

Announcement and call for papers:

Path-breaking innovation. Understanding, managing and providing support for continuous radical change in science and innovation.

Early Career Research Conference

Milan - Lake Como, Italy, 27-29 June 2012

Path-breaking scientific achievements and innovations are considered the real engine of sustainable economic development and the way out from the current economic crisis. Despite their importance, there has been so far considerably little understanding of the process behind path-breaking advances, both at the level of the single individual and at the level of groups and organizations. Although the emergence of path-breaking achievements are often the result of serendipitous processes and non deliberate choices, a mix of environmental, institutional and organizational factors are known to make these events more or less likely to happen. For example, the availability of funding and grants affects the level and kind of R&D investments, institutional and social norms affect the willingness of risk-taking, collaboration and team composition can favor or constrain creative behavior, etc. There is a compelling need of scholarly research to analyze the factors that can effectively prompt path-breaking scientific and technical advancement and manage the transition from the old to the new regimes, in both realms of academe and industry.

Among the topics worthy of exploration are, by way of example:

- opportunity recognition and development of path-breaking initiatives;
- risk-taking, funding, career and entrepreneurial behavior in research;
- new firm creation and disruptive change;
- users' path-breaking innovations;
- path-breaking research to fulfill social, ethical and environmental needs;
- creativity and cognition in scientific and technological problem-solving;
- organizing research: recruiting, staffing and managing labs for path-breaking research;
- scientific collaboration, interdisciplinarity and mobility;
- small-science and big-science projects and their impact on technological change;
- social norms, social structures and organizations favoring or discouraging risk-taking and creativity;
- evaluation and funding of path-breaking initiatives in science and technology;
- all other topics concerning research, innovation and science having implications on our understanding of path-breaking scientific achievements and technological change.

Approaches that aim at adopting and integrating insights from management, economics, political sciences, cognitive sciences, psychology, sociology, as well as applications of suitable computing and artificial intelligence techniques are particularly encouraged.

Audience: This is going to be a small, focused conference, with extensive in-depth discussion of each contribution. The conference is aimed at a selected group of scholars (25-35 participants). Participation from early career scholars, such as post-docs and assistant professors having completed their PhD less than 5 years ago is particularly encouraged. In case of limited availability, priority will be given to scholars having completed their PhD less than three ago. PhD candidates at the final stage of their

dissertation are also encouraged to attend. The conference also aims at providing the locus of debate for scholars, policy makers and practitioners in matters of path-breaking achievements and innovations.

Invited speakers: Ajay Agrawal (TBC), Gerry George, Sadao Nagaoka (TBC), Paula Stephan, John Walsh (TBC).

Sponsors: Eu-SPRI Forum <http://www.euspri-forum.eu>; Regione Piemonte (GlobSci – Politecnico di Torino), Politecnico di Milano

Local organizing Committee: Massimo G. Colombo, Chiara Franzoni, Cristina Rossi Lamastra

Important deadlines:

February 24, 2012	Deadline for submitting full papers or extended abstract (3000 words)
April 2, 2012	Notification of acceptance
May 2, 2012	Confirmation (payment of conference fee)
May 25, 2012	Deadline for final papers submission
June 27-29, 2012	Conference

Submissions: by email to chiara.franzoni@polimi.it

Conference venue: Two alternative locations of PoliMi campuses are being considered: Milan, [Bovisa Campus](#) and [Lake Como Campus](#). Both can be reached via local transportation from downtown Milan and can be reached through the Malpensa airport.

Conference fees: Delegates invited to present a paper will be subject to the following registration fees (including reception, brow-bag lunches and conference dinner):

- EuSPRI members (1 delegate per paper)..... (fee waived)
- Non-EuSPRI members..... 190€
- Accompanying person to conference dinner of June 4..... 50€

Accommodation at special discount rates: EuSPRI members can require accommodation at university residences (single bedrooms), in which case costs are fully covered by EuSPRI. Priority is given to participants having completed their PhD less than 3 years ago.

Non EuSPRI members can demand to be accommodated at university residences (single bedrooms) in downtown Milan at the special rate of 50€ per night (subject to availability). Availability of university residency at Lake Como is also envisaged and will be communicated in due time.