



# R&D2022 MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

INNOVATION FOR PEOPLE AND TERRITORIES

**TRENTO - JULY 9-13**

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Please consider submitting to the:

## Track 1.1 Industry, cluster and ecosystem emergence

Track Chairs:

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**Submission Deadline: 28/02/2022**

Submission Link: <https://www.conftool.com/rdmanagement2022/>

**Important notes:** The track adopts an open and developmental approach. The track chairs will consider full papers, short papers, extended abstract, or research ideas, as long as they present a reasonable fit with the track theme and sufficient research quality. There are no specific formatting or length requirements for the submissions.

Interested authors will have the possibility to be considered for a Special Issue that the track chairs may host in [R&D Management](#). (ISSN:1467-9310 ABS 3; Impact factor: 4.272)

## Industry, cluster and ecosystem emergence

Industries are traditionally defined as a group of organizations producing and commercializing products or services that are close substitutes (Gort and Klepper 1982, Porter 1990). An industrial cluster is a particular type of industry where production and commercialization activities are geographically concentrated (Marshall 1890, Krugman 1991). The emergence of industries and clusters has represented a source of innovation and welfare for societies, has reshaped consumption habits, and characterized significant evolution in the history of humankind. Yet they have also posed new policy and managerial challenges, created negative externalities for the environment, and disrupted markets populated by formerly flourishing incumbents. While scholars have extensively tackled drivers and effects of industry and cluster emergence, recent changes on a global scale have pushed scholars to re-consider what we know on industries and clusters.

**We posit that the new unit of analysis we should adopt for this re-consideration is interdependence.** While in the past centuries we could study systems – industries, clusters, products, knowledge, organizations, economies- in relative isolation, freezing the rest of the world in the “ceteris paribus” assumption, the new century wiped away any possibility of using a “monadic” approach to understanding real phenomena. From 9/11 to the Arab Spring, from the dot.com bubble to the 2008 and 2011 crises, up to the current pandemic, the evidence of widespread and deep interdependence pushed researchers to adopt a wider spectrum in conceiving their investigations, accounting even more than before for partnerships, network, relations, thus expanding their lens to broader ecosystems of market and non-market actors: ecosystems (Adner & Kapoor, 2010; Jacobides, Cennamo, and Gawer, 2018). Understanding the growing complexity that binds together the success and failure of various interrelated organizations requires a new outlook on ecosystems such as industry, clusters.

This track is meant to take stock on the developments of the scholarly conversation, gathering researchers whose attention for interdependencies is key to their methodology, and whose interest is in grasping how industries, clusters and other ecosystems emerge, thrive and develop. Specifically, we are aiming this call to those who study - in any field and with any approach - **ecosystem emergence, especially industry and clusters**, i.e., the moments in which a first core of actors establish the first partnerships, the first relations, the first network structure that gathers the pieces of the nascent ecosystem together. Questions considered relevant for this track include:

- What is the effect of **co-location** for industries and ecosystems? Or, in more empirical terms, what distinguishes clusters and industrial districts from global value chains and ecosystems born around digital platforms?
- What are the **processes and mechanisms** through which industries, clusters and other ecosystems emerge? What favors or inhibits their emergence?
- How are **environmental-sustainability**-based ecosystems different from **social-impact**-based ecosystems?
- How does pursuing **grand challenges** impact the structure of the clusters, industries and other ecosystems such as cross-sector partnerships created to tackle them?

- What is the role of **Industry 4.0 technologies** in shaping industries, clusters and other ecosystems?
- Has the **pandemic** decreased the relevance of interdependencies (also referred to as “the end of Globalization” or “the disruption of Global value chains”)?
- Is it possible (and useful) to map industries, clusters and other ecosystems into a **taxonomy** able to flash out their salient characteristics?
- What sectors are more conducive of generating internally **coherent industries**, clusters and other ecosystems? On the basis of which elements?
- What **network** structure is supportive of well-functioning industries, clusters and other ecosystems?
- What **governance** mechanisms are more successful in supporting industries, clusters and other ecosystem growth and attainment of the shared goal?
- What is the role of the concept of **modularity** in industry, cluster and other ecosystem research?
- What are the effects of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on the emergence of industries, clusters and other ecosystems?

Particular attention will be given to industries, clusters and other ecosystems born around the need -and not only the opportunity- to bring very diverse actors to the same table to collaborate. Cross-sector partnerships (Clarke and Crane, 2018; Austin and Seitanidi, 2014), or global value chains, are just examples of this, but more in general ecosystems relating for-profit and non-profit actors, public and private organizations, industrial and academic institutions and any other form of ‘hybrid’ partnership supported (and challenged) by multiple logics (Ashraf et al., 2017) are under the umbrella we would like to span with this workshop.

We welcome both conceptual and empirical studies, and we are open to any type of methodology.

For more information, please contact one of the track co-chairs.

## References

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