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GREDEG

(Groupe de Recherche en Droit, Economie, Gestion), Université de Nice Sophia Antipolis & CNRS

International conference

**Understanding the emergence of new industries.
Between path dependency and path plasticity**

To be held at the University of Torino
Department of Economics & Collegio Carlo Alberto
7th and 8th October 2010

Call for papers

Why and how do new industries emerge? Some studies have focused on this question, but so far no consensual view can be characterized on how the process of emergence of new industries starts and develops. This is all the more surprising since economic development all times has been essentially nurtured by the emergence of new industries. In the last two decades, new industries like software and biotechnology have contributed to a large extent to the economic growth of modern economies, and we expect further growth stimuli by new industries like nanotechnology or next generation robotics.

This conference focuses on the process of emerging new industries. In our understanding this process takes place between path dependency and path plasticity. Path dependency refers to the stability of configurations in given systems and the more or less stable way how these configurations incentivize the innovative behaviors of actors, while the concept of path plasticity refers to the variety of configurations in these systems.

At the same time, the concept of 'new industry' requires some clarification especially if one needs to structure empirical work since this concept often assumes that sectors emerge from nothing. However, from the late 1970s a number of important industry sectors emerged as a result of certain radical innovation, which substantially changed the path of former sectors and their rebirth into new ones, becoming eventually sub-industries of former sectoral categories. These processes are often differently influenced depending on the respective institutional setting.

The purpose of this conference is to gather papers which contribute to the understanding of the emergence of new industries, the role of innovation systems in which they are embedded and the role of path dependency. In the end this conference aims at reaching a deeper theoretical and empirical understanding of the logic of emerging industries. Therefore it is necessary to employ different theoretical perspectives and a variety of research methodologies. To this end, we invite contributions from different disciplines, which focus on one or more of the following issues:

- The conditions under which new industries emerge;
- The respective roles of incumbent and new firms in the emergence of new industries;
- Role of technological and organizational regularities in the emergence of new industries;
- The role of institutions, knowledge stocks and demand in the emergence of new industries;
- The various degrees of impact of given structures on innovative activities and their creative interpretation by entrepreneurs for the emergence of new industries;
- Cognitive processes and mechanisms under which actors recognize opportunities for the emergence of new industries.

Keynotes

David Audretsch (Max Planck Institute of Economics – Jena, & Indiana University)

Hiroyuki Odagiri (Hitotsubashi University)

Kenneth L. Simons (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

Jörg Sydow (Freie Universität, Berlin)

Organisation and Scientific Committees

Organisation Committee (by alphabetical order)

Cristiano Antonelli (University of Turin)

Jackie Krafft (CNRS-GREDEG)

Sébastien Lechevalier (EHESS)

Francesco Quatraro (University of Turin, Brick Collegio Carlo Alberto)

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David Audretsch (Max Planck Institute of Economics – Jena, & Indiana University)

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Steven Casper (Keck Graduate Institute/ Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Dominique Foray (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne)

Dietmar Harhoff (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

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Cornelia Storz (University of Frankfurt)

Simone Strambach (University of Marburg)

Jörg Sydow (Freie Universität, Berlin)

Nick Von Tunzelmann (University of Sussex, SPRU)

Seiichiro Yonekura (Hitotsubashi University, IIR)

Submissions

Full papers should be submitted by e-mail at brick@carloalberto.org. Each submitted paper should indicate the e-mail and physical address of the contact author, and a major field of interest chosen in the list above. Further information will be available at: <http://www.carloalberto.org/brick.html>

Deadlines

Submissions of full papers or long abstracts (3 pages – 1800 words): January 30, 2010.
Notification of acceptance: March 30, 2010.
Submission of full papers: September 1st

Registration fees

Registration fees are 200 euros, and include access to conference, coffee breaks, lunches, and conference dinner.