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—
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Special Track

Integrating Comparative Institutional Analysis into International Business Research

Chair: Matthew Allen, Manchester Business School

Combining insights from comparative institutional analysis (CIA) and international business research can help to deepen the policy and practitioner-orientation of our studies. International business (IB) research is increasingly drawing on institutional factors to explain key contemporary economic and commercial issues, including outward investment by emerging-economy firms, entry strategies into emerging economies, and multinationals' human resource management policies. Yet IB scholars have been urged to adopt an even more nuanced and richer view of institutions to strengthen their ties to other disciplines and to promote more cogent policy recommendations. A richer view of institutions, rooted in a CIA perspective, would reflect their multi-dimensional, non-deterministic, and systemic nature. In short, an institution can be associated with more than one outcome, depending on the presence or absence of other institutions. However, the CIA approach itself often focuses on institutions and the co-ordination of economic activities at the national level rather than the regional (sub-national) and international levels. This downplays the growing importance of regional and international product, capital, and some labour and knowledge markets to many firms. International business research captures such issues well.

This track seeks to combine the strengths of both research perspectives to enhance the relevance of our research for both practitioners and policy makers. Papers are invited that adopt a rich view of institutions and that address the increasing internationalization of various markets.

Suitable topics

- The location, creation, reproduction, and change of organizational capabilities within MNEs.
- International entrepreneurship.
- The internationalization and co-ordination of firms' value-adding activities.
- Human resource strategies to support MNE activities in different locations.

[continued overleaf]

- Emerging-economy multinational enterprises; as well as the:
- Impact of the internationalization of product, capital, and labour market on institutions.

Papers can focus at the international, national, or regional level, or adopt a multi-level approach. They can use quantitative or qualitative methods – or a combination of the two. They can also be conceptual, empirical, or methodological.