line of research distinguished between multiple domains that university faculty are active in, such as research, teaching, and administration/service (Major & Dolly, 2003; Zhang, Fu, Li, & He, 2019), in which faculty self-efficacy beliefs can be considered as separable (Ismayilova & Klassen, this special issue). While many works have been conducted regarding self-efficacy beliefs for research (e.g., Bieschke, Bishop, & Garcia, 1996; Forester et al., 2004; O'Brien, Malone, Schmidt, & Lucas, 1998; Philips & Russell, 1994), self-efficacy beliefs for higher education teaching are seldom independently investigated (e.g., Daumiller et al., 2016; Daumiller, Bieg et al., 2019; Han et al., this special issue) but constitute a rising topic of interest. Faculty might also constitute self-efficacy as a protective factor against stress at work (e.g., Han et al., this special issue) while being a particularly valuable resource for graduate students and novice instructors (e.g., Fong et al., this special issue; Fong, Gilmore, Pinder-Grover, & Hatcher, 2019).

In contrast to the research on self-efficacy beliefs, Achievement Goal Theory (Dweck, 1986; Elliot & Hulleman, 2017; Nicholls, 1984) focuses more strongly on different qualities of motivations, by distinguishing different sets of goal classes that individuals can pursue to different strengths and for which different affective, cognitive, and behavioral consequences have been documented (Hulleman, Godes, Hendricks, & Harackiewicz, 2010; Payne, Youngcourt, & Beaubien, 2007). Opposed to self-efficacy beliefs, achievement goals are more strongly tied to the value aspect of motivation. The achievement goals that are pursued in a given achievement situation can be attributed to specifics of the context (e.g., emphases on different goals, e.g., Bardach, Oczlon, Pietschnig, & Lüftenegger, 2020) and to more person-stable preferences (often termed 'achievement goal orientations'). Depending on the pursued end-states and the motivational systems they span up, different goals can be consolidated into different achievement goal classes. To this end, there is an ongoing debate regarding the number and content of achievement goals that should be meaningfully distinguished (e.g., Elliot & McGregor, 2001; Elliot, Murayama, & Pekrun, 2011; Vansteenkiste, Lens, Elliot, Soenens, & Mouratidis, 2014). Thereby, the biggest commonality between the different conceptualizations is the differentiation between mastery-based goals (focused on how well one does on tasks and one's development of competence) and performance-based goals (focused on one's performance, relative to others and as perceived by others). Moreover, most researchers agree on the notion that goals can be characterized by an approach or avoidance goal valence (e.g., Murayama, Elliot, & Yamagata, 2011). Building on results from interview studies documenting that scholars pursue the respective goals for teaching (Daumiller, Figas, & Dresel, 2015) and for research (Daumiller & Dresel, 2019b), Daumiller, Dickhäuser, and Dresel (2019) have proposed an integrative achievement goal framework that is suitable to describe faculty motivation. This Hexagon model of achievement goals differentiates ten different goal classes in total and is described in greater detail in the contribution by Daumiller and Dresel within this special issue. In both the teaching and the research domain as well as across different university types and countries, pioneering research has documented the power of this model for describing university faculty members' experiences and behaviors, including student ratings of teaching behaviors, professional development, and fraudulent behaviors of faculty such as questionable research practices (Daumiller, Bieg, Dickhäuser, & Dresel, 2019; Daumiller, Dickhäuser, & Dresel, 2019; Daumiller and Dresel, 2019a, 2019b; Daumiller et al., 2016; Daumiller, Rinas, & Dresel, 2019; Hein, Daumiller, Janke, Dresel & Dickhäuser, 2019; Janke & Dickhäuser, 2018; Janke, Daumiller, & Rudert, 2018). Finally research on this framework also investigated the separability of achievement goals for teaching and for research and their joint interplay (Daumiller & Dresel, this special issue).

Self-determination Theory (SDT; Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2008) specifies a continuum of motivation types that are experienced by individuals based on the satisfaction of three basic psychological needs in a given context: autonomy, competence, and relatedness.

When the three needs are supported due to what the context provides, individuals are considered likely to experience self-determined motivation in a given achievement situation. This type of motivation reflects a high valuation of the achievement task in terms of intrinsic, integrated, and identified motivations for which task engagement is deemed enjoyable and valuable. However, if the context does not allow a satisfaction of these basic needs or even thwarts them, faculty may still experience motivation but for more controlled reasons such as to avoid guilt or shame (introjected), or to earn rewards or avoid punishment (external). A growing number of researchers have applied SDT to faculty and found that it fits well conceptually (Deci, Kasser, & Ryan, 1997; Lechuga & Lechuga, 2012) and serves as a useful framework to guide empirical studies (Stupnisky, Hall, Daniels, & Mensah, 2017; Stupnisky, BrckaLorenz, Yuhas, & Guay, 2018; Stupnisky et al., 2019, this special issue). This is particularly supported by qualitative interview findings (see Guillaume & Kalkbrenner, this special issue) as well as the applicability of this theory not only in the teaching domain but also in the research domain (see Stupnisky, Hall, & Pekrun, this special issue).

