The growing importance attributed to innovation as a mechanism of economic development has generated a large body of research that aims at understanding how agents and their respective patterns of interaction are related. Prior research has demonstrated that innovation relies on learning processes that are unevenly localized in space, thus producing hubs of innovative activity (Cooke, 2016) commonly treated as innovation ecosystems. A primary point of interest in the analysis of innovation ecosystems refers to the existence of interactions in processes of knowledge generation and diffusion at the regional level (Autio, 1998; Iammarino, 2005). Main parameters and agents involved in these relationships largely refer to market structures, technological capabilities, entrepreneurship, government and regulations, culture, supportive services, human capital, and local presence of research-oriented universities (Audretsch and Feldman, 1996; Fritsch, 2002; Stam, 2015).

This (eco)systemic nature of relationships can only arise in local context where the productive (knowledge exploitation subsystem) and the knowledge (knowledge generation subsystem) structures are engaged in processes of interactive learning (Clarysse et al., 2014; Jiao et al., 2016). Hence, innovation ecosystems can be understood as dynamic systems, possessing an inherently social character and being composed by the interaction of its subsystems (Uyarra, 2010). The main argument behind this rationale is related to the idea that the generation and diffusion of innovations, as well as entrepreneurial activity, are shaped by the local infrastructure, its externalities, specialized services and levels of trust involved in relationships between agents. One of the key aspects in this debate concerns the existence of multidimensional contexts, dependent on the interactions among agents (non-linearity), characterized by systemic relationships and bound by historical trajectories that lead to spatially constrained learning processes.

There are also other promising research streams and questions to explore. Gomes et al. (2018) explain that the ecosystem approach provides a powerful framework for addressing complex innovations. Building on Adner and Kappor (2010), these authors suggest that scholars might explore how firms manage external interdepend actors related to the development and commercialization of complex innovations. Using the innovation ecosystem approach for addressing complex innovations developed by startups or large firms open new avenues of research. For example, scholars might investigate how to manage risks, uncertainties and complexity in such endeavors.

Taking this background into account and the consolidation of innovation ecosystems as a main area of interest within the field of innovation management studies, this call for papers aims at bringing together novel theoretical and empirical contributions that address some critical issues in this topic. Some guiding research questions follow, as well as potential themes of interest (these are not restrictive and other approaches not listed here are encouraged).

1. **How should innovation ecosystem be characterized?**
   a. Innovation ecosystems typologies and taxonomies
   b. Indicators for identification, evaluation and comparison of innovation ecosystems
   c. Evolutionary aspects of innovation ecosystems
   d. Theoretical and empirical exercises dealing with specific actors of interest within innovation ecosystems (e.g. government, universities, local firms, multinationals, etc.)
   e. New methods in assessing innovation ecosystems
   f. Sectoral approaches to innovation ecosystems
   g. The relationship between platform and ecosystems: architecture, modulatory and ecosystem development
2. How do we define the geographic boundaries/limits of innovation ecosystems?
   a. Qualitative and quantitative strategies to identify the spatial reach of innovation ecosystems
   b. Assessments dealing with how agents connect with each other inside and outside the innovation ecosystems – and how these dynamics impact on the ecosystem ‘size’
   c. The role of networks in innovation ecosystems
   d. Differences among local and international ecosystems of complex innovations (new drugs development might demand specific complementarities)

3. How do we evaluate the effectiveness of an innovation or entrepreneurial ecosystem?
   a. Identification of adequate and multisided performance measures for innovation ecosystems
   b. Empirical assessments that establish ‘productivity’ comparisons between innovation ecosystems

4. What are the overlaps between innovation ecosystems and ecosystems of entrepreneurship?
   a. Analyses that assess the extent to which innovation ecosystems connect with the rationale of ecosystems of entrepreneurship
   b. The role of Knowledge-Intensive Entrepreneurship within the overall dynamics of innovation ecosystems
   c. Complementarities between small, medium and large firms in the aggregate competitiveness of innovation ecosystems

5. Managing innovation ecosystems
   a. How firms manage risks and uncertainties in ecosystems
   b. How firms manage constrains and paradoxes related to innovation ecosystem
   c. Exploring the disruption in ecosystems (not single firms)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
- January 5th, 2019: Open for submissions
- May 30th 2020: Deadline for submissions
For full information on the submission process, visit the instruction for author guidelines webpage.

