

News / Information

Call for Papers
International Conference
Succeeding in Emerging and Developing Markets
3 - 7 June 2008
Washington, USA

The majority of traditional Western business curriculum is founded on theory and research generated in developed countries, where political, economic, legal, and social institutions generally are formalized, well-developed, and stable. But MNCs increasingly are setting their sights on developing and emerging countries for future growth potential, where the institutional context is quite different. In these markets, international institutions play a prominent role, and local institutions are often informal, weakly formalized, in transition—or even non-existent. This workshop is designed to equip international business educators with an in-depth understanding of how institutions shape the strategies that firms employ and the actions that managers take in developing and emerging countries.

The Speakers include representatives from:

- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- The World Bank
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Transparency International
- Ashoka
- Emerging and developing country governments
- Businesses with experience in emerging markets and developing countries
- Universities and research institutes specializing in a number of functional areas and disciplines

The Program includes presentations on:

- "What are Institutions? Why are they important for Development?"
- Ambassadors' Roundtable: "Challenges & Opportunities of Institutional Reform"
- Interactive Case Discussions: "The Shakedown," "The Untouchable Watercarrier," and "BRAC and Arrong Brands"
- "How to Use the World Bank's 'Doing Business In' Indicators in the Classroom"

- "The Role of Business in Conflict and Peace"
- NGO Manager Panel: "Building Sustainable Environments in Developing Countries"

The Participants

Get the tools you need to make and impact on your students in the classroom and in their lives. Learn about the institutional realities facing practitioners and policymakers in developing and emerging countries and the latest scholarly research findings in this area. Gain hands-on experience with various teaching materials, including cases, videos, and in-class and internet exercises that will help you better prepare your students for success in developing and emerging markets. Connect with academics and practitioners from a broad range of subject areas that share your goals and interests.



Call for Papers

2nd International Conference

Indicators and Concepts of Innovation

3 - 4 July 2008

Berne, Switzerland

You are welcome to glance at the recently launched homepage of the 2nd International Conference on Indicators and Concepts of Innovation (ICICI 2008) in Bern, Switzerland, on July 3rd and 4th: <http://innocon.wordpress.com>. The call for abstracts (max. 500 words) is still open. Feel free to forward the forward the call to interested parties.

Deadline is April 10th, 2008, 23:59 CET. The call can be downloaded either via homepage or directly via <http://dev.wirtschaft.bfh.ch/personal/1499/CfP-NTI-NEI-Conference.pdf>.

There will be a certain amount of grants available for members of CEE countries covering conference fee, travel & accommodations according to regulations of the SNF (Swiss National Fund for research). Deadline for application on grants for researchers from MEE-countries is **March 31st, 2008, 23:59 CET**. The application must include both the abstract and a short CV.

Contact information:

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<http://www.wirtschaft.bfh.ch/roth>



Call for Papers

International Conference

**Economic Transformation of Central and Eastern
European Countries**

19 – 20 September 2008

Vilnius, Lithuania

Vilnius University, as one of the oldest and most famous establishments of higher education in Eastern and Central Europe, founded in 1579, is proudly inviting you to an international conference titled “Economic Transformation of Central and Eastern European Countries”. Vilnius University, Faculty of Economics and Wroclaw University of Economics have organized this conference to foreground the significance and value to the academic layers of Eastern and Middle Europe in respect to relationship building and development.

Conference topics:

- Conceptual Transformation Problems in Central and Eastern European Countries
- Problems and Dilemmas of Accession to Economical and Monetary European Union
- Public Finances and Public Sector
- Labour Market Alternations
- International Trade and Investment Flows
- Globalization and Economic Development Problems in Central and Eastern European Countries

- Contemporary Accounting and Auditing Development Trends
- Private Finance Problems
- Transformation of Management
- Lithuanian Business Competitiveness Augmentation in European Countries
- Economic and Social Policy in Central and Eastern European Countries
- Convergence Processes and Their Effect on Financial Sector and Financial Market Development.

Note: The Conference topics will be contracted into the conference sections once the abstracts are collected. The Conference program will be available on the conference website. Keynote Speakers will open the Plenary Session. Papers will be published in journal Economics and conference proceedings.

