

8th ENEF Meeting

“Strategy and Economics of the firm”

Strasbourg 7th & 8th September 2011

Following successful previous ENEF meetings organized in Sheffield, Rotterdam, Nice-Sophia Antipolis, Cambridge, Paris and Amsterdam, we are pleased to announce the 8th ENEF meeting to be held at the University of Strasbourg – France.

Proposals for presentations on the economics of the firm in general and especially on this year's theme – Economics of the Firm and the Economics of Strategy – are invited.

Scholars' attempts to link the economic study of the firm and firm strategy have been numerous and recurrent through time. A famous example is the conference and book by Rumelt, Schendel and Teece on “fundamental issues in strategy: a research agenda for the 1990s” where the authors raised a series of key issues. This discussion gave birth to new research agendas and called for additional relevant theory-based analyses of the firm and organisational behaviour.

Twenty years later, most of those questions remain burning issues and continue to provoke enlightening research and passionate debates, for at least two main reasons: the research objects have changed and the tools and theories of economics have also evolved, thereby offering constant new materials for debate by crossing the advances of economic theory and the changing nature of firms. Indeed, the research focus of scholars in economics and applied management remains firms, consumers and institutions interacting with one another through market and non market relations. But those objects have evolved. With the appearance of firms organised in networks (in a broad sense), around communities, serving globalized markets under everyday stakeholders' control, the behaviours of many actors, organisations and institutions face new challenges.

The tools and theories we work with, and we work on, have also evolved. All the disciplines of economic analysis faced recent changes in their respective analytical frameworks and explanatory power. Industrial economics, evolutionary economics, financial economics, behavioural economics, economic geography, entrepreneurial economics, institutional economics and others, all of them can provide stimulating contributions to the understanding of firms and their strategic management.

The general philosophy of the workshop is precisely to present modern ideas which borrow from economic principles and other disciplines in order to advance the understanding of problems faced by the strategic field and more precisely by the analysis of the firm as an institution.

The proposals should tackle one of the numerous (recent and more traditional) questions raised by the economics of the firm. The workshop will favour dialogue between empirical investigations, theoretical modelling and more policy oriented contributions. These topics include, but are not limited by:

- *Boundaries of the firm.* What should the firm do, how large should it be, and which business should it be in (or out)? Contributions could be on the link between size, location and activity (trying to investigate the logics underlying the behaviours of some small firms which succeed in simultaneously handling heterogeneous activities in different places, whereas some larger firms choose rather to become fables ones), could analyse open innovation practices which considerably redefine boundaries and incentives mechanisms, could investigate the development of spin-off and entrepreneurship as a consequence of the outsourcing strategy of big conglomerates, etc
- *Competitive advantage and survival.* What should be the basis of the firm competitive advantage, and how should it adjust over time? Contributions could deal with the ways firms try and develop their agility, how they build dynamical capabilities to remain competitive through time, how they implement ambidextrous management, how they survive and develop on turbulent markets (emerging and/or collapsing ones), etc.
- *Internal organization.* How should the firm delineate its structure and organize its systems internally? What kind of governance should be implemented in the 21st century? Possible proposals could be on the impact of the internet market for ideas, competences and crowdsourcing practices on the internal structure of organisations and on power and motivation within firms, on the new agency problems faced by new (sometimes ad hoc) organisational forms, etc.

Submission

The proposal submitted should be a detailed abstract of 1000 words. Communication proposals must be sent to: ENEF2011@unistra.fr

Timeline:

- May, 1st Deadline for submission of proposals
- June, 1st Notifications of Review Program Committee Decisions
- Final papers to be delivered by end July 2011
- September 8 & 9th Workshop in Strasbourg

Keynote speakers:

Yves DOZ, INSEAD

Tim FOLTA, Purdue University

Local organizers:

Julien PÉNIN, Caroline HUSSLER, Thierry BURGER-HELMCHEN

ENEF coordinator: Michael Dietrich, University of Sheffield

To learn more about the 8th ENEF Workshop in Strasbourg, submission process and practical details please go to:

<http://cournot.u-strasbg.fr/users/ENEF/>

or

<http://www.enef.group.shef.ac.uk/>

