Call for Papers for a Special Issue on Culture, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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While the study of innovation and entrepreneurship is a diverse, multi-disciplinary endeavor, the role of culture is often neglected or under-emphasized (Lounsbury & Glynn, 2001). However, building on the cultural turn across the social sciences and humanities (Weber & Dacin, 2011; Friedland & Mohr, 2004), there has been a recent flowering of conversations on how culture shapes innovation and entrepreneurship. This work has drawn on various cultural theories and concepts including boundaries, logics, schemas, scripts, and values (e.g., Gehman, Treviño & Garud, 2013; Perkmann & Spicer, 2014; Thornton et. al., 2012; Zietsma & Lawrence, 2010), narratives, vocabularies, discourse and framing (e.g., Bartel & Garud, 2009; Cornelissen & Werner, 2014; Dalpiaz, Tracey & Phillips, 2014; Grodal & Granqvist, 2014; Kahl & Grodal, 2016; Zilber, 2007), identity, categories, and practices (e.g., Durand, Granqvist & Tylström, 2017; Lounsbury & Crumley, 2007; Navis & Glynn, 2010; Kennedy & Fiss, 2013). While these recent advances are encouraging, the work has been scattered and these various contributions are yet to be synthesized into a more coherent and cumulative research program.

In this Special Issue of *Innovation: Organization & Management*, we therefore aim to further advance this agenda and to this end seek empirical and theoretical papers that highlight how culture shapes innovative and entrepreneurial processes within and across organizations. In particular, we seek to draw on recent advances in cultural analysis and theory to begin to cultivate a more coherent conversation around culture, innovation and entrepreneurship. Instead of conceptualizing culture as an external constraint, contemporary cultural approaches share an emphasis on understanding how organizations draw upon and employ cultural materials in more pragmatic and strategic ways (Rindova, Dalpiaz & Ravasi, 2011). Research further explores how cultural elements are produced and taken into use in various situations (Garud, Schildt & Lant, 2014; Granqvist, Grodal & Woolley, 2013). Previous studies often draw on the notion of culture as an existing “toolkit” (Swidler, 1986), but also make use of practice theory (Bourdieu, 1984), communicative theories of institutions (Cornelissen et. al., 2015), and other strands of cultural analysis that endogenize various forces “as themselves culturally constructed” (Weber & Dacin, 2011: 287). While there remain important differences across contemporary approaches to culture and action (Giorgi, Lockwood & Glynn, 2015), we seek to encourage a focus on how the complementarities across different approaches might enable a more synthetic as well as deeper dialogue on cultural dynamics (Lizardo & Strand, 2010), especially in regard to the study of innovation and entrepreneurship.
Our basic premise is that contemporary approaches to culture, that emphasize both its constitutive nature and how it is used as a resource in action, have the potential to shed new light on our understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship. In fact, it is difficult to contemplate how an adequate explanation of innovative and entrepreneurial processes could be proffered without due attention to the role of culture. Thus, we welcome theoretical and empirical submissions that focus on the cultural dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship, especially in the context of organizations and organizing.

We are interested in questions such as:
- How does culture shape or influence the creation of new entrepreneurial organizations?
- How are cultural resources (e.g., frames, labels, categories, stories, discourses, practices etc.) cultivated and used to facilitate innovation in and across organizations?
- How are cultural resources strategically deployed to enable the legitimacy of new organizations or organizational fields?
- How does culture shape the evaluation and valuation of innovative and entrepreneurial organizations?
- How is our understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship culturally constituted? And how does such a view differ from, yet potentially intersect with, traditional economic and psychological perspectives on these subjects?
- How does culture affect the way in which stakeholders and audiences judge and evaluate new and incumbent organizations across various market settings and industries?

Submissions

Please read the journal’s submission guidelines and prepare your manuscript accordingly. Submit your article by using IOM’s ScholarOne submission system. When asked whether your submission is a candidate for a special issue, please choose the special issue on “Culture, Innovation and Entrepreneurship”. Your submission will be considered by the special issue editors who will send it out for peer review in line with the general practice of the journal. Please submit your manuscript by 15th of October 2017.

References