The abstracts should not exceed 2000 characters. The font size should be 12. The abstract should include the title, aim, methodology, results and implications of the article. The abstracts and final papers can be submitted electronically, via conference email: conference@ef.vu.lt (for paper submission details please visit our website: www.conference.ef.vu.lt).

Deadlines

- 1st April Abstract submission deadline
- 15th April Notification of acceptance statement
- 15th May The final article submission deadline
- 15th May Article submission without attendance deadline
- 30th June The early registration ends
- 1st July Late registration starts

Note: Publishing priority will be given to the articles of the participants.

Registration

Registration will be done electronically through the conference email: conference@ef.vu.lt

The early registration ends on 30th of June. The participants who register the earliest will have the priority for choosing accommodations and will receive a lower registration fee. (For paper's submission details and the registration form please visit our website: www.conference.ef.vu.lt).

Conference location: The conference will be held at Vilnius University Faculty of Economics.

Accommodations:

The reservations have been made in these hotels:

- Vilnius University Hostels – price 18 – 25 EUR
- Karolina Hotel – single room 55 EUR / double room 61 EUR
- City Gate Hotel – single room 58 EUR/double room 87 EUR

Conference fee:

- The early registration (before 1st July) conference fee for EU and other countries (excluding eastern European countries) is 100 EUR
- The conference fee for the participants from Eastern European countries (Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine) is 50 EUR
- Late registration (from 1st July) conference fee is 150 EUR

Note: The conference fee includes reception, coffee breaks and conference material. Accommodations and traveling costs are not included in the conference fee.

Bank account information:

Bank transfer to	Vilnius University
Address:	Universiteto st. 3, Vilnius, Lithuania
Bank:	AB SEB bankas
Bank Address:	Gedimino pr. 12, Vilnius, Lithuania
SWIFT:	CBVILT2X
Account number (IBAN):	LT24 7044 0600 0110 1392
Purpose:	Conference Fee 2008 Faculty of Economics

Contact information:

Vilnius University, Faculty of Economics
Address: Sauletekio al. 9, Vilnius, Lithuania
Website: www.conference.ef.vu.lt
Email: conference@ef.vu.lt
Phone (fax): +370 5 2366284

Call for Papers
International Conference
**Emerging Multinationals: Outward Foreign Direct
Investment from Emerging and Developing Economies**
9 - 10 October 2008
Copenhagen, Danmark

Multinational companies from emerging and developing economies (EMNCs) are becoming major players in the globalized world economy and are likely to wield growing influence on economic dynamics in OECD, emerging, and developing countries alike. Host OECD countries will increasingly need to engage with the array of challenges and opportunities presented by emerging-economy multinationals seeking access to their markets and assets. A number of recent high-profile and controversial cases illustrate that the ascent of EMNCs onto the world stage will not necessarily be entirely without frictions.

Yet, in spite of the media attention towards investments into the OECD, important immediate impacts of outward direct investment from emerging and developing economies (OFDI) are likely to be felt also in developing host countries, where investments from other emerging and developing economies constitute more and more important complements to investment flows from OECD countries (South-South investments). No less important will be the effects in the home countries of the outward investing firms themselves. The contemporary rise of outward investment from emerging and developing countries remains insufficiently analyzed, both empirically and theoretically.

Topics:

The emergence of MNCs from emerging and developing economies raise a wide range of challenges for theorists, business strategists, and policymakers alike, for example:

- Why do companies from emerging and developing economies (EMNCs) invest abroad, how do they do it and which challenges do they face?

- How do EMNCs impact on different types of host economies? How are costs and benefits distributed? How are benefits captured? Which new policy challenges do they introduce?
- How are home economies affected by the internationalization of domestic firms? Should home countries pursue particular policies to accelerate or otherwise influence their OFDI?
- Which internationalizations patterns and strategies do EMNCs pursue? Are these qualitatively different from what we know from the received literature?
- How does EMNC behavior vary between different industries and why?
- How does the rise of EMNCs influence global competition in different industries?
- Do EMNCs differ from industrialized-country MNCs in terms of corporate governance and corporate social responsibility?
- How are companies from China and India in particular coming to internationalize their operations?
- Which are the roles of state-owned EMNCs?

