CINet CONFERENCE 2020

**PRACTICING CONTINOUS INNOVATION IN DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS**

SPECIAL TRACK

**“PROCESS INNOVATION THROUGH DIGITALIZATION:**

**ALIGNING TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION”**

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**Background and topics of interest**

When studying process innovation in the context of digitalization, existing literature predominantly approaches innovation from a technology-perspective, leaving innovations that pertain to organizational and managerial domains largely aside. Nevertheless, there is a wide evidence of the fact that the success of technological innovation effort significantly depends on the joint optimization of technical aspects on one side, and managerial and organizational aspects on the other side (Trist and Bamforth, 1951).

In the literature, the latter are labelled as “administrative process innovation” (Damanpour et al., 2009), “administrative innovation” (Jiminez-Jiminez and Sanz-Valle, 2011), “organizational innovation” (Evangelista and Vezzani, 2010), or “management innovation” (Birkinshaw et al., 2008; Damanpour, 2014). This form of process innovation is indirectly related to an organization’s basic work activity but, on the contrary, is more directly related to managerial factors such as organizational and administrative processes, structures, and human resources (Crossan and Apaydin, 2010). As such, management innovation interplays significantly with technological innovation, since it can enhance the motivation of organization members, alter the strategy and structure of work and tasks, and adapt management processes (Damanpour et al., 2009). In spite of the importance of management innovation, research on this phenomenon in still in its infancy, and its role in digitalization is still an under-researched topic (see Damanpour, 2014). Accordingly, there is need to push forward the research agenda on management innovation and provide insights on this complex phenomenon that is expected to be significant in the context of the digital transformation.

**Types of papers expected**

The objective of this special track is to stimulate and collect highly impactful research contributions that examine organization- and management-related innovation, so-called management innovation, in the context of digitalization. In essence, this special issue pioneers research on different topics of interest.

Illustrative, but not exhaustive, examples of topics of interest for this track are:

* Papers that examine innovations oriented towards organizational aspects to complement digital and technological innovation. For example, papers that illustrate how the implementation of new digital technologies usually require a shift towards more agile organizational structures and ways of working
* Papers that focus on how firms in the digital era cope with the challenges and opportunities of management innovation. For example, papers that illustrate how digital technologies can enable new organizational forms, allowing companies to develop management innovation competencies internally
* Papers that help to paint a more holistic picture of process innovations that are associated to both technological and organizational and managerial aspects, in light of digitalization
* Papers that apply different methodological approaches (e.g. case study, ethnography, survey, experiments) that are able to capture the complexity of the phenomenon and help to grasp various aspects of management innovation in digitalization
* Research across different industries
* Conceptual papers that support and extend our understanding of management innovation as well as review papers that provide insights and clear avenues for future research

**References**

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