

Preface

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Biographical notes: Bhumika Gupta is currently serving in the Mines-Telecom Business School at Evry, Paris, France as an Associate Professor of Human Resource Management. She obtained her PhD in Human Resource Management from the University of Pau, France. She has served many global universities such as the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark, Stanford University, USA and Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur, India as a Visiting Professor. Her world-class research explores a comparison of motivation levels in management practices between the traditional and virtual project teams, corporate culture and psychological contracts at work place. She has published over 50 scholarly papers in globally acclaimed journals. She is currently working on different government funded research projects in different countries encompassing France, India and China. She has taught extensively in the executive education programmes with a focus on Chinese, Indian and Mexican clients. She has over 15 years of experience in scientific research, teaching, executive training, conducting programmes abroad and over five years of experience in corporate sector. She spent over 20 years' of her life in social welfare projects such as Saving the Planet Initiatives. She serves as the President of the International Women Association in India. She has received several awards for her contribution for serving the women and under privilege children. She is associated with the Nobel Sustainability Trust as the representative for India, China and France. Her passion to save the planet is perpetual. She continues to contribute her services in a passionate manner in order to save the global climate and the only planet (Earth) we all call our home.

Digital technologies such as social media, the internet of things, data analytics, block chain, 3D printing, robotics and artificial intelligence, are the foundation for vast numbers of products, services, processes and business model innovations globally that bring about significant transitions in the ways global industries, firms, institutions, and consumers behave across the world. These contemporary technologies (and the corresponding growth of digital data and analytical techniques) are transforming economies, societies and our relationships with the natural world. However, as these innovations increasingly pervade every aspect of our daily lives, we urgently need business research that explores and explains digitalisation – how it drives innovation, and what are its effects and impacts on sustainability. This global special issue seeks to advance the scholarly understanding of how digitalisation, innovation, performance, change and sustainability are intertwined; highlight insightful examples of best and worst practices; and provide theoretically and empirically grounded strategic recommendations for improving implementation and impact. The focus of this special issue is the

interrelationships between digitalisation, innovation, change, team performances and sustainability.

The first paper entitled, 'An entrepreneur-driven technological innovation system for sustainable and inclusive international business: a case analysis of Lusophone-African MNEs' by Chris Mulvey and Marcus Goncalves investigates the applicability of TIS from an ESG/DEI perspective. This study was pursued by interviewing 29 leaders of leading high-tech exporting companies in Angola and Mozambique to assess TIS in a socio-political and economically challenging environment. This study demonstrates that the TIS framework aligns with ESG/DEI criteria marginally. For more conscientious and sustainable TIS development, better aligned with ESG criteria, entrepreneurs should strategically frame the technological innovation field in which they are embedded with DEI in mind. Scholars have argued for a focus on collaborative and inclusive marketing with greater attention to consumers' preferences and behaviour, and the development of sustainable (ESG) and equitable (DEI) business models through a slight adaptation of TIS, focused on the entrepreneur as a catalyst for sustainable and inclusive TIS.

The second paper entitled, 'Investigating the TOE context in achieving food supply chain network performance: the role of supplier collaboration capability' by Mohammad Osman Gani and Yoshi Takahashi examines the interface of technology, organisation and environment (TOE) and quality management systems (QMS) with their profound impact on supply chain management. This study not only investigates the relationship between the TOE context and QMS and QMS with firm's supply chain network performance (FSCNP), it also investigates the moderation of suppliers' collaboration capability between QMS and FSCNP. Data were collected through face-to-face interviews with structured questionnaires utilising the convenience sampling method encompassing 273 food business managers. Data were analysed using partial least squares structural equation modelling. The findings demonstrated that all the TOE elements have a positive, significant association with QMS, and QMS has a positive relationship with FSCNP. It also revealed a significant moderation of suppliers' collaboration capability between QMS and FSCNP. The results highlight study's managerial and social relevance from the perspective of firms based in emerging countries.

The third paper entitled, 'Secondary consumer socialisation and adoption of e-commerce: a qualitative inquiry' by Ayushi Gangwar and Prem Prakash Dewani talks about mounting interest to understand the e-commerce adoption by middle-aged and older consumers segment by identifying the secondary socialisation agents that help embark on their online shopping journey. There is a framework to understand the secondary consumer socialisation process using 'socialisation theory' and the 'theory of andragogy', and propose a contrast view to the traditional approach, where children are the learners of a marketplace. In-depth personal interviews (qualitative inquiry) of middle-aged and older adults, their children, spouses, and peers were conducted. A thematic analysis of the data suggests that older individuals predominantly socialised by their offsprings particularly when technology adoption was in place. Further, spouses, peers, and the media increase awareness among consumers, and provide support to them. Additionally, communication from these secondary socialisation agents motivate the older consumers to adopt online shopping, providing them economic and social motivation.

The fourth paper entitled, ‘Technology, human capital, and economic growth: evidence from high income OECD countries’ by Kemal Erkişi and Güler Sağlam underpins that the impact of human capital and technology, along with physical capital. In this study, human capital is added to the model in the form of health and education, and technology in the form of domestic and foreign technologies. Division in the education variable into primary, secondary, and tertiary is also noticed. The research covers 27 high-income OECD countries for the period 1990–2020. In the analysis, the FGLS estimator, which resists to heteroscedasticity, cross-section dependence and panel-specific autocorrelation, was employed. Results indicate that a unit increase in foreign technology increases national income by 0.037% and a domestic technology by 0.023%. Foreign technology has more impact on economic growth than domestic technology. Although primary education did not have a significant effect on growth, secondary education increased growth by 0.069% and tertiary education by 0.30%. Tertiary education has more impact on economic growth than the impact of physical capital (\cong 0.22 percentage).

The fifth paper entitled ‘The prominence of behavioural biases in analysts’ earnings forecast accuracy’ by Semra Bank and Duygu Arslantürk Çöllü explains that the studies in the relevant literature imply that financial analysts’ earnings forecasts are biased. To further investigate these prior results, this study aims to list and prioritise three groups of factors and sub-factors in each factor group that have an effect on analysts’ earnings forecast accuracy. In line with this aim, this study used a combined DEMATEL-ANP hybrid model. The results reveal that optimism and herding behaviour have greater prominence than others among a list of factors affecting financial analysts’ earnings forecast accuracy. In turn, this result confirms the irrationality of financial analysts in their earnings forecasts.

The sixth paper, entitled ‘Early internationalisation of entrepreneurial firms: the role of artificial intelligence enhanced business models’, by Tahseen Anwer Arshi, Venkoba Rao, Vazeerjan Begum and Nejat Çapar, explores and analyses the internationalisation of new firms, which has become an important research topic in recent years with the emergence of such firms. Consequently, an increased amount of research has been published globally, examining the nature of internationalisation of new firms. This study proposes an artificial intelligence enabled business model design that helps global entrepreneurs with early internationalisation vision by overcoming the challenges that new firms might be encountering. Global entrepreneurs face early internationalisation challenges owing to limited resources that restrict their ability to internationalise promptly on the global stage. This study is based on a sample of 337 new international entrepreneurial firms based in India. The study uses an artificial intelligence model based on a neural network platform to predict the effect of business model design measures on the performance of global firms. The study’s results show that the model could predict entrepreneurial capability and financial performance outcomes. In other words, the proposed model allows global firms to increase their success in international markets by reducing the risks, the learning time, and efforts linked with early internationalisation.