CALL FOR PAPERS
Irish Journal of Management

Special Issue on Responsible Research in Management

Co-editors of the Special Issue

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Motivations
In 2017, the Community for Responsible Research in Business and Management, supported by EFMD, AACSB and PRME, produced a position paper entitled: “A Vision of Responsible Research in Business and Management: Striving for Credible and Useful Knowledge”. The paper (link below) has stimulated enthusiastic debate at many international academy conferences e.g., EURAM, CEEMAN, AIB, AoM. One of the key discussant points was how to activate the seven principles of responsible research developed in the White Paper (see below). This special issue is one tangible step in supporting this activation process and building responsible research in business and management.

Overview
This special issue of IJM calls for papers that demonstrate the scholarly output of responsible science in management. For the purpose of this call we define responsible science as ‘managerially relevant research producing credible and reliable knowledge that is either of direct or indirectly useful for addressing problems important to organisations and society’. Philosophical considerations in management research have typically concentrated on the nature of knowledge (ontology) and the means of accessing knowledge (epistemology), the necessary, but not sufficient conditions for socially responsible research. Our quest for research that is useful for stakeholders moves beyond the necessary conditions and ask scholars to make judgments of value (axiology) and ethics. In doing so we challenge researchers to reconsider ideals of value-free (Tsui, 2016) research and engage with discussions of usefulness using a transparent examination of the values at play rather than seek to minimise or ignore them. To achieve this goal, research should engage with its context. We particularly encourage research that demonstrates rich engagement with context as a means of producing useful knowledge, rather than seeing context as a pollutant of the research process (Galavan, et al 2015).

To help authors assess the suitability of their work we have included a description of the 7 principles of responsible research developed by the Community for Responsible Research in Business and Management (McKiernan, Tsui and the Community for Responsible Research, 2017). Each plays an important role in scoping the challenge for scholars of responsible research.

The Call
We are calling for management research papers that a) encourages good science and b) reduces the gap that has emerged between research and practice, with the highest regard for quality, as assessed in terms of reliability and relevance. Papers must address the two or more of the principles of responsible research identified in the white paper (see below).
This is research that:

1. Provides a service to society
2. Involves key stakeholders
3. Assesses social impact
4. Values both basic and applied research contributions
5. Embraces pluralism and multi-disciplinarity
6. Uses sound methodology
7. Disseminates broadly

The 7th principle of broad dissemination is supported specifically by the Irish Academy of Management who fund the Irish Journal of Management in a diamond open access model (neither author or reader pay). Additional means of dissemination are encouraged.

**Topics**
Research on any management subject that exemplifies the principles for responsible research.

**Important dates**
Submission period closes September 2018
First review notification November 2018
Revision submission February 2019
Publication 2019

**Review Process**
Editors will undertake a desk review.
Papers accepted by the editors will be double blind reviewed.
Papers requiring major revision after the second review may be rejected.

**Submission Instructions**
To ensure anonymous review, authors should not identify themselves in the text but should include a separate sheet with a short biography of 50-75 words. Also, this page should include a statement from the authors explaining which principles of responsible management that are met in the paper and how they are met (150-250 words).

No manuscripts submitted should have been published previously or be under concurrent consideration at another journal.

Please ensure that the first line on the first page of the submission states “Submission to Special Issue on Responsible Research in Management” All manuscripts should be submitted to the journal via Editorial Manager.

https://www.editorialmanager.com/ijom/default.aspx

Select “Special Issue” for Article Type.
Please see submission guidelines for full details

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**Links**
Call website https://www.iamireland.ie/journal/ijm-special-issue-on-responsible-research-in-management.html

Galavan, Robert J., Harrington, D., Kelliher, Felicity (2016) Reconsidering the rigor-relevance gap: the need for contextualised research in risk societies 35(2)

Tsui, Anne (2016) Reflections on the so-called value-free ideal: a call for responsible science in business schools. Cross Cultural and Strategic Management. 23(1)

Appendix: Seven Principles of Responsible Research in Business and Management

Principle 1—Service to Society: Business research aims to develop knowledge that benefits business and the broader society, locally and globally, for the ultimate purpose of creating a better world.

