Call for Papers for a Special Issue

Replication in Strategic Management
Submission Deadline: October 1, 2014

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Overview
Reproducibility of results lies at the core of modern science. It is vital to building a cumulative body of thought that is reliable. Yet journals relevant to strategic management do not publish replication studies. Recently, the need for replication has become much more apparent as published replications have overturned key results in drug therapy and clinical practice within medical science. Even double blind experimental studies, the gold standard for establishing causal relationships have been questioned. In fact, the need for replication is deeply embedded in the probabilistic logic of estimating statistical significance. Within strategic management, there is potential for data snooping, which can result in exaggerated significance levels. This is exacerbated by the common practice in management research of publishing only supporting results (i.e., significant coefficients). Furthermore, without replication, phenomenon-based empirical regularities, or stylized facts as they are often called, cannot be developed and studied. Such empirical regularities have been and are important in the development of strategic management theory (e.g., learning curves, diversification patterns/performance, conditions favoring joint ventures).

Types of Replications We Seek to Publish
We seek to publish replications of central or important results within strategic management. In this regard, potential submitters should think of findings that anchor important topical areas of strategic management, are widely referenced, or have produced controversial results. Replicated studies will generally have been published in a journal publishing empirical studies relevant to strategic management. Replications we seek can either confirm or disconfirm a result. What is important is that they bring additional information to bear on the issue at hand. Submitted papers should generally be concerned with one or more of the following:

1. Properties of the particular sample used for replication:
   a. Papers with demonstrably better measures for important parameters.
   b. Papers with substantially larger and/or different samples than the study being replicated.
   c. Papers with samples for a different context (e.g., industry, country, or time period) than the study being replicated.
2. Model specification, constructs and estimation:
   a. Papers with substantially improved model specification.
   b. Papers with more powerful or appropriate methods than the original paper.
   c. Papers that demonstrate if results hold for substantive sub-samples of those used in previous samples.

3. Mixed results in published findings:
   Papers that help bring 'order' to areas of study where findings across studies have been mixed. This might reflect how mixed results are not equivocal once one accounts for sample, specification, and measurement of key constructs. (We do not seek meta analyses. We seek replications of previous work.)

Details of Paper Content and Length
Because of the nature of replications, reference can be made to the original study and other relevant studies without repeating a substantial amount of information appearing in the original(s). We can start from the published study; therefore the literature review and references should be much briefer than other studies. For this reason, submitted papers should be no longer than 30 pages, excluding the title page and abstract page. Shorter papers are encouraged as appropriate. Papers should clearly state the nature of the replication relative to the study or studies being replicated. If the results provide confirming evidence, then the paper should attempt to calibrate effect sizes across studies – confirming a result allows us to advance knowledge by refining our understanding of the organizational significance of the result. If the results are substantially different than existing work, the submission should discuss potential reasons for the differences and any resulting implications for theory and scholarship moving forward.

Due Date for Submissions
Publication of the special issue is tentatively planned for some time in 2016. Original submissions are due by October 1, 2014 and must be submitted using the SMJ Submission process at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/smj. Earlier submissions are encouraged. Authors should indicate that they would like submission to be considered for the special issue “Replication in Strategic Management.” Authors of papers invited to be revised and resubmitted will be expected to work within a tight timeframe to meet the special issue’s publication deadline.

Further Information
For questions regarding the content of this special issue, please contact the guest editors:
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- For questions about submitting to the special issue contact the SMJ Managing Editor, Lois Gast: lgast@wiley.com or visit http://smj.strategicmanagement.net