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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI URBINO  
CARLO BO

DESP  
DIPARTIMENTO DI  
ECONOMIA, SOCIETÀ, POLITICA



## THE IMP FORUM in JBIM

and

## DESP – Department of Economics, Society and Politics of the University of Urbino Carlo Bo

Invite you to participate in the

## IMP Forum Seminar June 6-7, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

we have the pleasure to invite you to the **IMP FORUM SEMINAR** hosted by the Department of Economics, Society and Politics (DESP) at **University of Urbino**. The seminar will start at noon on **June 6<sup>th</sup>** and will end at lunch on **June 7<sup>th</sup> 2024**.

There is no fee for the seminar. Coffee breaks and light lunches will be provided. Participants have to cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Further information about Hotels, venue and transportation will be provided.

The aim of the seminar is to discuss papers on empirical research and/or related conceptual and methodological issues; concerning exchange, interaction and networks. The papers will be discussed in one general and one special track. The special track topic is *“Business Networks in a Disruptive Landscape”* but we also welcome papers on any aspect of the general phenomenon of the interactive business world.

The ambition with the seminar is twofold: to share and confront ideas among the participants (authors/reviewers) but also to enhance the quality of the review process and thus of the final papers that will be published in *THE IMP FORUM in JBIM*. Please keep in mind that the IMP Forum seminar is meant to be a complementary platform to the IMP Conference which means you are free to bring to the seminar works presented or to be presented at the annual IMP Conference.

### **Important principles of the IMP FORUM SEMINAR:**

- *It is the paper that is in focus and the key issue is how to develop the quality of the paper.* Every author will, during a session of 45 minutes dedicated to the paper, get comments from experienced IMP researchers and hand-on suggestions for how to develop the paper.
- Every paper submitted will be attributed two reviewers. *The first reviewer has a central role for each session. The first reviewer starts the session, presents the paper and the review.* The second reviewer continues before the floor is opened for the author and the other participants (hence, the author does not present the paper).
- *Every participant (author)* will be reviewer on at least one paper and there are two reviewers to each paper. But we expect all participants to read all the papers in their track to make the discussions productive.

### **Deadlines and schedule for the IMP Forum Seminar:**

- **1st February 2024** – submission of extended abstract on the general or special track (maximum 2 pages);
- **8th February 2024** – confirmation of abstract acceptance;
- **13rd May 2024** – submission of papers;
- **27th May 2024** – review deadline (every participant will be asked to review and be discussant of 1-2 papers);
- **6th-7th June 2024** – IMP Forum Seminar.

Following the seminar all authors will receive the two written reviews and will be asked to revise the paper according to reviewers' comments before submitting the paper to IMP Forum in JBIM (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jbim>).

**In order to take part in the seminar, please send the abstract to the following e-mail address:**

[roberta.bocconcelli@uniurb.it](mailto:roberta.bocconcelli@uniurb.it)

**Welcome to send in abstracts to THE IMP FORUM Seminar, in Urbino 2024!**

Best Wishes,

*IMP Forum Seminar Organizing Team*

Roberta Bocconcelli, Alessandro Pagano, Serena Galvani and Elisa Carloni

# **THE IMP FORUM in JBIM**

## **Call for papers to the special track on**

### *Business Networks in a Disruptive Landscape*

Diverse forces are acting at different levels in the current business environment.

Pervasive technological change is challenging the business world in terms of both opportunities and risks; AI, IoT, machine learning, robotics, open to unexplored - and still largely unknown - possible futures. Climate change, and sustainability issues at large, urgently call for a reaction at the business and policy level, as natural resources scarcity, energy supply and natural disasters have permanently changed the horizon in which companies take action. The political and geopolitical “equilibrium” is strongly compromised, as many conflicts and wars in different parts of the world are questioning the stability of relationships between Eastern and Western / Northern and Southern economies. This emerging political uncertainty is combined with the urgency and impact of migration flows and these phenomena are shaping new scenarios.

With respect to only a few years ago, these forces appear now more interconnected and concurrent in their effects on the business world. Put differently, they seem to converge to generate an unprecedented and irreversible disruptive landscape, which is causing deep transformations in business networks.

In the very near past, researchers in business networks and business relationships have paid attention to the turbulence in business environments and on companies' resilience as the main issue characterizing business networks evolution (Bondeli & Havenvind, 2022). In the same vein, various contributions have focused on relationship (Runfola *et al.*, 2023) and supply chain resilience (Bygballe *et al.*, 2023), on capability development (O'Toole & McGrath, 2023; Qiu *et al.*, 2022), on the sustainability issue as the main driver of change and innovation in business networks (Harrison *et al.*, 2023).

We claim that the IMP perspective can strongly contribute in making some steps forward in gaining a better understanding of business networks and business relationships (re)-configurations in face of the reality of a disruptive landscape, where equilibrium in “ecosystems” is strongly affected. At the same time, changes and uncertainty in the business environment represent an opportunity to assess and revise IMP frameworks and concepts (Waluszewski *et al.*, 2019; Prenkert *et al.*, 2022).

Resources - both tangible and intangible - are stressed with new emerging configurations, and the lack of resources profoundly challenges the combining and recombining processes (Tunisini *et al.*, 2023). At the actor level “non business” actors – such as governments, institutions, universities, non-government organisations - assume new roles in the business

world (Carloni, 2022). New digital actors appear - i.e. digital platforms (Chen *et al.*, 2022) and also individuals are increasingly taking a key playing role in business relationships (Pagano *et al.*, 2018). Activities are redesigned in the light of new configurations of local and global relationships (Baraldi *et al.*, 2018) and new “geographies” of production emerge (Pedroletti & Barbieri, 2023). Digital technologies create new opportunities - as well as risks - in activity links with effects, for example, on manufacturing processes and logistics (Ardolino *et al.*, 2022).

We welcome papers combining multiple perspectives and that address theoretical, managerial and policy issues. This call for paper, among others, is focused on investigating the following aspects:

- The exploration of the meaning of “disruption” according to the IMP perspective on business networks and interaction processes;
- The evolution and adaptation of business networks affected by disruptive processes, with a focus on specific dimensions and perspectives (innovation networks, formal networks, global/local networks, non-business/business actors);
- New emerging resource reconfigurations providing insights over resource-related IMP frameworks and concepts;
- The role of place and space in disruptive change processes shaping business networks;
- The evolving redesign of supply networks in terms of adaptation to the disruptive landscape;
- The emergence of startup-driven business networks as a response to disruptive processes;
- The role of digitalization and sustainability in adaptation and reconfiguration processes;
- The “social” dimension of innovation and change in business networks affected by disruptive changes.

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