Synergistic Theorizing with Large Language Models: An Extended Mind Approach

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Abstract:

This paper explores the integration of Large Language Models (LLMs) with the Extended Mind framework to enhance the theory development process in management research. Traditional methods of theorizing have predominantly relied on human cognitive processes, such as literature reviews, hypothesis generation, and theoretical synthesis. By leveraging the Extended Mind theory proposed by philosophers Andy Clark and David Chalmers, which posits that cognitive processes can extend beyond the brain to include external tools, this study introduces a novel methodology for synergistic theorizing. The integration of LLMs as cognitive extensions can enhance data processing, automate literature reviews, identify research gaps, and generate innovative hypotheses. This paper presents key constructs such as LLM-Co-Creation, Augmented Ideation, Interactive Feedback Loop, and Dynamic Integration, highlighting their potential to improve creativity, efficiency, and inclusivity in academic research. The ethical considerations of using LLMs, including transparency, bias mitigation, and maintaining academic integrity, are also critically examined.

Keywords:

Large Language Models, Extended Mind, cognitive extensions, theory development, management research.