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Editorial

20th Special Issue for the ISPIM

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Welcome to the 20th special issue of the IJIM for ISPIM. This draws upon papers submitted to the ISPIM conference in Stockholm in June 2018. From this pool of 250 potential papers, nine were selected for further review, and the five papers published in this issue are the results subsequent review and revision. The foci of the papers range from individual innovator characteristics, through organizational factors, to the eco-system in which the firm is embedded, demonstrating the need to adopt an integrated approach to fully-understand and practice innovation (Tidd and Bessant, 2018).

Thomas Hamadi, Jens Leker and Klaus Meerholz identify the points at which innovation champions are important in different innovation phases. They show that it is not important that innovation champions exist all the time in an open innovation project, but at the right time. Furthermore, by analysing science-industry R&D collaboration projects, they provide insights in the innovation champion differences between science and industry partners and in the specific contributions these roles make for each partner.

Alexandre Sukhov *et al* examine how a person's sense of identity, expressed in terms of openness to change vs. conservation, influences the way in which they screen early ideas for innovation projects. They study how twenty experts individually evaluate and comment on twelve R&D project ideas. Their findings indicate that experts who are open to change view ideas as opportunities and approach idea screening as a generative process, while conservative experts are more reserved in their idea screening activities.

Chris Gernreich studies the factors and resources influencing an employee's creativity, focussing ideas that are held back by employees. He finds that employees have greater demands during information gathering and idea evaluation, and subsequently after they enter ideas into the idea management system, they are very sensitive to obstacles and feedback.

Marius Stoffels and Jens Leker study organizational mediators between IT and innovation performance, in particular, a firm's absorptive capacity and developmental culture. They adopt the resource-based view to operationalize IT assets, absorptive capacity, and developmental culture, and based upon a sample of 58 firms, they find simultaneous full mediation effects for both mediators. The fact that both mediation effects are significant in the presence of each other indicates that absorptive capacity and developmental culture explain complementary portions of the variance in innovation performance.

Mark Phillips and Jagjit Singh Srari explore how firms innovate in emerging ecosystems, where boundaries are ill-defined and fluid. Based upon five case studies, they adopt an evolutionary approach, and suggest that as an innovation ecosystem develops through its lifecycle, four different foci are deployed, starting with identity, then competence, then power and finally issues of efficiency.

Reference

Tidd, J. and J. Bessant, (2018). *Managing Innovation: Integrating technological, market and organizational change*. Wiley, New York. Sixth edition.