Important dates:

Submission of short abstract: **15 May 2008**

Submission of full paper: **1 July 2008**

Paper acceptance/rejection: **1 August 2008**

Submission of revised paper: **1 September 2008**

Submission:

Submitted papers will be subject to a double-blind review process. The best papers will be considered for publication in a journal special issue or an edited book volume. Please email your paper as an MS Word or PDF document to Peter Gammeltoft (pg.int@cbs.dk). The names, affiliations, and contact information of all authors should be noted only on a separate cover page.

Accepted papers will be uploaded to an ‘electronic proceedings’ on the conference website.

Registration fee:

Due to the generous financial support extended by the conference sponsors there is no conference fee for presenters but registration is necessary. Food and refreshments will be provided by the conference.

Further information:

Peter Gammeltoft

Department of International Economics and Management

Porcelænshaven 24; 2000 Frederiksberg

Email: pg.int@cbs.dk

Web: <http://uk.cbs.dk/int>

Visit also the conference website: <http://uk.cbs.dk/ofdi>.

Organized by Department of International Economics and Management,
Copenhagen Business School

Time and Place:

9-10 October 2008

Copenhagen Business School

Submissions:

Short abstract: **15 May**

Full paper: **1 July**

Acceptance/rejection: 1 August

Revised paper: 1 September

Arranged by:

Department of International Economics and Management, Copenhagen
Business School (<http://uk.cbs.dk/int>).

More Information:

Conference web site: <http://uk.cbs.dk/ofdi>.

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Web: <http://uk.cbs.dk/int>

Call for Papers
International Conference
Restructuring Management in the Processes of
Integration and Development of the New Economy
15 - 18 October 2008
Krynica, Poland

The 13th International Scientific Conference is organized by The Department of Economics and Organization of Enterprises at The Cracow University of Economics acting in cooperation with the University Foundation. This year's conference under the motto: "Restructuring Management in the Processes of Integration and Development of the New Economy" will be held at Recreational Centre "PANORAMA" in Krynica, from 15 to 18 October 2008.

The onset of the 21st century is the time of ubiquitous information revolution and the growing importance of intangible assets be currently viewed as the attributes of so called "new economy". It is also the period of continually increasing dynamics of changes in economic surrounding and raising the significance of intellectualizing economic processes. Thus arises the necessity of seeking new management tools to improve management effectiveness and to face the competition. All processes of expanding economic, social and political integrity foster markets to be more open, which results in dynamic growth of competitiveness. The growing intensity of these processes make market participants constantly search for active ways of building and maintaining their competitive advantage.

It is the turbulent and highly dynamic surrounding which makes competitive advantage, gained at a given moment, relative and time rendered, that is, relevant at specific time and place and with specific entities, yet likely to be easily lost within the time passing. Hence the need of constant development and search for new enterprise solutions. It may be said that contemporary enterprises, especially those which aim at gaining market leadership, are in the state of "permanent escapism", always bound to be ready for responding to new challenges or radical changes of actions.

The leading idea of this year conference will be the attempt to characterize the potential of using restructuring actions in the process of building global competitiveness of enterprises in the conditions of growing integration processes, as well as to scrutinize new challenges pertaining to growing importance and impact of the new economy.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the formula of this conference will be an extension of the last year's one. We do hope that thanks to this it will be possible to combine the accomplishments of the academic milieu with practical entrepreneurial experience, as well as to confront Polish experience with that of other countries.

Organization information:

Declaration of conference participation should be sent **no later than May 31, 2008** only via the following Internet site: **www.konf.uek.krakow.pl**

Papers (in English or Polish) should be sent **no later than June 30, 2008** only via the above Internet site, where you can find the required format of the paper.

