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Special issue call for papers: 'Green innovation' – connecting governance, practices and outcomes

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Introducing the Special Issue

'It is only by being specific about which aspects of governance tend to constrain rather than enable sustainable changes that we can better communicate what needs to change, and what the solutions should be, in ways that are tangible to elite and wider audiences.' (Kuzemko et al., 2016: 104).

This Special Issue builds on the core themes and outcomes of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) seminar series, 'Green Innovation: Making it Work' (2015-17), which was co-organised by Nottingham Trent University and The Open University. During the planning stages, we adopted the deliberately broad and populist term 'green innovation' (Schiederig et al., 2012), to signal our intention to create a forum for the interchange of ideas and research findings between academics from different disciplines and institutions, and sustainability practitioners. Over the course of six seminars we examined many types of pro-environmental innovation, with a particular focus on the factors that constrain and facilitate their practical application. One of our key aims was to promote a deeper understanding of the institutional and infrastructural changes required in order to achieve the transition to a more sustainable, low carbon economy. One of the main themes to emerge from contributors to the series has been the importance of making *connections* between institutional *governance* (including rules and regulations), the *practices* of actors within a particular domain (including incumbents and new entrants), and the *outcomes* achieved in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability (Foxon and Pearson, 2008; Geels et al., 2016; Kuzemko et al., 2016).

Building on these contributions, we are keen to showcase rigorous interdisciplinary research that draws on relevant explanatory frameworks and concepts (e.g. institutional theory, socio-technical transitions, dynamic capabilities, inclusive innovation), to examine these connections in greater detail.

In order to reflect its focus on practical application, papers submitted to this Special Issue should incorporate some empirical research, such as case-based evidence of various kinds (e.g. expert interviews, analysis of

secondary data). We hope to feature a range of social and/or technological innovations that promote more environmentally sustainable outcomes. Studies can be located in both developed and developing economies. In the spirit of the seminar series we would particularly encourage practitioner-researcher collaborations, given their capacity to combine rich contextual insights with critical, theory-based analysis. Furthermore, while the seminar series and the Special Issue have a shared interest in examining the preconditions for successful innovation, we also recognise that it is important to avoid overly-reductive ‘hero stories’ that do not also acknowledge complexities and setbacks, or indicate where there is scope for further learning (Wilson, 2012).

Research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Emerging business models (Boons and Lüdeke-Freund, 2013) and strategies that have an explicit aim of fostering pro-environmental innovation, both within and across different industry sectors.
- Cross-sector collaborative green innovation initiatives (e.g. Smart Cities) that attempt to address socio-technical, political and regulatory obstacles at a national, regional or international scale.
- Innovations associated with the energy sector, including various aspects of both energy supply (e.g. biofuels, tidal barrages, storage) and energy demand (e.g. eco-renovation).
- Innovations associated with sustainable mobility in the widest sense, including technology-based innovations (e.g. low emission vehicles) and social innovations designed to promote behaviour change (e.g. home-working).
- Comparisons between different types of innovation and their relative impact in achieving sustainability goals (e.g. ‘top-down’ and ‘bottom-up’; incremental and radical; sustaining and disruptive).
- Comparisons between innovations operating at different spatial scales (e.g. city/local, regional, national, international and global).
- In-depth examination of the experiences of key actors engaged in green innovations, including policy-makers, technical specialists, entrepreneurs and consumers.
- Analysis of the efforts to introduce green innovations ‘against the grain’ (e.g. in the face of economic instability, political retrenchment, socio-cultural resistance).

