Special Track

Knowledge ecosystems, Social Innovation and Neo-Strategic Management: How do they Interact to Face the Challenges of the New Millennium?

Research Area: Business Model and Innovation

Organizers

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Description

Nowadays, societies - at both national and regional level - as well as organizations - be them for profit or not for profit - face several challenges that need for innovative solutions to the emerging problems.

Military conflicts; the new social pressures, mainly arising from the growing of migration flows in many European countries; the disproportion of income in several industrialized areas; and the impact of the so-called "fourth industrial revolution" claim for the strengthening of local competitiveness, in order to increase the wider societal welfare through the economic development.

In such circumstances, innovative solutions (namely Social Innovations) are developed to pursue social aims, finding resolutions to the most pressing societal problems.

The concept of Social Innovation (SI) has been one of the most discussed in the field of innovation for the last years (Ashta et al. 2014) and is even getting stronger in the debate about social development (Rüede and Lurtz, 2012).

Since very few firms are able to develop internally a wide range of knowledge, the interaction among actors is required to foster knowledge creation and diffusion and, consequently, innovation. Then,

innovation generally arises thanks to a system of actors who relate one to each other producing new patterns of learning (Canestrino and Magliocca, 2016; Edquist, 1997; Lundvall, 1993; Freeman, 1987).

In the path of the mentioned perspective, the locus of SI lies no longer within the boundaries of a single firm, but within the nexus of the (potential) relationships among different actors that are able to favour fruitful learning interactions according to a systems' perspective (Barile and Di Nauta, 2011; Barile et. al., 2013; Calza et al. 2015; Canestrino, 2008). It means, therefore, that SI is likely to develop in a Knowledge Ecosystem.

The Knowledge Ecosystems literature has generally investigated the mechanisms by which geographically clustered organizations benefit from their locations (Almeida and Kogut, 1999; Clarysse et al. 2014; Canestrino 2008).

A general consensus seems to prevail, among the Scholars, about the advantages for firms to be located in geographical hotspots, usually centred around universities and other sources of knowledge (like research organizations) (Link and Scott, 2003; Van Looy et al., 2003; Saxenian, 1996; Zucker and Darby, 2001). By the contrast, a question of particular interest, not sufficiently investigated, refers the way some kinds of Knowledge Ecosystems support the emergence of SI, that means in which circumstances some kinds of learning networks shift their own aim from "improving the productivity" to "solving a problem for a better quality of life for the community", thus creating novel social patterns (Canestrino et al., 2017). Within the same perspective, moreover, models, concepts and methods to effectively manage Knowledge Ecosystems for SI are increasingly required.

Depending on the above, new approaches to strategic management, as they are been explored in the field of neo-strategy (Vrdoljak-Raguž, et al. 2016), may be suitable of further exploration, representing an interesting and useful field of research.

According to the mentioned considerations, the proposed track aims at collecting original, inspiring and research-grounded studies focusing on the way Knowledge Ecosystems devote, and may be effectively managed, to face the challenges of the new millennium by the mean of SI. In doing this, combinations of different perspectives and approaches to strategic management (neo-strategic management) and the application of knowledge from other disciplines will be considered of particular interest.

Authors are invited to submit theoretical, empirical and practitioner papers answering to the following research questions.

Authors are invited to submit theoretical, empirical and practitioner papers answering to the following research questions:
- In which conditions Knowledge Ecosystems devote to SI?

- Which are the most effective architectures for these kinds of Knowledge Ecosystems? (e.g.: crowdsourcing and p2p; networked economy; smart cities; open innovation)
- Which are the most effective ways, methods and tools to manage Knowledge Ecosystems for SI?
- Which is the linkage/relation among Knowledge ecosystems, SI and Service Ecosystems?
- How does neo-strategic management contribute the success of Knowledge Ecosystems?

Other topics not included in the list, but relevant for the track will be evaluated.

Keywords

Knowledge Ecosystems; Service Ecosystems Social Innovation; Neo-strategic Management; Open Innovation; Knowledge Architectures

Guidelines

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an **extended structured abstract** (in MS-Word format) of **500-700 words** by **15 January, 2019**. The abstract should address theoretical background, research objective, methodology, and results in terms of expected contribution to Knowledge Management theory and practice. Authors are encouraged to follow the guidelines for both extended abstracts as well as full papers available on IFKAD site www.ifkad.org

Important dates

15 January 2019	*Abstract submission deadline*
20 February 2019	*Acceptance notification to authors*
15 March 2019	*Early-Bird registration cut off*
15 April 2019	*Full paper submission*
15 May 2019	*Registration deadline*
5-7 June 2019	*Conference sessions*

For further information

For any further information, please see the event website at www.ifkad.org or contact the conference manager at info@knowledgeasset.org

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