On the Folly of Exploring Whether CSR Pays

Michael Lenox

Tayloe Murphy Professor of Business

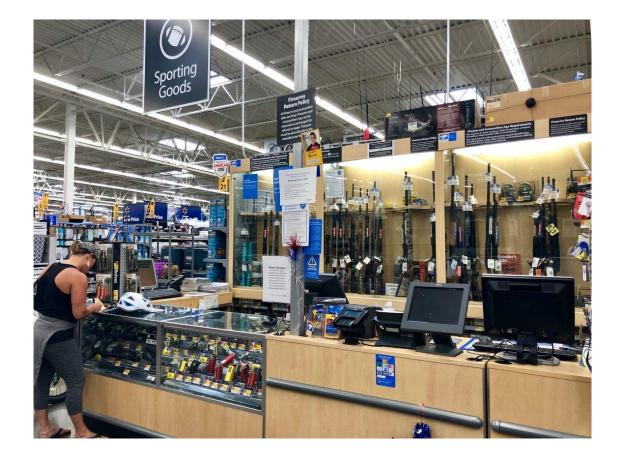
UNIVERSITY DARDEN SCHOOL VIRGINIA of BUSINESS

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA | WASHINGTON, DC | SAN FRANCISCO, CA | SHANGHAI, CHINA

THE THESIS



OBSERVATION 1: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER





THE THESIS



Today's progressive liberal values

OBSERVATION 2: CUSTOMER VALUE CREATION IS A FIRM STRATEGIC CHOICE



OBSERVATION 2: CUSTOMER VALUE CREATION IS A FIRM STRATEGIC CHOICE



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THE THESIS





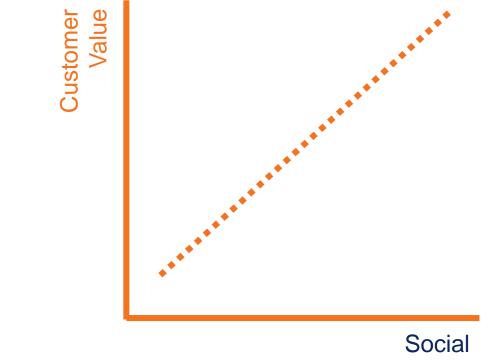


Today's progressive liberal values

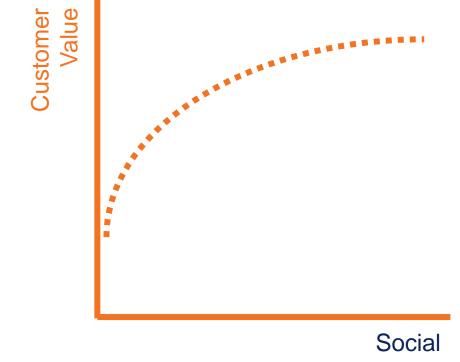
Spread between willingness to pay and price paid for targeted customers

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OBSERVATION 3: THERE ARE DECREASING RETURNS TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

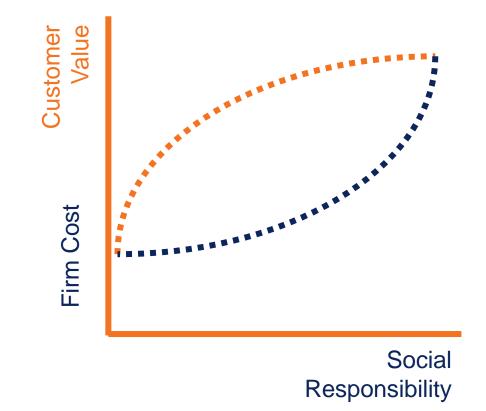


OBSERVATION 3: THERE ARE DECREASING RETURNS TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



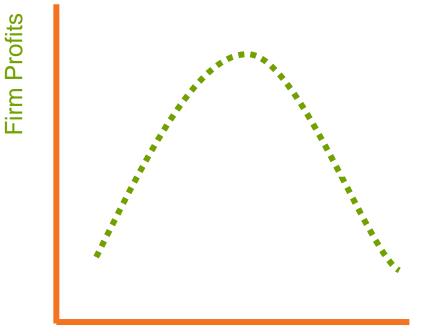
Responsibility

OBSERVATION 3: THERE ARE DECREASING RETURNS TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY





OBSERVATION 3: THERE ARE DECREASING RETURNS TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Social Responsibility



THE THESIS



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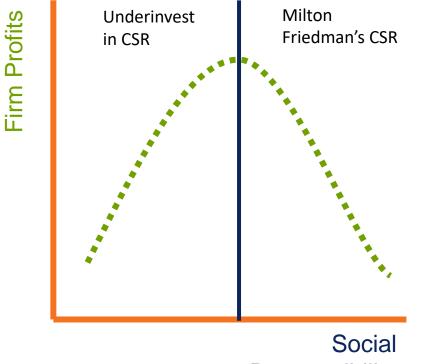
Concave relationship

Spread between willingness to pay and price paid for *targeted customers*

OBSERVATION 4: MANAGERS HAVE (SOME) DISCRETION TO INVEST IN CSR



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Responsibility

THE THESIS



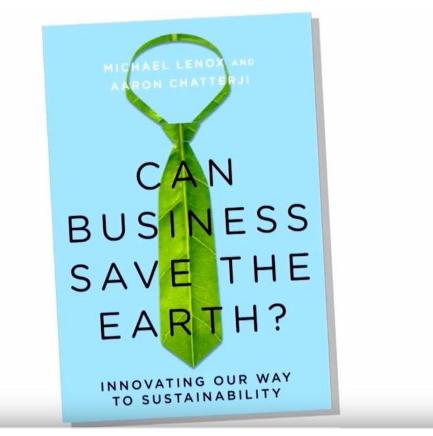
Today's progressive liberal values



Endogenous concave relationship Spread between willingness to pay and price paid for *targeted customers*

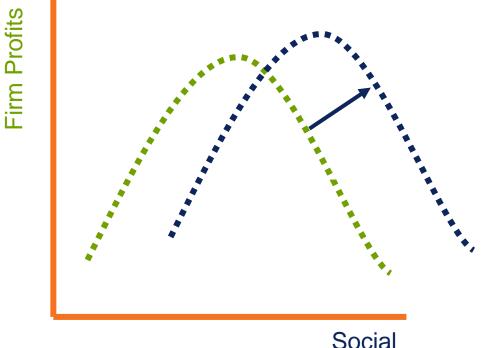
A BETTER QUESTION:

HOW DO WE DESIGN SYSTEMS TO DRIVE FIRM INNOVATION TO CREATE POSITIVE PUBLIC EXTERNALITIES?



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