

# Industry and Innovation



## Call for Papers

(Deadline: December 1, 2010)

## Space and Inter-organizational Relations

A special issue of *Industry and Innovation* guest edited by

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Social scholars increasingly refer to “space”, in the guise of place, locality, region, or environment. However, space is thus invoked in very different ways. On the one hand, some scholars think of space in terms of *place*, i.e. the specificities of a particular locality, whereas other scholars focus on *proximity* (nearness), or its opposite, distance. On the other hand, while a few scholars investigate space as a dependent variable, created and influenced by social processes, most research assumes space to be a given, independent variable, influencing social processes.

A good example of the latter type is research on inter-organizational relations. Scholars from innovation, organization, as well as management studies congregate at analyzing how space influences the design and working of relations between firms and other types of organizations — and hence ultimately processes of, for instance, knowledge creation and transfer, structural positions of organizations, and governance. Typically, these scholars align with economic geography scholars in pointing to the historical prominence of spatially proximate inter-organizational forms (in clusters, districts, milieus, and territorial innovation systems) and theorizing on their outcomes, in the guise of agglomeration economies, flexible specialization, and so forth.

However, there is a range of notable unresolved issues in the research on space and inter-organizational relations. First, current developments in political regulation and transport and communication technologies is changing the relevance of both proximity and place. There is evidence of local economies disintegrating over time or internationalizing through in- and outflow of firms and information, as well as creation of successful inter-organizational long-distance relations. Consequently, we need to know more about *when* space matters for inter-organizational and when it does not, and why. Second, scholars increasingly use “proximity” (or “distance”) as a metaphor for similarities (or differences) in an organizational, institutional, cultural, or cognitive sense. However, it remains unclear whether such metaphorical spaces and geographical space depend upon or even influence each other, and how. Third, research treating space as an independent variable largely overshadows research investigating how space itself is created. We need more knowledge on how proximity and

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place — metaphorical as well as geographical — may be influenced and even created, for example through inter-organizational relations.

This special issue of I&I invites papers analyzing the relationship between space and inter-organizational relations — for example, stabilizing and destabilizing effects of space on inter-organizational relations, or positive as well as adverse effects of proximity and co-location on knowledge production and innovation.

In particular, we welcome papers that push the forefront of incumbent research by:

- Exploring the boundary conditions for *when space matters* for inter-organizational relations and when it does not;
- Investigating *how geographical space relates to metaphorical types of space* (organizational, institutional, cultural, cognitive, etc.);
- Addressing space as *both an independent and a dependent variable* relative to inter-organizational relations.

Paper contributions may be conceptual or empirical, and they may be grounded in multiple theoretical perspectives. Studies that incorporate insights from related disciplines such as business history, cultural anthropology, economic geography, and political science are welcome as well. We are open to all types of research designs and multi-level methods, including quantitative survey studies as well as qualitative approaches such as historical case studies and ethnographic network studies.

Note that while Industry and Innovation publishes high-quality empirical papers, they should not primarily be descriptive. Rather, they should explicitly contribute to a theoretical agenda, and preferably be based on novel and exclusive data.

## Submission Process

To be considered for publication, manuscripts of a maximum of 8,000 words must be submitted electronically at [www.industryandinnovation.org](http://www.industryandinnovation.org) by December 1, 2010. Upon submission, please select “Special Issue: Space in Interorganizational Relations” as Manuscript Type. Final reviewed and approved manuscripts will be due August 1, 2011 and will be published in Industry and Innovation November 2011 (vol. 18, issue 8). All papers will receive a double-blind review following Industry and Innovation’s normal review process. For more information, see [www.industryandinnovation.org](http://www.industryandinnovation.org).

## About the Journal

*Industry and Innovation* is an international refereed journal presenting high-quality original scholarship of the dynamics of industries and innovation. Interdisciplinary in nature, *Industry and Innovation* is informed by, and contributes in turn to, advancing the theoretical frontier within economics, organization theory, and economic geography. Theoretical issues encompass:

- What are the institutional underpinnings for different organizational forms?

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- How are different industrial structures and institutions related to innovation patterns and economic performance?

The journal hence adds to a “new generation of industrial organization theory”, drawing upon the institutional turn within economics in a broad sense: transaction cost economics; economics of organization; and new economic sociology.

*Industry and Innovation* dedicates special attention to depicting tendencies in industrial dynamics, such as the emergence of new industries; restructuring of existing industries; rise of new institutional and organizational forms; globalization; and other aspects of geographical organization. Empirical studies include:

- Performance differences among and within industries
- The increasing incidence of particular organizational forms in industries; such as clusters; networks; inter-firm projects; and online communities
- The dynamics of vertical integration and disintegration, modularity, systems integration, and “open innovation”
- The impact upon economic performance of institutions such as property right regimes; open source, industrial/science/regional policies; and social capital/social conventions/trust
- The growth of new consumer industries; for example, Cultural Industries such as film, music, computer games, and the interplay between these industries and “old” industries
- The growth of new service industries, such as Knowledge-Intensive Business Services and design
- The restructuring; globalization; or decline of “old” industries
- Innovation strategy implications and new trends in innovation policies

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