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## Introducing a new journal – Investigating work innovation: a word from the Editor-in-Chief

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The rise of information and communication technologies still raises a number of organisational issues that have to be studied in regard to the context in which organisations organise. This raises two important challenges. First, societal trends such as globalisation, individualisation or flexibilisation need to be taken into account in the study of work innovation, asking for multidisciplinary inquiry. Second, scholars have to position themselves as making research on work innovation, and not only for innovating work practices. It means, adopting a critical agenda, that research in the field have also to address the consequences of so-called innovating work practices.

*International Journal of Work Innovation (IJWI)* offers a tribune for such reflections, in being a fully-refereed multi-disciplinary international journal dedicated to the study of work innovation. It proposes and fosters discussion on innovative work practices including new forms of work organisation (such as virtual teams, network organisations, teleworking, learning organisations, flexible and dispersed work, etc.) as well as the so-called innovative work practices and philosophy (such as knowledge management, teamwork, lean management, project-based work, outsourcing, etc.).

The objective of *IJWI* is to discuss and disseminate the implications of innovative work practices on individuals, organisations, businesses and societies. Also, contributions aiming at questioning the necessity to transform current work practices take a front rank in *IJWI*; it is therefore the intention to produce knowledge simultaneously for and on work innovation (management). *IJWI* provides a vehicle to help professionals, academics, researchers and policy makers working in the field of new working practices to disseminate information and to learn from each other's work. Finally, *IJWI* is a place for scholars to share their views on researching and teaching the unclearly defined field of work innovation at university level and share their experience.

Innovative work practices are discussed from a multidisciplinary perspective; this involves receptiveness to criticism. *IJWI* publishes original papers, essays and review papers, both theoretical and empirical. It particularly welcomes critical work addressing social and societal issues related to these innovative work practices. Suitable topics include but are not limited to:

- managing new work practices and innovative workplaces
- exploring the organisational and social implications of new ways of working (on identity, social inclusions, diversity, work life balance, etc.)
- exploring the impacts of innovative work practices in terms of control, power

- managing knowledge in new forms of work organisations
- exploring the impacts of work innovation on environment, energy and transportation
- enhancing distributed work through workplace design and ICTs.

The field of work innovation is therefore here understood as the complementary and multi-disciplinary studies of all aspects of innovation in work organisation and politics. Beyond the objects presented above, the idea is well to explore how innovation may be sustainable, how innovation may come from all of the organisational and societal actors (considering trade unions, employees and states as part of this process, eg.), how innovation may also serve as a discursive sleeping pill for imposing radical change, etc. We also share the conviction that adopting such critical perspective on work innovation and its context also contributes to conduct innovative research; research that also address the issue of meaning, of the kind of knowledge they produce, for the society.

It is an exciting challenge to launch a new title in the very competitive environment of scientific publications. In this 'jungle', this title has the specificity to be driven by the ambition to cover all the aspects of work innovation, also building on a solid editorial board, composed of experimented and acknowledged scholars in their field and discipline of research. I especially want to thank them for the confidence they have shown in this project and for taking part to this enterprise.

A few words about myself. I am professor at the Louvain School of Management and the Institute for Labour Studies (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium) where I teach organisation and human resource studies. My main research interests are in HR and organisation studies, especially focusing on new forms of work organisation and knowledge transfer, in a critical perspective. I have published about 20 research papers on these topics.