



Call for Paper and Conference Announcement:

Higher Education in modern Ecosystems: Efficiency, Society and Policies

March 12-14, 2018

The University of Augsburg in Germany invites you to a cutting-edge conference on the *Higher Education in modern Ecosystems: Efficiency, Society and Policies*.

Keynote Speakers

- Tommaso Agasisti, Politecnico Milano (Italy)
- Stefano Paleari, University of Bergamo (Italy)
- Berthold U. Wigger, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)

Aims and Scope

Extant literature has identified Higher Education institutions as key agents in creating and promoting modern Ecosystems by providing scarce resources like highly skilled workforce, basic research, technology and knowledge spillovers. In other words, Higher Education institutions contribute to society and economy through all of their missions – education, research and “third mission”, because they are producers of knowledge that is (i) embodied in university graduates, (ii) codified in scientific publications as well as (iii) translated to technology and applied innovations contributing to economic growth and competitiveness.

Indeed, policy makers are interested in social and economic benefits of Higher Education interaction with the Ecosystem and they are addressing policies accordingly. Thus, we observe an intense debate on the impact of exogenous shocks and reforming activities on future-oriented policies for Higher Education systems as all of those functions are crucial in knowledge societies. The common goal of those policy initiatives is to improve Higher Education systems and its technological and socio-economic impact in a progressive society directly or indirectly targeting differing levels: university efficiency and governance, innovation and entrepreneurship, or university output and performance. However, systematic evaluations of the impact those initiatives have and had on universities and Ecosystems are scarce.

The academic rationale of the Conference and the connected Special Issue lies in the relationship of university teaching, research and technological innovation with efficiency, performance and entrepreneurship. In this context, Higher Education institutions, and in specific universities, are seen as a catalyst for progress and change. The Conference participants benefit by scientific discussions and their contributions to a reflexive and critical understanding of modern Ecosystem as a whole, through analyses and assessments that are of interest for the activity of governments, policy-makers, Higher Education managers, stakeholders, and civil societies in general.

Main research topics

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following areas:

- Technological innovation and entrepreneurial activities in Higher Education institutions
- The role of Governance and Leadership in Higher Education institutions
- The socio-economic impact of Higher Education institutions on the local Ecosystem
- Efficiency in Higher Education
- Comparative and international studies on the impact of Higher Education institutions

We invite theoretical and empirical studies taking different methodological approaches from a variety of disciplines to explore the different dimensions impacting Higher Education and modern ecosystems. We also welcome conceptual papers that explore the theme of this conference.

The conference will provide you with an opportunity to share your research, get feedback, network and establish new contacts. Conference participants will also have the opportunity for their work to be considered for post conference academic publications in a Special Issue.

Submission Deadline

Those wishing to present a paper that fits with the conference theme should submit an expanded abstract (3-5 single-spaced pages) or full paper latest by **January 10, 2018**. (Registration will be open soon)

Conference website for further information

<http://www.wiwi.uni-augsburg.de/bwl/lehmann/hee/conference/> (Registration will be open soon)

We look forward to welcoming you to Augsburg and to your contribution!

Conference Organizing Committee

- Erik E. Lehmann, University of Augsburg (Germany)
- Michele Meoli, University of Bergamo (Italy)
- Stefano Paleari, University of Bergamo (Italy)
- Sarah A. E. Stockinger, University of Augsburg (Germany)

Further Questions Contact

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