
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Michael K. Fung is an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is currently teaching subjects on global economic environment at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. He is specialised in interdisciplinary research on economics and finance, and has published widely in both disciplines. He also serves as a member of the Banking and Finance Training Board of the Vocational Training Council of the Hong Kong S.A.R. Government.

Bruno S. Sergi teaches International Economics at the University of Messina and currently a Visiting Professor at Harvard University and Senior Fellow at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. He is an Economic Expert at the European Trade Union Institute, Brussels, and Fellow of the Lab-Center for Competitiveness at Grenoble Ecole de Management and member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for EMEA Banking, Finance and Economics at the London Metropolitan Business School. His primary research interest is the political economy of transition countries. He acknowledges financial support from the University of Messina (PRA 2008–2009).

Majority of interdisciplinary business and economics research today engages borrowing concepts, variables, relationships or theories from other disciplines, and to regard other disciplines as having something useful to contribute. The emergence and development of interdisciplinary perspectives of global business strategies and economic policies, is well celebrated throughout this special issue of the *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*. The issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in globalisation of SMEs and family businesses, price instability and sustainability in emerging economies, which is multi-disciplinary in nature and requires understanding of diverse disciplines to solve real-world social and economic problems.

In this important scientific context, the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research (SIBR) endeavours to extend knowledge and understanding of the real business world from interdisciplinary perspectives, and acts as a focus and centre of excellence for

interdisciplinary business research. An interdisciplinary business field is a field of study that crosses traditional boundaries between business disciplines or schools of thought. Interdisciplinary business research can range from sharing of ideas to full integration of business disciplines, especially the integration of their concepts, methodology, procedures, epistemology, terminology and data, and the topic is fundamentally multi-faceted or complex. SIBR aims to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary business research by providing a platform where researchers from different business disciplines can share and discuss their research findings.

The papers presented in the special issue have been presented at the 2012 SIBR-Thammasat Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on June 7–9, 2012, at the Ambassador Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. ‘Implementing interdisciplinarity beyond disciplinary imperialism: borrowing from other disciplines’ was the main theme of the conference. Over 100 papers have been presented at the Conference by researchers from various business and economics disciplines, who have shared their latest research findings and brainstormed new research ideas across disciplines. Because of the special significance of the special issue and likely conflict over their selection, we offer a brief account of how the selection process was carried out. The papers appearing in *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*, special issue were peer reviewed following the procedure outlined as follows. The guest editors initially evaluated all manuscripts nominated for the special issues. Papers rejected at this stage were outside the aims and scope of the journal or were insufficiently original. Authors of manuscripts rejected at this stage were informed within approximately two weeks following receipt of their papers. Papers that met the minimum criteria were forwarded to an expert for further review. This special issue employed double blind reviewing, where both the referee and author(s) remained anonymous throughout the process. Referees were asked to evaluate the following aspects of the manuscripts:

- their inherent academic merit
- their relevance and new contribution to the existing literature
- their relevance to interdisciplinary business and economics issues
- their appropriateness for publication in *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies*.

As a result of a long and elaborated reviewing process, which has implied the help of numerous reviewers and the research assistance of Umair Shirazi, five papers were accepted for publication in this special issue.

The aims of our editorial efforts are nothing less than to provide state-of-the-art coverage of the knowledge developed to date, including the dynamics and policy complications of modern interdisciplinary perspectives – thereby a study crosses traditional boundaries between business disciplines and schools of thought – as well as a great deal of useful information about the governance and global business strategies of SMEs and family businesses, sustainability and price instability across regional markets. Built upon the ongoing scientific activity of the SIBR and Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University, to extend knowledge and understanding of the current trends in the world economy from interdisciplinary perspectives, the selected articles also focus

into historical and theoretical context, knowledge the author's masterly combine with theory and practice.

In emerging economies, SMEs and family businesses play the key role in jobs creation, while price instability is the main source of social unrest. Recent global financial and economic crisis poses additional challenges for policymakers and experts. In particular, debates intensify over the vulnerability of SMEs to external turmoil and contagion of price instability through international flows of finance, products, and services.

The aim of this special issue of *International Journal of Economic Policy in Emerging Economies* is nothing less than to provide state-of-the-art coverage of the knowledge developed to date, including the dynamics and complications of emerging countries. It will be produced in such a way that it will be of value to all interested and potentially scholars, students and those concerned with policy and applications, and to make this knowledge conveniently accessible. We see no need to alter these assessments at this moment of publication of this special issue.