GUEST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LEONARDO GOMES
Faculty of Economics, Management and Accounting, University of São Paulo, Brazil. E-mail: lavgomes@usp.br
Leonardo Augusto de Vasconcelos Gomes is a lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accounting, University of São Paulo, Brazil (FEA-USP). PhD in Production Engineering from the Department of Production Engineering at the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo, with a period as a visiting scholar at Cambridge University, graduated in Production Engineering from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, with an exchange program at the Ecole Superieure D’Ingenieurs en Elektrotechnique et Electronique. His research interests include innovation, technological entrepreneurship, strategic and technology planning, Technology Roadmapping and decision-making process under uncertainty and complexity.

GUEST EDITORS

BRUNO BRANDÃO FISCHER
School of Applied Sciences, University of Campinas, Brazil. E-mail: bruno.fischer@fca.unicamp.br
Bruno Brandão Fischer is Assistant Professor at the School of Applied Sciences (FCA), University of Campinas (UNICAMP). His research emphasizes the topics of ecosystems and regional systems of innovation and entrepreneurship. Recent results in the field of knowledge-intensive entrepreneurship include publications in the Journal of Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, along with participation in national and international conferences. He holds a PhD in Economics and Innovation Management (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain).

KADIGIA FACCIN
Unisinos Business School, Brazil. E-mail: kadigiaf@unisinos.br
Kadigia is a Professor at the Graduate Program in Business Administration at Unisinos, Brazil. She has a double doctorate degree: PhD in Business Administration from Unisinos and in Sciences of L’Information and Communication from the Université de Poitiers, France. She currently leads the research group on Innovation Ecosystems (EcoHub) at Unisinos. She
also works as Coordinator of the Scientific Committee of the Academic Division of Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship (ITE) at ANPAD. Her main research topics include Interorganizational Strategy and Relations, Collaborative Innovation and Innovation Ecosystems.

DIRK MEISSNER

Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge, Higher School of Economics, National Research University, Russia. E-mail: dmeissner@hse.ru

Dirk Meissner is Professor and Deputy Head of the Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge at Higher School of Economics (HSE), National Research University in Moscow, Russia. He is currently member of international working groups on technology and innovation policy. Professor Dirk represented Switzerland and now the Russian Federation at the OECD Working Party on Technology and Innovation Policy. Prior to joining the HSE Dirk was responsible for technology and innovation policy at the presidential office of the Swiss Science and Technology Council. He also has long experience in top level consulting to key decision makers in industry, headed the business unit industry studies and research with T.A. Cook Consultants which he successfully established and was management consultant for technology and innovation management with Arthur D. Little. He has strong background in science, technology and innovation for policy making and industrial management with special focus on Foresight and roadmapping, science, technology and innovation policies, funding of research and priority setting. He holds a Ph.D. from Technische Universität Dresden. Professor Meissner is also currently Editor of Technological Forecasting & Social Change.

ROBERTO CARLOS BERNARDES

PhD in Sociology from the University of São Paulo (1998). He has been a consultant to several economic research and development institutions such as FINEP, IPEA, ECLAC, MCTI, BNDES and FAPESP, among others. Professor of the postgraduate program in administration of the Fundação Educacional Inaciana Padre Saboia de Medeiros - FEI. He was a Collaborating Professor at DPCT/IGE Unicamp and PMDGI-ESPM. Has experience in teaching in the areas of Business and Economics. Research areas are associated with the thematic field of innovation, targeting the following specializations: knowledge-based economies, business and institutional innovation and learning systems, aerospace and defense, service innovation, strategy and innovation management in global environments and indicators. of innovation in emerging countries.

REFERENCES


