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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Michael K. Fung is currently an Associate Professor of Economics at the School of Accounting and Finance, Hong Kong Polytechnic University. His research interest includes financial economics, industrial organisation, and interdisciplinary research. He was an examiner for the Chartered Institute of Logistic and Transport (HK) and served on the Banking and Finance Industry Training Board of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Bruno S. Sergi teaches International Economics at the University of Messina and currently is a visiting professor at Harvard University and a 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 a Fellow of the Lab-Center for Competitiveness at Grenoble Ecole de Management and a 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).

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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 Trade and Global Markets*. The issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in global marketing and production, business ethics, and economic development, 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 7–9 June 2012, at 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 Trade and Global Markets*’ 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 Trade and Global Markets*.

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, four 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 role of global production and marketing, business ethics and economic development issues. Built upon the ongoing scientific activity of the Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research 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 authors masterly combine with theory and practice.

Recent international economic and environmental problems, e.g. debt crisis, global trade imbalance, global warming, etc., poses challenges for policymakers and experts. In particular, debates intensify over the contagion of unhealthy financial systems through international flows of finance, products, and services. Unhealthy financial systems reinforce the negative impact of instability, which is observable in many places, noticeable in major financial centres and in countries where people have been hurt by the economic crisis.

The aim of this special issue of *International Journal of Trade and Global Markets* is nothing less than to provide state-of-the-art coverage of the knowledge developed to date, including the dynamics and complications just noted. 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.