Conference languages: English and Polish

Conference calendar:

May 31, 2008 Application of conference participation

May 31, 2008 Conference fee payment deadline

June 30, 2008 Conference papers sending deadline

October 1, 2008 Invitations and detailed conference programme shipping

October 15-18, 2008 Conference

Framework programm of the conference:

October 15, 2008 (Wednesday)

16.00: Arrival of the participants and lodgings at hotel

18.00 – 21.00: Dinner in the evening Informal meetings

October 16, 2008 (Thursday)

9.30: Beginning of the conference

9.45 – 13.15: The international plenary session: Restructuring in the Face of the 21st Century Challenges

14.30 – 17.30: The panel of practitioners: Contemporary Instruments of Financing Restructuring

Projects. Including, among others:

- private equity
- venture capital

- public-private partnership
- assets securitization

in the evening: Solemn banquet

October 17, 2008 (Friday)

9.00 – 14.00: Recreation and tourism program

15.30 – 18.30: Panel sessions:

- Entrepreneurship in the Face of the New Economy Challenges;
- Managing the Processes of Consolidation and Integration – Reorganization of the Enterprises Aims and Structures

in the evening: Regional feast

October 18, 2008 (Saturday)

9.00 – 13.00: Young scholars forum

13.00: Closing of the conference

Cost and deadline for conference fee:

Conference fee includes participation in debates, conference book, lodging, fare and additional ventures (deadline for payment is May 31, 2008):

Double-room at the hotel – **PLN 1,280 per person.**

Single-room at the hotel – **PLN 1,480 per person.**

Attention: costs of the money transfer is to be coverage by the participant.

Account:

Fundacja Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego w Krakowie

ul. Rakowicka 27, PL-31-510 Kraków

Nr: PL 23 1060 0076 0000 3300 0040 5896

SWIFT: PKOPPLPW

Call for Papers
International Conference
Consulting and Management in Central and Eastern
Europe
6 November, 2008
Berlin, Germany

Although management consulting originally emerged in the US, it became a widespread business activity all over the world, and more recently also in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). From a CEE perspective, management consultancies are often supposed to be carriers of global best practices across national borders. From the perspective of West European consulting firms, the transformation of CEE countries after 1989 opened up new opportunities for their own transnational expansion. Critical observers see this expansion as a central element in the hegemonial production and diffusion of managerial ideology, while others emphasise the impossibilities of 'knowledge transfer', which they base on theories of implicit knowledge and cultural diversity.

The potential for transferring knowledge and concepts depend on the homogeneity of the targeted countries, as well as on the similarity between countries of origin and target countries. Management consulting has traditionally tended to assume a high degree of transferability. It's an open question whether, and if so how, Western consulting firms adapt to local circumstances, problems, and knowledge, and to what extent the demand for consulting services articulates that. Research into this process of transformation has argued that the parameters specific to CEE have to be taken into account seriously. Yet, despite the fact that 'managerial learning' in transformation processes has been an important issue in previous research, scholars have paid attention only occasionally to the role of consultants in countries that have been through economic transformation and to the effects of consultants on the development of managerial competencies, world-views, and professional identities.

Thus, management consulting in CEE might require different models of client interaction and intervention. Strategic options on how consultancies could implement such models as part of their expansion strategies include:

founding own establishments and complementing their staff with local personnel; buying a local firm, utilising its human and customer capital; cooperating with local firms, which themselves might profit from the symbolic capital of Western firms (at least, if those firms are not known as brands, local firms could capitalise on the appeal of their Western origin). Practically, large players, mainly of US origin, are already internationalised, using all these options, while among small and medium-size consulting firms most still follow their clients abroad.

We know little about management consulting in, and targeted at, CEE countries and their emerging consulting markets. More specifically, the perspectives of clients in CEE remain unexplored. Thus, for the purposes of this special issue and conference, we encourage particularly the participation of academics from different disciplines with an interest in the topics of consulting, management, or internationalisation and a special focus on CEE. We would welcome empirical as well as theoretical contributions dealing with issues such as (the list is not exhaustive):

- The role of Western or 'global' management consultancies in different phases of CEE transformation and their impact on different issues, such as economic regulation and policies, privatisation, and industry and/or company restructuring.
- Internationalisation strategies of (small and/or large) Western consulting firms targeting the CEE: market entry, market penetration, client structure and major consulting issues.
- Relevance and characteristics of West–East consultancy partnerships: are they mutually supportive or unilaterally exploitative?
- Local CEE consulting markets and profiles/strategies of domestic consulting firms.
- Characteristics of the client–consultant interaction in CEE countries.
- Evidence and explanations for divergent developments in consulting and management learning in specific CEE countries.
- Substantiated analyses of opportunities and risks, as well as successes and failures of West European consultants in CEE markets.
- Alternatives or functional equivalents to external and commercial consulting in CEE (e.g. the development of in-house consulting units).
- Strategies and organisational measures that CEE clients could adopt for dealing with consultants (e.g. purchasing, managing, evaluating consultancies).

