
Editorial and tribute to Professor Michael Radnor

Eliezer Geisler

Illinois Institute of Technology Stuart School of Business,
565 W. Adams Street,
Chicago, IL 60661, USA
Email: geisler@stuart.iit.edu

Jeffrey Strauss

Northwestern University,
633 Clark St., Evanston,
IL 60208, USA
Email: j-strauss@northwestern.edu

Rebecca Radnor

Kyung Hee University,
26 Kyunghedae-ro, Hoegi-dong,
Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul, South Korea
Email: R.Radnor@gmail.com

Biographical notes: Eliezer (Elie) Geisler is Distinguished Professor of Business at the Stuart School of Business of the Illinois Institute of Technology. He received his Doctorate in Organisational Behaviour from the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University. He is the author of over 100 papers and 14 books in the areas of management and metrics of technology and innovation; management of medical technologies and knowledge management. His current research focuses, among other topics, on the genesis, progress and evolution of knowledge and the metrics and diffusion of innovation and technology in healthcare organisations. He is also currently working on the topic of 'beyond analytics', consisting of a theoretical space which he developed. He is the recipient of multiple awards, among them: The Medal of Excellence given by the Portland International Conference on the Management of Engineering and Technology.

Jeffrey Strauss worked with Professor Michael Radnor for 30 years including acting as his Associate Director in a university centre, co-teaching and helping him to coordinate two industry-academic consortia. Working with Professor Radnor for years gave Jeffrey expertise and insight into his interests and perspective driving this special issue.

Rebecca Radnor is the daughter of Professor Michael Radnor. She worked with him for many years and went on to become a professor in her own right in related fields. Working with Professor Radnor for years gave Rebecca expertise and insight into his interests and perspective driving this special issue.

This special issue is a tribute to Professor Michael (Mike) Radnor, and a celebration of his life and academic achievements. Mike joined the faculty of Northwestern University in 1964, as one of the original professors of what became the Kellogg School of Management. He taught at Northwestern for almost 50 years. Mike advised scores of graduate and doctoral students. I am one of them.

Mike's pioneering contributions to the study of the management of technology are in two complementary areas. The first was his insight, early on in the 1960s, of the crucial relationship between technology (including R&D and the phenomenon of innovation), and the organisational dimensions of the firm. His research focused on the ways in which organisational structure and processes impacted technological implementation, adoption and commercialisation. His students and colleagues at the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Science and Technology at Northwestern University explored the role that human processes and structural architectures in business companies affect technology and innovation, and are impacted by these technologies. Mike expanded this line of research of not-for-profit and government organisations. His centre studied the management of technology in such federal agencies as NASA, the Bureau of Mines in the Department of the Interior, and the Federal Departments of Education, Transportation, and Justice.

The second area was his pioneering understanding of the role that globalisation plays in the generation and the transfer and commercialisation of technology and innovation. His interest in this area began with his dissertation on US companies and their R&D activities in Europe. It continued to a decades-long research of companies and government organisations worldwide. Mike travelled the world, lecturing and consulting with many governments and business enterprises. Well before it became an academic currency, he saw the globe as a small village, where corporations and government entities create, exchange, and implement technologies. He was fascinated by the roles that different cultures, organisational structures and processes, and the regulatory powers of governments play in the phenomenon of the generation, transfer, and implementation of technological innovations. He was a true pioneer and his work represented a trailblazing effort which opened the door to today's scholars.

The papers in this special issue reflect Mike's research interests and represent the worldwide new generation of researchers who tackle the issues that Mike's early work had brought to light. The first paper by Martin L. Bariff explores the relationship between advanced analytics groups and intra-organisational power in the US experience. This research focuses on the current work in analytics and big-data and how such work is impacted by internal process in organisations.

The second paper by Inwon Kang and Jiwon Lee studies the dimensions of technological alliances. This topic of research was a favourite area of Mike's research and consulting interests. He examined national and international alliances between companies, and between companies and government entities. This paper is an example of current research in emerging markets of the role and behaviour of alliances.

The third paper by Yuichiro Mukai et al. compares design architectures and market competitiveness between Korean and Japanese shipbuilding companies. This study exemplifies Mike's pioneering interest in the international aspects of organisational design and market performance of technology companies.

The fourth paper by Kris M.Y. Law et al. reports the results of a study of product innovation in companies in China. This research continues the long line of Mike's contributions to the field, in which he explored the organisational and human factors which impinge upon the success of product innovation. Following in Mike's footsteps,

the authors of this paper are a new generation of scholars who again focus the spotlight on product innovation in manufacturing.

The final paper by Sung Woo Byun et al. is a comparison of the integration of supply chains between Korean and Japanese steel companies. This paper explores the nature of the structure and processes of companies in the Pacific Rim in different cultures and stages of development. Since the 1960s, Mike Radnor's work has focused on the different rates of adoption of technologies and the transfer mechanisms which caused these differences. This paper exemplifies the importance of this topic and the insights which such research contributes to this topic.

The papers in this special issue highlights Mike Radnor's legacy. These papers show a continuation of the lines of research in which he was one the pioneers. His emphasis on the global aspects of technology and organisational design is well illustrated in the papers of this special issue. Today's scholars continue to explore the topics which fascinated Professor Radnor over half a century ago. His legacy is embedded in the curiosity of young students of the areas of the management of technology, and the increasingly crucial global nature of this phenomenon. We, the editors, and this new generation of scholars, extend our gratitude to Professor Michael Radnor.