

**Call for Papers**  
**Special Issue on**  
***“Multinationals, Sustainability and Social Change”***  
**in the**  
**International Journal of Business Environment**

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**Guest Editors:**

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Recent years have seen growing recognition that multinational corporations (MNCs) are resourceful actors that can play a crucial role for sustainable development and social change (Salciuviene et al. 2009). However, while these roles are widely recognised, relevant theories and debates have often remained unconnected.

A key aim of this special issue is to explore the theoretical intersections around the complexities of MNCs, sustainability and social change. Diverse theoretical perspectives implicitly or explicitly address the role MNCs play in sustainable development and social change, such as (i) the growing literature on sustainability transitions (e.g., Geels 2011; Loorbach & Wijsman 2013), (ii) network theories (Webb et al. 2010, Ritvala et al. 2014), (iii) institutional change and the role of MNCs in institutional voids (e.g., Mair and Martí 2009, Pinkse and Kolk 2010, Tracey and Phillips 2011), (iv) more traditional international business perspectives (e.g., Shane & Venkataraman 2000, Birkinshaw et al. 2005, Freeman et al. 2010, Khanna & Palepu 2010, Ellis 2011, Jones 2011), and (v) complexity theory (de Lange et al. 2015). However, these theoretical approaches are primarily discussed in separate streams of literature.

Additionally, in the relatively young academic field of corporate sustainability, many theoretical concepts on possible contributions of MNCs to sustainable development have not yet sufficiently been tested empirically. This special issue therefore aims to provide a platform for linking previously unconnected streams of literature on the (positive and negative) contributions of MNCs to sustainable development and social change, as well as to discuss the relevant theoretical concepts based on new empirical insights. It will explore the manifold roles of MNCs in the institutional, environmental and social domain. Exploring this multidimensionality calls for a use of different theories, research perspectives (e.g., critical and mainstream) and methods (conceptual and empirical).

The issue will carry revised and substantially extended versions of selected papers presented at the “Multinationals and Entrepreneurship” subtheme of EGOS 2016, but we also strongly encourage researchers unable to participate in the conference to submit articles for this call.

We invite contributions that empirically and/or theoretically address the theme of the special issue. Exemplary topics are displayed in the following non-conclusive list:

- MNCs and sustainable development
  - When and how does multinationality enable (or prevent) the sustainable evolution of corporations, corporate sectors and national standards?
  - Interaction of MNCs with local and national proponents of social and sustainable development
  - Stakeholder theory perspectives on MNCs and sustainability
  - The role of MNCs in shaping discourses on sustainability issues
  - The role of MNCs in transferring and diffusing sustainability practices across countries (e.g., GRI)
  - MNCs as social and sustainable entrepreneurs
  - New actor constellations and interaction patterns between MNCs and other sustainable/social entre-/intrapreneurs
  - MNCs as drivers, facilitators or obstacles of sustainable and social entre-/intrapreneurship and of sustainable development.
- MNCs and institutional/social entrepreneurship
  - When and how do MNCs act as institutional/social entrepreneurs?
  - The role of institutional embeddedness, diversity (e.g., kind of market economies) and contradiction for the ability and motivation of MNCs to transform or protect institutions
  - MNCs as drivers, facilitators or obstacles of institutional change, social transition and development in emerging markets
  - The role of MNCs in major institutional change projects such as TTIP

## Submission

Deadline for manuscript submissions: **1 September 2016**

Manuscripts should be submitted online at:

[http://www.inderscience.com/info/inauthors/author\\_submit.php](http://www.inderscience.com/info/inauthors/author_submit.php).

*The Special Issue is connected to the “Multinationals and Entrepreneurship”-Track of the EGOS conference 2016 in Naples (Deadline for the submission of Abstracts: 11 January 2016). For more information on the EGOS-conference, please visit: [http://www.egosnet.org/2016\\_naples](http://www.egosnet.org/2016_naples). Participation in the conference is not required for submission.*

*International Journal of Business Environment* is an international, peer-reviewed journal, which addresses managerial issues in the social, political, economic, competitive, and technological environments of business. The journal is indexed in numerous search-engines and ranked in many international journal rankings such as the German VHB-Ranking.



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## Contact

For further information on the Special Issue, please contact the guest editors or visit

<http://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/cfp.php?id=3151>.

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