Editor's Note

In Memoriam: Maria G. Karagiannis, MD

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It is with great pleasure that I announce the launch of the *Journal of the Knowledge Economy (JKEC)* in March 2010 as a forum and intellectual “podium” for current issues pertaining to all aspects of knowledge-driven economies and societies.

The *Journal of the Knowledge Economy* is the first journal devoted to the knowledge-based economy, highlighting the role of knowledge creation, diffusion and application across the spectrum of organizations, industries, nations and regions. The journal will incorporate insights from the fields of economics, management, law, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and political science to shed new light on the evolving role of knowledge and its implications, including how innovation can be leveraged to provide solutions to complex problems and issues, such as global crises in environmental sustainability and economic development. Articles will emphasize empirical studies, balancing practice and application with theory and concepts.

The *JKEC* is a companion and complementary publication to the Springer Book Series on *Innovation, Technology, and Knowledge Management* that was launched in March 2008, for which I also serve as Editor-in-Chief. Together, the journal and book series offer a broad platform for exploring the dynamics of knowledge, innovation, and development. Of particular note is the structure of the journal as a partnership among an internationally-oriented university (GWU School of Business), a non-profit organization focusing on research, education and innovation studies (NIFU STEP), and a global scientific publisher (Springer), and with an editorial board comprised of academics, industry leaders, and policymakers. This partnership reflects the spirit of the journal—that is, in forging connections and collaborations across organizations to channel knowledge into economic growth and opportunity.

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The journal is designed to showcase provocative views that diverge from the current “conventional wisdom,” that are properly grounded in theory and practice, and that consider the concepts of *robust competitiveness*,¹ *sustainable entrepreneurship*,² and *democratic capitalism*,³ central to its philosophy and objectives. More specifically, the aim of the *JKEC* is to highlight emerging research and practice at the dynamic intersection of these fields, where individuals, organizations, industries, regions, and nations are harnessing creativity and invention to achieve and sustain growth.

The *JKEC* will include both regular submissions and Special Issues that will be thematically focused on particular topics. Articles published in the *JKEC* may explore the impact of innovation at the “macro” (economies, markets), “meso” (industries, firms), and “micro” levels (teams, individuals).

Who is this journal published for?—The *JKEC* addresses a diversity of authors and audiences:

1. *Academic communities*: Academic communities worldwide represent a core community. This follows from the theoretical/conceptual interest of the book series to influence academic discourses in the fields of knowledge, also carried by the claim of a certain saturation of academia with the current concepts and the postulate of a window of opportunity for new or at least additional concepts. Thus it represents a key challenge for the journal to exercise a certain impact on discourses in academia. In principle, all academic communities that are interested in knowledge (knowledge and innovation) may be covered. The interdisciplinary (trans-disciplinary) nature of the journal underscores that its scope is not limited *a priori* to a specific basket of disciplines. From a radical viewpoint, one could create the hypothesis that there is no discipline where knowledge is of no importance.
2. *Decision makers—private/academic entrepreneurs and public (governmental, sub-governmental) actors*: Two different groups of decision makers are being addressed simultaneously: (1) private entrepreneurs (firms, commercial firms, academic firms) and academic entrepreneurs (universities), interested in optimizing knowledge management and in developing heterogeneously composed knowledge-based research networks; and (2) public (governmental, sub-governmental) actors that are interested in optimizing and further-developing their

¹ We define *sustainable entrepreneurship* as the creation of viable, profitable and scalable firms. Such firms engender the formation of self-replicating and mutually enhancing innovation networks and knowledge clusters (innovation ecosystems), leading toward robust competitiveness (EG Carayannis, *International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development*, v. 1, n. 3, 2009).

² We understand *robust competitiveness* to be a state of economic being and becoming that avails systematic and defensible “unfair advantages” to the entities that are part of the economy. Such competitiveness is built on mutually complementary and reinforcing low-, medium- and high-technology and public and private sector entities (government agencies, private firms, universities and nongovernmental organizations) (EG Carayannis, *International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development*, v. 1, n. 3, 2009).

³ The concepts of *robust competitiveness* and *sustainable entrepreneurship* are pillars of a regime that we call “*democratic capitalism*” (as opposed to “popular or casino capitalism”), in which real opportunities for education and economic prosperity are available to all, especially—but not only—younger people. These are the direct derivative of a collection of top-down policies as well as bottom-up initiatives (including strong R&D policies and funding, but going beyond these to include the development of innovation networks and knowledge clusters across regions and sectors) (EG Carayannis and A. Kaloudis, *Japan Economic Currents*, January 2009).

- policies and policy strategies that target knowledge and innovation. One purpose of public *knowledge and innovation policy* is to enhance the performance and competitiveness of advanced economies.
3. *Decision makers in general*: Decision makers are systematically being supplied with crucial information, for how to optimize knowledge-referring and knowledge-enhancing decision-making. The nature of this “crucial information” is conceptual as well as empirical (case study-based). Empirical information highlights practical examples and points toward practical solutions (perhaps remedies), conceptual information offers the advantage of further-driving and further-carrying tools of understanding. Different groups of addressed decision makers could be: decision makers at private firms and multinational corporations, responsible for the knowledge portfolio of companies; knowledge and knowledge management consultants; globalization experts, focusing on the internationalization of R&D, S&T and innovation; experts in university/business research networks; and political scientists, economists, business professionals.
 4. *Interested global readership*: Finally, the journal addresses a whole global readership, composed of members who are generally interested in knowledge and innovation. The global readership could partially coincide with the communities, as being described above (“academic communities,” “decision makers”), but could also refer to other constituencies and groups.

My thanks for their support and dedication go to the Springer team and especially Nick Philipson, the par excellence “agent provocateur” of creative scholarship combined with an entrepreneurial publishing mindset—without his support and dedication this project would not have come to life. In addition, I wish to thank NIFU STEP for their visionary approach to research, education and innovation matters as well as their financial support.

My Associate Editor-in-Chief, Aris Kaloudis, represents a prime such example of NIFU STEP’s philosophy-in-practice and I am truly grateful for his support and partnership in this effort.