**SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPER FROM THE**

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OPERATIONS AND PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT**

***SUPPLY CHAIN GOVERNANCE IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION***

**Guest Editors**

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**Background**

It is widely acknowledged that information technologies support information and process integration across the supply chain. As such, it is not surprising that the recent emergence of new, ICT-based technologies in the context of the so called “Digital Transformation” – a phenomenon also labelled as “Fourth Industrial Revolution” or “Industry 4.0” – is attracting enormous interest both in practice and research communities. Yet, a clear understanding of the impact of Digital Transformation on governance from a supply chain perspective is still lacking, since the large majority of research has been focusing on describing this new phenomenon, its diffusion, and its technological implications.

Accordingly, the objective of this special issue is to stimulate, and collect, highly impactful research contributions that investigate the relation between Digital Transformation and governance of inter-organizational relationships in supply chains. The broad and heterogeneous range of applications related to the Digital Transformation is enabled by a set of base technologies that provide the essential functionalities, such as extended interconnectivity, access to shared computing resources, advanced data processing, etc. Particularly, Internet of Things (IoT) and cyber-physical systems allow the virtualization of physical systems and permit their real-time control and rapid readjustment. Cloud computing and other networking technologies support a device’s functionalities through resources it can access from remote. Advanced analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence are key to the Digital Transformation, since the functions they provide – e.g., cost- and time-effective elaboration of big data, and ability to adapt to unforeseen conditions – result in distinctive features such as predictive capabilities and autonomous, increasingly effective decision-making. Finally, new physical-digital manufacturing technologies (e.g., additive manufacturing, advanced robotics) represent innovative production modes owning high potential in terms of output uniqueness, flexibility, and process productivity.

The Digital Transformation is expected to have a significant impact on inter-organisational governance for two main reasons. Its technologies lead to profound transformation of the firm’s processes (including manufacturing processes), the structure of the firm’s ecosystem, and even the firm’s business model (e.g., fast response to customer’s needs, detected by sensors installed on the product). Changes in the firm’s internal and external environment will necessarily lead to a modification in the way it interacts with business partners in the supply chain. Further, changes in the governance mechanisms of the buyer-supplier interaction will be likely driven by the modification and advancements in those technologies that specifically enable/support the buyer-supplier interaction itself, such as: blockchain, machine learning (ML) for automated decision-making (applied to the supply chain relationship), collaborative digital platforms, etc.

These technological advancements, have the potential to influence – and even radically change – all types of collaborative practices. They can profoundly affect the nature and management of contracts, thus modifying the “formal” mechanisms of relationship management. They also allow for more extensive direct relationship management (i.e., centralized control, another type of transactional approach to governance). On the other hand, they enable superior coordination as well as new forms of collaboration, even at different tiers of the supply chain.

**Topics of interest**

This special issue pioneers research on how and why Digital Transformation influences governance of inter-organizational relationships in supply chains. We expect it to contribute to knowledge generation primarily with respect to the following issues:

1. Impact on supply chain collaboration and integration
2. Evolution of different types of governance mechanisms
3. Impact of Digital Transformation on the role of trust in buyer-supplier relationships
4. Impact on relationship governance in the multi-tier supply chain
5. Impact of Digital Transformation on governance of international relationships
6. Size matters? Impact of Digital Transformation on power balance and governance practices in the relationships between large corporations and SMEs
7. Efficiency of self-executing governance systems
8. Strategic sustainability objectives implications
9. Implications of Digital Transformation on supply chain finance/cashflow
10. Improved systems of for accounting and costing, including TCO

**Submissions and review process**

Submission must be made via Manuscript Central [https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijopm](https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ijopm%20) with clear selection indicating that the submission is for this Special Issue. Submitted papers have to comply with the normal author guidelines of the International Journal of Operations and Production Management, which can be found at <http://emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/author_guidelines.htm?id=ijopm>

Papers submitted to the Special Issue will be subjected to normal thorough double-blind review process.

**Manuscript to be submitted to the guest editors by: 30/06/2020[[1]](#footnote-1)\***

**First review outcome by: 31/08/2020**

**Revised manuscript to be submitted to the guest editors by: 31/10/2020**

**Second review outcome by: 15/11/2020**

**Second revised manuscript to be submitted to the guest editors by: 15/12/2020**

**Final decision outcome by: 31/12/2020**

Accepted papers will be online around 30 days after acceptance.

**Further information:** A special track on Supply Chain Governance in the Digital Age will be co-chaired by Prof. Lisa Ellram and Paolo Barbieri at the POMS 31st Annual Conference (April 23-27, Minneapolis MN, USA). A more detailed version of the call will be available at <http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/ijopm.htm>

1. \* Early submissions are accepted. Articles received earlier will be reviewed as they come in with a 2-3 month turnaround expected. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)