



CALL FOR PAPERS

Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainability in Natural Resource-Intensive Economies

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Guest Editors

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Background

In facing the challenges of reducing detrimental environmental and societal impacts created by unsustainable business practices, the development of innovations and entrepreneurship for sustainability has gained special attention. They are recognized as the engine in the transformation of current business processes and key factors in creating sustainable prosperity (Hall et al. 2010).

Either as a response to external pressures or as result of implementing values and principles, sustainability-oriented innovations and new ventures are changing the business environment. Businesses are more integrated with the world outside their boundaries, attending to the environmental, social and economic implications of their activities. Increasingly, firms and entrepreneurial individuals across the globe are adopting sustainable strategies and practices to retain their legitimacy and thrive within society and the economy. The triple bottom line of business sustainability is moving fast towards generating effective solutions – innovations and new ventures – that are not intended to minimizing negative externalities, but rather seek to co-create positive impacts for the society and the environment in the first place (Young and Tilley 2006).

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The recognition of innovation and entrepreneurship as solutions to, rather than causes of, environmental degradation and social inequality (York and Venkataraman 2010) invites a rethinking of the role of these interconnected disciplines in building sustainable societies. Despite the efforts in providing unifying theories on the role that innovation and entrepreneurship play for sustainability (Shepherd and Patzelt 2011), the social and ecological embeddedness of the phenomenon (Coenen et al. 2012) forces us to reconsider our assumptions and explanations. Therefore, because sustainable development depends to a great extent on locally-embedded, innovative solutions to global problems, we are experiencing a relentlessly expansion of the boundaries, which entails that novel questions, methods and ways of theorizing emerge every time the compass finds new places.

This special issue calls for scholarship concerned about this expansion in a particular type of context, namely “Natural Resource-Intensive Economies” (NRIEs). NRIEs can be found throughout the world, although natural-resource-led development is dominant in emergent countries, several regions of developed nations currently depend on natural resources. Lack of structural change, non-sustainable growth, and non-inclusive growth are traditional features of NRIEs. The editors seek manuscripts that explore the role of innovation and entrepreneurship for sustainability in contexts where prosperity relies on the exploitation of natural resources, the tension between needs and limits is taken to the limit and the notion of sustainable development can be deemed as an implausible oxymoron.

A suggestive but not exhaustive list of questions and topics includes:

- What is the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in the transition towards a sustainable NRIE
- Organizational processes for sustainable entrepreneurship in NRIEs
- Social and local embeddedness of the emergence of sustainable (high-growth) businesses in NRIEs
- How do sustainable new ventures build the legitimacy in contexts where the logic of prosperity does not resonate with environmental protection?
- Measurement of social and environmental impacts in non-regulated markets
- What is the role of green innovations and niches in the transition to sustainable NRIEs?
- How do sustainable innovations face and overcome institutional paradoxes and dilemmas imposed by NRIEs?
- How do or can new and established entrepreneurs and firms create shared sustainable values and identities in NRIEs?
- How do sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship create business solutions during commodity boom periods?
- Are innovative social/sustainable entrepreneurship initiatives a suitable solution for NRIEs?
- What is the role of sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship in resolving the curse of natural resources? (the observation that countries rich in natural resources tend to perform badly)
- What are the central drivers of sustainable innovation and entrepreneurship in NRIEs?

Submission process and deadlines

Papers will be reviewed following the JOTMI double-blind review process. Interested authors should submit manuscripts to <http://www.jotmi.org/index.php/GT/author/submit/1> by the September 01st, 2014 indicating that they would like the submission to be considered for this special issue.

Papers should be prepared using the JOTMI Guidelines (<http://www.jotmi.org/index.php/GT/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>).

Important dates

- Final date for submissions: 1 September 2014
- Notification to author: Last Week of October 2014
- Online Publications: 3rd Week of November 2014.

References

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