

Call for papers – Special Issue

Re-visiting knowledge sharing in business cluster and business network contexts

Guest Editor(s):

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Background

The past few decades have seen a surge in literature on business clusters and networks in various disciplines, e.g., entrepreneurship and international business (Hervás-Oliver and Albors-Garrigós, 2007, Håkansson and Ford, 2002, Perry 1995), marketing (Rubach et al., 2017, Gretzinger and Leick, 2017, Felzensztein et al., 2012), strategic management (Gulati et al., 2000, Porter, 1990), innovation management (Eisingerich et al., 2012, Ritter and Gemünden, 2003) and economics (Caniëls and Romijn, 2005, Rosenfeld, 1997). These strands in the literature have, at least, partly, raised some critical questions with regard to the preconditions, functioning and outcomes of business networks/clusters, notably the role of policy initiatives and strategies to facilitate business clusters and networks (Todeva, 2015, Giuliani, 2005, Desrochers and Sautet, 2004, Boari and Lipparini, 1999, Baptista and Swann, 1998). One of the themes that has been and is still being critically reflected on is associated with knowledge sharing within business clusters and networks (Bergman et al., 2014, Richardson, 2013, Connell and Voola, 2013, Staber, 2009, Lorentzen, 2008, Valkokari and Helander, 2007, Dahl and Pedersen, 2004, Tallman et al., 2004, Bathelt et al., 2004).

Indeed, knowledge sharing is a crucial theme for business cluster/business network research a twofold sense: On the one hand, business networking in terms of inter-firm and inter-organisational collaboration can, but does not automatically induce knowledge-sharing processes between firms. On the other hand, knowledge sharing is itself an important prerequisite for enhancing inter-firm collaboration. Hence, it can be considered as an essential element of business networking. Yet, its conditions and effects in relation to business clusters and business networks are still under-explored.

Aims and scope of the special issue

With these considerations in mind, this special issue intends to enhance the understanding of both theoretical and empirical perspectives and the role of policy with regard to knowledge sharing in business clusters and business networks. It also aims to connect the extant literature on business clusters and networks with recent academic debates, which are at the heart of innovation management/economics, e.g., innovation-system thinking in regional, national and supra-national contexts (Farinha et al., 2016, Carayannis and Campbell, 2012) and SME-integrated innovation collaboration such as open innovation projects (Gabriele et al., 2017, Villasalero, 2018, Valkokari and Helander, 2007). The papers in the issue will cover various perspectives on the theme that include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Conceptualising knowledge sharing in inter-firm- and inter-organisational networks from various perspectives (e.g. the resource-based view, networks as eco-systems, social/regional embeddedness, entrepreneurship and innovation research, modern innovation systems)
- Cluster and network facilitation through knowledge sharing and the role of intermediaries and brokers
- The management of knowledge sharing processes from the perspective of network/cluster managers
- Heterogeneity and diversity in business networks/clusters with regard to knowledge sharing
- Challenging contexts for knowledge sharing in business networks/business clusters (e.g. rural regions, declining or turn-around industries)
- The dynamics of knowledge sharing within business networks/clusters
- Policies focusing on knowledge sharing and their effects on business network/cluster development

Timetable for submission and acceptance of papers:

This special issue is scheduled for publication in early 2020 with the following deadlines:

- **31 January 2019:** Deadline for complete manuscripts through online paper submission: <http://www.editorialmanager.com/innovations/default.aspx>

Guideline for authors:

http://www.cairn.info/docs/Instructions_for_authorsGB110816.pdf

- **15 March 2019:** Notification for acceptance for review.
- **15 July 2019:** Final notification for acceptance.

Submit abstracts or questions to:

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