Submission process:

- 1. Extended abstract (500 words) must be submitted by 1st August 2008 to consulting@tu-chemnitz.de
- 2. Authors will be informed about the acceptance of their paper until 15th August 2008
- 3. Full papers (first draft) must be submitted to consulting@tu-chemnitz.de by **31st October 2008**.
- 4. Submitted papers must be accompanied by a cover letter stating that the author permits the publication of his or her paper, if accepted, either in part or in its entirety in the Journal for East European Management Studies (JEEMS). The letter should also state that the paper submitted to the special issue of JEEMS has not been previously published either in part or in its entirety.
- 5. Papers that pass successfully the double-blind review process will be accepted for publication in the JEEMS special issue. Selected papers which have not been accepted for the special issue will be included in the conference transcript. The paper must conform to the author guidelines of JEEMS (please see ‘Guidelines for Authors’: <http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/wirtschaft/bwl5/jeems/guide.htm>).

Registration:

Please send your Registration for the Conference until **October 24** to consulting@tu-chemnitz.de

Conference fee: 135 Euro (free for authors)

Contact:

Michael Faust, michael.faust@sofi.uni-goettingen.de

Annett Schmidt, annett.schmidt@wirtschaft.tu-chemnitz.de

Webpage: www.obie-beratungsforschung.de/InternationalConference

Call for Papers
International Conference
Energy Challenges in Northern Europe
27 – 29 November 2008
Turku, Finland

The conference will bring together leading professionals in the area of politics and economy to discuss the future energy challenges in Northern Europe. The aim of the conference is to bring new perspectives to the European Union's energy dialogue and to offer first-hand knowledge on the developments in the energy relationship between the EU and Russia.

Conference speakers:

Olli Rehn (Commissioner for Enlargement), Jyri Häkämies (Minister of Defence, Finland), Henrik Lax (MEP, Finland), Seppo Remes (RAO UES of Russia), Sebastian Sass (Nord Stream AG), Johnny Åkerholm (NIB), Mark L. Entin, (European Studies Institute, MGIMO University, Russia), Fyodor Lukyanov (Editor-in-Chief, Russia in Global Affairs).

For further information and registration:

www.tse.fi/pei or contact peiconference@tse.fi (Ms. Kirsi Ahlman, tel. +358 2 4814 588).

This multidisciplinary conference invites both theoretical and empirical papers that may contribute to a broader understanding of the energy trade and politics in Northern Europe.

Deadline for abstract submission: **13 June 2008.**

Economic Monitoring: Baltic Rim Economies 2/2008

The most recent issue of the Baltic Rim Economies was published on April 30, and it consists of economic monitoring on the Baltic States, Poland and the Baltic Russia. In addition to economic analyses, the review includes several high-level expert articles for instance by Ján Figel', Tarja Cronberg and Maciej Nowicki.

All the reviews are published in an electronic form and are freely available at www.tse.fi/pei.

You may also subscribe free of charge to the BRE mailing list at the website.

Contact information:

Valtteri Kaartemo

Senior Research Associate

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Turku School of Economics Rehtorinpellonkatu 3, 20500 Turku, FINLAND

tel. +358 (0)2 4814 562

www.tse.fi/pei

**Call for Papers****34th EIBA Annual Conference****International Business and the Catching up Economics:
Challenges and Opportunities****11 – 13 December 2008****Tallinn, Estonia**

The conference aims to facilitate research and scientific discussion on a wide variety of changes that are taking place in catching up economies (in Europe and elsewhere) and their consequences for international business. Empirical, theoretical and methodological papers on all other aspects of international business - for example, human resource management, marketing, knowledge management, finance and accounting - are also welcome. The authors should submit their papers through <http://frontpage.cbs.dk/eiba2008> and follow the guidelines of the International Business Review http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/133/authorinstructions.