Finally, another important component of motivation is the *emotional experiences* of individuals. In the overview model in Fig. 1, emotions are a central component of how individuals feel, think, and behave in a given achievement situation which in turn is closely linked with their self-efficacy beliefs, achievement goals, and self-determination therein. Emotions include the affective, cognitive, physiological, motivational, and behavioral components that create discrete (i.e., specific) affective experiences (Kleinginna & Kleinginna, 1981; Pekrun, 2006; Scherer, 2005). Recent studies have found that faculty experience a broad variety of emotions that can be characterized as positive/negative and activating/deactivating, ranging from enjoyment to frustration and curiosity to disappointment (Kordts-Freudinger, Große Honebrink, & Festner, 2017; Stupnisky, Pekrun, & Lichtenfeld, 2016, Stupnisky et al., this special issue). In doing so, faculty emotions have been identified as an important component for teaching (see Special Issue on Emotions in Higher Education by Bonitz et al., 2019). Faculty emotions have also been identified as unique across work domains, with research typically yielding more negative and teaching more positive emotions, which also correlate significantly with perceived success (Stupnisky et al., 2016; Stupnisky et al., this special issue). In doing so, these studies have also found support for Pekrun's (2006) control-value theory of achievement emotions, which posits that appraisals of personal control and value are critical antecedents of achievement-related emotions and, in turn, performance (see also Thies & Kordts-Freudinger, this special issue).

Taken together, the aforedescribed theories offer frameworks to understand faculty motivation and pathways to guide empirical study. The different perspectives shed light on the complex nature of motivations as well as their antecedents and effects. Given the role of different contexts and domains for these processes (see Fig. 1), the comprehensive understanding of faculty motivation will profit from empirical research on faculty around the world.

4. What would thorough international research on faculty motivation entail?

While researchers strive to provide knowledge that is widely applicable to higher education faculty, and the aforementioned motivational frameworks are universal in nature, research on faculty motivation needs to recognize that the working environment of faculty differs heavily across countries. This is particularly the case when considering the overall model of faculty motivation that we described before. Therein, contextual aspects are considered both relevant for current motivations in a given achievement situation, more person-stable motivational differences, as well as cognitions, behaviors, and affect of individuals. These contextual features can in turn be expected to differ between different countries and cultures, particularly more overarching features such as organizational climate and structure, expectations and values of colleagues, as well as evaluation culture. After all, countries differ substantially regarding faculty positions (e.g., differentiation between positions; hierarchical structure), career tracks in higher education (e.g., level of competitiveness; limitations for career pursuit bound to academic age) as well as work schedules (e.g., number of taught courses per person; diversity of work tasks), job satisfaction, and distress of faculty (Shin & Jung, 2014).

For instance, the majority of German university faculty engage both in teaching and research tasks (Hüther & Krücken, 2018), whereas lecturer positions characterized by an exclusive focus on teaching are rather uncommon. It makes sense that German university faculty must deal with how their teaching and research synergize (Daumiller & Dresel, 2018; similar in the US see Stupnisky et al., 2015) and that faculty members can experience frequent goal conflicts regarding how to distribute time between these domains (Esdar, Gorges, & Wild, 2016). Thus, the working conditions (division of time between research and teaching) shape motivational strains that may differ in their presence in different countries with different educational practices. When combining motivational research from different countries, we can provide a glimpse into the different working conditions of faculty, which can also dictate research questions within the field. This special issue presents a first step towards a broader international understanding of faculty motivation by providing empirical findings from China (Han et al., this special issue), Germany (Daumiller & Dresel, this special issue; Thies & Kordts-Freudinger, this special issue), Azerbaijan and Turkey (Ismayilova & Klassen, this special issue), and the US (Fong et al., this special issue; Stupnisky et al., this special issue; Guillaume & Kalkbrenner, this special issue). With the exception of the contributions by Ismayilova & Klassen (this special issue) and Han and colleagues (this special issue), this research has been conducted primarily in the Anglo-american or German context. While research on faculty motivation is indeed an emerging research topic in Germany (e.g., Daumiller, Bieg et al., 2019; Esdar et al., 2016; Hein et al., 2019; Janke, Daumiller, & Rudert, 2019; Thies & Kordts-Freudinger, 2019) as well as in the US (e.g., Hardré, Beesley, Miller, & Pace, 2011; Morales, Grineski, & Collins, 2017; Stupnisky et al., 2017, Stupnisky et al., this special issue; Sverdlik, Hall, McAlpine, & Hubbard, 2018), it is important to broaden this picture. Anglo-american countries and Germany are characterized by a western educational system with highly competitive higher education job markets (Shin & Jung, 2014). This climate may provide fertile ground for certain (normative) goals (Janke et al., 2016) and extrinsic motivation (Zhu, Gardner, & Chen, 2018).