Implication: The aim of research is to systematize knowledge of best practices, past and current, and to shape the future by creating knowledge based on emerging scenarios. Innovative research can inform future practice. Business research serves a critical social function by observing the blind spots and potential downsides of the business world. Business education does not focus only on knowledge of the past, but also knowledge, skills, and values relevant to both managing in the current context and dealing with emerging changes.

Principle 2—Stakeholder Involvement: Business and management research values the involvement of different stakeholders who can play a critical role at various stages of the scientific process, without compromising the independence of inquiry.

Implication: The research ecosystem consists of many participants including the researchers as the producers of knowledge, journal editors, tenure and promotion committee members, school leadership, directors of Ph.D. programs, accreditation agencies, funding organizations, ranking publishers, and business leaders and students as beneficiaries of knowledge. The broader society also has a stake in business research. Business and management schools can benefit from “co-creation” of knowledge with all types of organizations (businesses, NGOs, trade unions, governments, industry associations, social enterprises, customers, and consumers.) However, academic integrity and independence require that research not be “captured” or reported findings influenced by vested interests.

Principle 3—Impact on Stakeholders: Business and management schools, funders, and accrediting agencies acknowledge and reward research that has an impact on diverse stakeholders, especially research that contributes to better business and a better world.

Implication: Business and management schools recognize that the publication itself is not the outcome or the end goal, but a step in the journey to scholarly and/or societal impact. Assessing influence may require multiple papers, dissemination of findings to non-academic circles, and tracking whether companies, communities or policy makers benefit from this program of research. Impact also includes the teaching of the findings from evidence-based responsible science in undergraduate, masters, doctoral, and executive education programs. Promotion and tenure requirements reflect this requirement to institutionalize research’s positive influence on society.

Principle 4—Valuing Both Basic and Applied Contributions: Business school deans, journal editors, funders, accrediting agencies, and other stakeholders respect and recognize contributions in both theoretical and applied research.

Implication: Theories are important to guide our collective understandings and to explain empirical patterns that defy common sense. Applied research aims to analyse management practices such as incentive systems and governance (economics, finance, management), consumer and firm behaviour (marketing, strategy), or customer service and supply chain (marketing, operations, information systems). Integrating theory- and practice-led problems in business research will both contribute to basic knowledge development and enhance its applied utility for stakeholders who support this research.
Principle 5—Valuing Plurality and Multidisciplinary Collaboration: Business school deans, senior leadership, journal editors, funders, and accreditation agencies value diversity in research themes, methods, forms of scholarship, types of inquiry, and interdisciplinary collaboration to reflect the plurality and complexity of business and societal problems.

Implication: Business and management research supports pluralism in its theories, grounded in different assumptions about human nature, multiple perspectives, and alternative models of business and its role in society. Rich in-depth ethnographic studies of corporate practices yielding reflective and imaginative thinking that contribute to new theorizing are as valuable as quantitative or experimental studies. In the global context, business and management research values both “global” and “local” knowledge development. Stakeholders value interdisciplinary research, both within business disciplines and across other social science disciplines as well as engineering, medicine, education, or humanities. Interdisciplinary research has the potential to provide new understandings of business due to complementarities between disparate disciplines.

Principle 6—Sound Methodology: Business research implements sound scientific methods and processes in both quantitative and qualitative or both theoretical and empirical domains.

Implication: The robustness of empirical work in business research takes into account emerging practices in good science. For example, research practices that value replication, falsification of theory, and reproducibility are encouraged. Journals and professional societies adopt open science practices such as data, materials, and code repositories, and transparency of sample construction and measures. Similar expectations apply to in-depth, ethnographic field studies and lab and field experiments. The expectation of data transparency might reduce the volume of studies generated, but could improve the quality and comprehensiveness of studies by discouraging data slicing and other questionable practices. Mathematical models are calibrated using real data and assumptions are ultimately validated using empirical evidence.

Principle 7—Broad Dissemination: Business and management schools value diverse forms of knowledge dissemination that collectively advance basic knowledge and practice.

Implication: The digitization of the global economy has suggested new forms of dissemination of research findings, including online, open source and open access publishing. Business schools have opportunities to improve the visibility of ongoing research through creative publishing and dissemination methods, as well as drawing insights in simple and powerful ways to influence the target audience and non-academic stakeholder communities. At the same time, we reaffirm the centrality of rigorous peer review of research for building and disseminating credible knowledge.