Crucial dates:**July 15:** the deadline for the submission of full papers and panel proposals;**August 1:** the deadline for assigning the papers to reviewers;**September 1:** the deadline for submitting reviews and thesis proposals;**September 15:** the notification of the acceptance/rejection of papers and panel proposals;**October 15:** the deadline for the final submission of accepted papers and for the payment of the reduced conference fee.

Fees:

The member (465 EUR before Oct. 15th and 490 EUR after that) and student fees (250 and 290 EUR, respectively) cover EIBA (the European International Business Academy; <http://www.eiba-online.org>) membership for one year and include subscription to International Business Review, conference participation, lunches and dinners mentioned in the program, tea/coffee during breaks and a CD-ROM with full papers. The fee for accompanying persons (250 and 290 EUR, respectively) covers conference dinners.

Conference venue:

The Olümpia Conference Centre <http://www.revalhotels.com/en/Hotels/Estonia-Tallinn/Reval-Hotel-Olympia> is within walking distance of the Old Town (<http://www.tourism.tallinn.ee/eng>).

Accommodation:

The conference fee does not include accommodation. The organizers have already provided a list of hotels within the walking distance from the conference site (<http://eiba2008.ttu.ee/?id=10500>).

For a more detailed call for papers, click at <http://eiba2008.ttu.ee/public/EIBACall.pdf> and for a conference brochure, at http://eiba2008.ttu.ee/public/EIBA_konverents_voldik.pdf.

Questions or feedback regarding the EIBA 2008 program and organization of the conference should be addressed to eiba2008@tv.ttu.ee and questions regarding the submission and review process to eiba2008@mtk.ut.ee.

The system for submitting papers and signing up as a reviewer is already functioning! The people who do not plan to attend the conference are also very welcome to sign up as reviewers. All potential reviewers (including those who also plan to submit their papers) should sign up at the link <http://frontpage.cbs.dk/eiba2008/signup.php> and later log in at the link <http://frontpage.cbs.dk/eiba2008/reviewer>.

Call for Papers

Baltic Journal of Management

Special Issue

National and Organisational Cultures: Their Interaction in the Baltic Region

Deadline: 7 July 2008

In the course of the last two decades the Baltic States have experienced momentous economic, political, and social transformations: from command to market economy, from externally imposed dictatorship to independence and democracy, from inclusion in the Soviet socioeconomic system to integration into the European Union. After initial precipitous economic decline, the Baltic region has more recently experienced substantial economic growth, and has been increasingly affected by the worldwide trends toward modernization and globalization. What has been the impact of these developments on the composite of values, policies and practices of Baltic corporations, private businesses, and public institutions that is commonly subsumed within the concept of organizational culture? What are the distinctive characteristics of organizational cultures, if any, within the three Baltic States and how do they interact with those of the more inclusive national cultures of the three countries? In what ways are they similar to or different from the organizational cultures of other nations in Europe and elsewhere? These are some of the questions that authors are invited to address in submitting papers for this Special Issue. A wide range of approaches and methods is welcomed. Comparative, cross-national, and interdisciplinary perspectives are strongly encouraged, and submissions are solicited both from within and outside the Baltic States.

Topics for the Special Issue include, but are not limited to:

- Decision making within organizations
- Concentration vs. dispersion of authority
- Structure and configuration of organizations
- Values and their reflection in management practices
- Change and constancy, especially during periods of rapid transformation
- Strategic planning vs. improvisation
- Leadership philosophies, practices, and styles
- Management-employee relations
- Customer relations
- Public relations and image management
- Relationship to national culture

- Relationship to dimensions of cultures
- Conflict management and resolution
- Integration vs. alienation
- Pessimistic vs. optimistic expectations

All papers submitted will be peer-reviewed and accepted papers will be published in a special edition of the *BJM*. Papers should be electronically submitted to the Baltic Journal of Management by **July 7, 2008**, with a cover letter indicating that the paper is intended for the special edition. Details about preparing and submitting papers are available at Baltic Journal of Management website: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/bjm.htm>.

Please submit the papers to:

Jurga Duobiene
ISM University of Management and Economics
E.Ozeskienes str. 18
44254 LT Kaunas
Lithuania
bjm@ism.lt

Submission guidelines:

Submissions should be between 4,000 – 6,000 words and formatted in accordance with requirements for BJM, please visit <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/bjm.htm>.