It is thus an ongoing endeavor to gather deeper insights into the importance of faculty motivation within non-western (such as China or Turkey; see Han et al., Ismayilova & Klassen, this special issue) and also less competitive academic systems. One direction

forward could be to encourage more scholars in diverse educational systems to conduct empirical research on faculty motivation. This approach could lead to systematic reviews and meta-analyses on the robustness of effects across different cultures. Another direction, however, would be to compare educational systems that differ in crucial variables, such as competitiveness, within cross-cultural frameworks. This approach not only allows the process to quicken by providing data on several contexts within single papers, it can also provide deep insights into the true importance of the cultural context for motivational effects. However, we have to keep in mind that cross-cultural research has to uphold to very strict methodological standards regarding standardization or control of variables; otherwise, researchers might overinterpret findings as effects of culture that are actually founded in other differences between the samples (see also Fischer & Poortinga, 2018, regarding methodological challenges of cross-cultural research).

Even though it is difficult to provide a truly international perspective on faculty motivation, we think that this is a worthwhile endeavor. Without empirical evidence from a wide array of educational contexts, we cannot understand whether motivational effects can be generalized over cultures or how the educational context itself shapes faculty motivation and its consequences. Moreover, cross-cultural research provides the necessary variance in environmental variables that are rather homogenous within a culture (Minkov & Hofstede, 2013). The infusion of such variation into empirical research makes it possible to get closer to a true estimate of the impact of different working environments on faculty motivation.

5. Goals and outline of the special issue

As discussed above, there is a plethora of open questions on faculty motivation remaining that warrant rigorous research, and these research gaps are the primary inspiration for this special issue. Our elaborations on 'the why and how' of faculty motivation research have resulted in various conclusions regarding the outlook of a more systematic framework within this area of research. First and foremost, research on faculty is too important to be deterred by false assumptions or methodological challenges, which need to be recognized as common hurdles in a developing area of research that can be overcome. Second, faculty motivation should not only be defined by its quantity but also by its quality. Over the last decades, motivational research has provided very influential theoretical frameworks that explain motivation on different hierarchical levels and elaborate on how personal and contextual variables influence the quality of motivational states. While thorough testing is necessary to investigate whether and how these frameworks can be applied to faculty motivation, existing motivational theories can and should inspire the emerging field of research into faculty motivation. Third, as higher education systems differ internationally, so does the composition of faculty, their potential career tracks, and their daily working tasks. It is therefore crucial to apply an international perspective to understand what constitutes the word 'faculty' and how differences in educational systems might motivate research questions and drive effects. Finally, we believe that higher education faculty need to be investigated as a distinct population and in areas beyond their teaching. Thereby, it is important to consider all facets of faculty as this population consists of divergent groups, ranging from graduate student instructors to full professors.

The seven papers of this special issue provide examples of how the principles described above can be used to better understand faculty motivation. We think this collection of papers is timely as the pressure to understand faculty performance is growing and there is an urgent need for greater attention in this field. We believe this special issue should serve as a catalyst for more research on the importance and role of motivation in faculty performance. The authors provide different motivational perspectives on a diverse set of faculty groups within different contextual settings.

Fong et al. (this special issue) investigated the motivation of emerging faculty (i.e., graduate student instructors) in the US-American context. In line with social cognitive career theory (Lent, Brown, & Hackett, 1994), they explored graduate students' self-efficacy as an important precondition for facilitating engagement in teaching at the very beginning of faculty careers.

Han et al. (this special issue) followed up on Chinese faculty members' self-efficacy beliefs and how these are associated with financial inadequacy, student quality, and perceived stress. They also explore if these associations differ between different types of institutions.

Ismayilova and Klassen (this special issue) explored self-efficacy for research and teaching, and its relationship with job satisfaction, among faculty from universities in Azerbaijan and Turkey using a mixed methods approach.

Daumiller and Dresel (this special issue) investigated the separability, associations, differences, and interplay of faculty achievement goals for teaching and research in two studies of German university scholars. Aside from discovering important groundwork for theoretical, research, and practical implications, they also investigated the congruence of goal pursuit between both domains and how this is relevant for faculty well-being at work.

Stupnisky et al. (this special issue) tested how factors based on SDT (Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2008), including basic psychological needs and three motivation types, served as predictors of self-reported research productivity and number of publications among USA faculty from 19 institutions.

Guillaume and Kalkbrenner (this special issue) also utilized SDT as a framework to qualitatively explore the lived experiences of 21 Faculty of Color who successfully navigated tenure and promotion to achieve the rank of associate professor in USA departments of educational leadership and administration.

Finally, Thies and Kordts-Freudinger (this special issue) reported on an experience-sampling study in German higher education academic staff that made assessments regarding their emotions during teaching, research, and service. The authors investigated whether faculty emotional experiences differed between these domains and how they are associated with value and control appraisals.

Above we provided only a brief description of the contributions that form this special issue on faculty motivation. The pieces are thoroughly discussed by Helen Watt and Paul Richardson (this special issue), who take a closer look at the articles and their

contribution to the field. In doing so, they describe further research frontiers that have not yet been investigated and can inform future research within the emerging and promising research field of faculty motivation.

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