
Editorial

Michael K. Fung

School of Accounting and Finance,
Hong Kong Polytechnic University,
Hung Hom, Kowloon, 852, Hong Kong
E-mail: afmikef@polyu.edu.hk

Bruno S. Sergi*

Department of Economics, Business and Environmental Science and
Quantitative Methodologies,
University of Messina,
Via T. Cannizzaro, 278, 98122 Messina, Italy
E-mail: bsergi@unime.it
*Corresponding author

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 is currently teaching economic policy at the University of Messina. He serves as a Centre Associate of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. At the University of Messina, he is also the Chairman of the PhD programme in Economic Sciences and Quantitative Methods (2011–2016). Since 2009, he has coached two networks of trade-union economic experts: the SEE TU Economic Experts' Network and the NIS TU Economic Experts' Network, both of which are under the framework of the Pan-European Regional Council of the International Trade Union Confederation. His primary research interest is international macroeconomics and the political economy of transition countries. He acknowledges financial support from the University of Messina (PRA 2008–2009).

The papers published in this *IJEPEE* special issue have been presented at the 2013 SIBR-Thammasat Conference on Interdisciplinary Business and Economic Research, which was held on June 6–8, 2013, at the Emerald Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was jointly organised by The Society of Interdisciplinary Business Research and The Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University. The conference theme was 'Rethinking business and economic issues from interdisciplinary perspectives: evolutions and new solutions'.

The papers appearing in this 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. 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. As a result of this reviewing process, four papers were accepted for publication in this special issue.

This *IJEPEE* special issue strives to stimulate cross-disciplinary interest in socio-economic impacts of government policies and firm strategies. Specifically, Sevias Guvuriro theoretically assessed the impact of low input gardens projects on the livelihood of the beneficiaries and the society. Using Thailand as a case study, Supachart Iamratanakul explored the innovation systems in less successful developing countries so as to derive policy and theoretical implications. Moreover, Ashima Majumdar and Saundarjya Borbora analysed the productivity growth pattern in the urban informal manufacturing sector of Assam in India. Mohamad Khusaini investigated the consistency between planning and budgeting at some districts and cities in Indonesia. In addition, Shrabanti Maity analysed the literacy status of women in West Bengal and India. Furthermore, Brajendra Saikia defined the status and problem of health service delivery in developing countries and studied how the public sector health service delivery can be made more effective in developing countries. The emergence and development of the above interdisciplinary business and economic issues is well celebrated throughout this thematic issue.