

Abstract for the conference: Advancing the Study of Innovation and Globalization in Organizations (ASIGO)

A new framework for new industrial innovation practices.

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Abstract

Topics: globalization of R&D and open innovation

Keywords: R&D, globalization, open innovation, proximity

Our paper focuses on the practices of innovation in organisations and on the way actors deal with them. As research and development (R&D) becomes more and more globalized, industrial actors face challenges that have been studied only partially in academic literature. Indeed, scholars working on the globalization of R&D have mostly considered the issue of localisation while those working on innovation processes have focused essentially on the complexity of the process of innovating itself. Due to this split, existing data are not comparable as they do encompass elements linked either to the innovation process or to the globalization.

We argue that both approaches and thus data should be considered together. Therefore, we suggest a new framework focused on proximities (Boshma 2005) which enables scholars to integrate heterogeneous data. We test this framework in the mark of a two-year focus group organized with the active support of EIRMA (European Industrial Research Management Association). This focus group brings together R&D managers of European medium size companies who test and discuss hypothesis from the literature. We check our findings re-analysing through our new framework the qualitative and quantitative observations derived from an OECD worldwide study on “Open innovation in Global Networks”.

This new framework can be used as a tool in the construction of a European infrastructure of innovation as it allows to re-read existing data with a new perspective.