Call for Papers

Journal of Organizational Change Management

Special Issue

**Movement of Transition 20 Years on: Identities,
Ideologies, Imaginary Institutions**

Deadline: 1 September 2008

The demise of the bureaucratic Soviet type state socialism and the transition to (or rather reinstitution of) the free market in Central and Eastern Europe has been one of the most pivotal and challenging societal events of the past two decades. Drastic social transformations, set in motion by the disintegrating Soviet model (and its variants) have succeeded in firmly establishing a ‘liberalist

fantasy' (De Cock/Böhm, 2007) as the dominant narrative in contemporary public discourse. Reflecting the *Zeitgeist*, market rhetoric of 'freedom' and 'choice' has been unanimously embraced as an antidote to the alleged inefficiency and irresponsiveness of state bureaucracies in East and West. Presented as a superior form of social organization, the 'free market' has captured the minds of its allies and foes alike, becoming elevated to the status of the new master signifier (Fotaki, 2008).

In this special issue we would like to explore the ideologies embedded in prevailing discourses of transition – or what Buck-Morss (2002) calls (qua Walter Benjamin) 'dreamworlds'. That is, we wish to question the individual and social processes of ideology and imagination extant within the institutional arrangements of both East and West. For us, the transition to a free market society is bound up with a host of dream-like imaginations of social and economic progress (which were also found on the imaginary horizon of the Soviet system). In this sense, what we see is not a transition toward real freedom or democracy, but simply a transition from one socio-economic dreamworld to another.

The Call:

With such an ambitious scope our Call is open to a variety of theoretical and empirical contributions. However we wish the contributions to this special issue to extend beyond either micro-political analyses or the presentation of case studies confined to national or sectoral contexts. This aim of this Call is to reflect critically on the different histories and identities of transition, problematize the direction of change and its seeming inevitability, and establish possibilities for alternative articulations. We particularly invite conceptual work that questions the utilitarian premises running through the grand narratives and dreamworlds of state socialism and market liberalism. Empirically, we welcome studies that interrogate identities of transition on a variety of levels – personal, institutional and societal – and discuss networks of power and resistance running through identities and subjectivities in a variety of contexts. We emphasize the need to go beyond the variations of Foucauldian 'micro-political' studies of organization and identity that have been so popular in our field in recent times. For us, identities in a transition context can never just involve micro-political settings within limited boundaries of organizations, firms and institutions. Rather, we wish to make sense of wider change processes, involving identities that are bound up with individual as well as social and collective imaginations and desires.

Hence, we would like to invite contributions that problematize, re-think and re-define movements of transition, particularly addressing:

- The historical epoch of social transformation from what was known as ‘real existing socialism’ to today’s (post-)transition market economies – examining and evaluating the identities and ‘dreamworlds’ bound up with this change process;
- Theoretical papers presenting counterintuitive and provocative analyses and ideas of transition using a range of frameworks (e.g. feminist, post-colonial, neo-Gramscian, post-Marxist, post/Foucauldian, post-structuralist, psychoanalytic and other novel approaches);
- Empirical analyses examining and evaluating the human, social, cultural and economic costs involved in transition, focussing particularly on the processes of identity formation and reformation.
- Significance of social and organizational transformations in light of foreclosed and recreated opportunities for radical movements of transition;
- The roles of, and the relationships between, the state, economy and civil society in organizing societal transitions and change processes, focusing particularly on the role of organizations (e.g. NGOs, charities, affinity groups, direct action groups, media organizations) and counter cultural discourses by various groups (women, minorities, ethnic groups and immigrants) in facilitating hegemonic as well as counter-hegemonic transitions;
- The modes of organization in what can be regarded as transitions toward alternative ‘dreamworlds’.

Submissions:

Extended abstracts of up to **1,500** words (excluding references) outlining approaches, methods and contributions to the theme should be submitted to Marianna.Fotaki@mbs.ac.uk before **September 1, 2008**. If accepted, you will be notified within a month.

More Information:

<http://info.emeraldinsight.com/authors/writing/calls.htm?id=256>