Research articles should be in the region of **6,000 - 8,000 words**, including tables and references. In addition to these articles, we will be selecting one teaching case study (with questions) of no more than 5,000 words (e.g. Smith, 2016), and approximately three book reviews (up to 750 words) related to the special issue theme. It is essential that submitted manuscripts follow SAGE style guidelines and that bibliographies are both complete and in the specified format. Please check the submission guidelines on the journal’s home page before submitting your paper as any incorrectly formatted manuscripts will be returned to the authors:

<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/international-journal-of-entrepreneurship-and-innovation/journal202559>

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Timetable

February 2017	CfP issued – initial editor questions / comments on draft abstracts
31 May 2017	Final deadline for full papers
August 2017	Reviews completed and authors notified of decision
1 November 2017	Final deadline for revised papers
February 2018	Special Issue published

About the Journal

The International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (IJEI) is an international peer reviewed journal, published quarterly by SAGE, which provides a worldwide forum for the exploration and dissemination of ideas and experience relating to the development and application of entrepreneurship. The journal takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on the highest-quality work in business and management and in the social sciences.

Guest editorial team

Richard Blundel is a Senior Lecturer in Enterprise Development in the Department of Public Leadership and Social Enterprise at The Open University. He has a particular interest in the links between entrepreneurial activity, innovation and environmental sustainability. A common theme in Richard's work is an examination of the nature and consequences of growth in different organisational contexts, including small artisanal food producers, manufacturing businesses and social enterprises. He has published in journals such as *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, *Enterprise & Society*, *Industry & Innovation*, *The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *Prometheus: Critical Studies in Innovation*, and the *Journal of Small Business Management*. Richard is an Honorary Fellow at the ESRC Centre for Understanding Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP), University of Surrey, and is currently leading an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account project with the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, exploring SME owner and manager perspectives on sustainable growth. Other recent projects include the ESRC Seminar Series: 'Green Innovation: Making it Work' (2015-17) and a new edition of the textbook, *Exploring Entrepreneurship* (Sage, 2017), co-authored with Nigel Lockett and Catherine Wang.

David Smith is Professor of Innovation Management in Nottingham Business School at Nottingham Trent University. His specialist field is innovation and his current research interests include: innovation offshoring, technology strategy and technological entrepreneurship as well as various aspects of green or environmental innovation. He is the author of the market leading text, '*Exploring Innovation*' now in its third edition, and has published in a range of innovation journals including: *R&D Management*, *Technology Analysis and Strategic Management*, *Technovation*, *Local Economy*, *Prometheus* and the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management*. David has been actively involved in supervising research students for many years including two sponsored by the ESRC under its CASE PhD Studentship scheme, and has supervised some 28 PhDs through to successful completion. Recent projects include a Leverhulme funded project entitled: Artisanal Knowledge, Specialty Production and Innovation in the Brass Musical Instruments Sector. Other recent projects include the ESRC Seminar Series: 'Green Innovation: Making it Work' (2015-17).

Rob Ackrill is Professor of European Economics and Policy at Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Trent University. He has wide ranging research interests, but most of his work has the common theme of the dynamics and drivers of public policies. His research addresses EU policies, including the Common Agricultural Policy, with recent research focusing on the concept of the Europeanisation of domestic policies, in a multilevel governance setting. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Common Market Studies*. He is co-author (with Professor Adrian Kay, Australian National University), of "The Growth of Biofuels in the 21st Century: policy drivers and market challenges" (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and recently co-guest edited a Special Issue of the *Journal of Sustainable Mobility*, on CSR in the International Shipping Industry. His current projects include the ESRC Seminar Series "Green Innovation: Making it Work" (2015-17); and (with Dr Hafez Abdo, Nottingham Business School) an analysis of the policy drivers and barriers to the uptake of anaerobic digestion on farms in the East Midlands, supported by the British Academy and Leverhulme Trust.

Anja Schaefer is a Senior Lecturer in Management and Head of the Department of Public Leadership and Social Enterprise at the Open University. Her research interests centre on sustainable business and the social and environmental responsibilities of enterprises. Her past and current research has focused on environmental strategy and management in utility companies, the role of industry associations and government in fostering corporate responsibility and environmental engagement of small and medium sized enterprises. She also has an interest in sustainable and ethical consumption. She is a member of the editorial review boards of *Business Strategy and the Environment* and of the *Journal of Business Ethics*. She has published articles on environmental management, business ethics and corporate social responsibility and has organised several one-day conferences and conference tracks on these topics.

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