

CALL FOR PAPERS

CALIFORNIA MANAGEMENT REVIEW (CMR)

Special Section and Conference on **Entrepreneurship, the Internet, and Fraud: Managerial and Policy Implications**

Guest-Editors:

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The Special Section

Entrepreneurship markets have become integrated with the Internet and social networks in a number of ways that affect the structure, strategy and governance of how firms are started, grow, advertise, search for employees, internationalize, and optimize. The role of the Internet and social networks in modern entrepreneurship affects corporate governance in number ways, including but not limited to a shift in governance of firms from boards of directors to shareholders or backers. There are rapid information flows over the Internet through news media and social networks. Intermediaries make use of the Internet through multiple channels, such as but not limited to customer services, online accounts, web banners, and information dissemination. The Internet and social networks enable internationalization through a variety of marketing channels and increased the speed of communications and transactions, and decreasing their human and financial resource limitations. The Internet also provides new entrepreneurial opportunities in less developed countries, as well as rural regions in more developed countries and increase export performance even for small and medium sized companies. The Internet offers cost effective distance-learning technologies for future entrepreneurs/ founders and new innovative forms of knowledge transfer such as Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which results in e.g. increased fund-raising and increased community interaction. In short, entrepreneurial firms can adopt innovative e-commerce solutions to enhance reputation and market value.

At the same time, however, the Internet and social networks pose risks that are often underappreciated and understudied. These risks encompass include cybercrime and fraud, and encompass examples such as privacy infringement, espionage, hacking, and market manipulation through Internet forums. These risks are always external, but often stem from internal failures in governance and control and can arise through mistakes and/or disgruntled employees. The consequences for firms can be disastrous, including reduced fundraising, corporate financial performance, innovation, and corporate social performance. As the push towards 'big data' makes clear, the more information that is gathered about firms and their stakeholders makes these risks more and more pronounced over time. Further, the growing use of the Internet to facilitate and finance entrepreneurial activities around the world highlights the importance of understanding the growing fraud risks for firms and their stakeholders, and the managerial and policy implications for curtailing such risks.

This international conference and special section will provide a timely debate on entrepreneurship, the Internet, and fraud in theory and practice. Papers that make use of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of management, entrepreneurship, and fraud will be encouraged.

Topics

Some research questions that contributors to the conference might address are:

- Are Internet fraud risks more pronounced than other types of fraud risks?
- Does Bitcoin and/or other payment innovations exacerbate fraud risk?
- What types of internal and external governance mechanisms mitigate Internet fraud risk?
- Can regulation be designed to improve ethical standards with the flow of information over the Internet and mitigate fraud?
- What types of Internet fraud risks are more pronounced among high growth entrepreneurial firms?
- How do Internet fraud risks differ across countries?
- How do Internet fraud risks differ across funding contexts, such as microfinance, venture capital, private equity, crowdfunding, junior venture exchanges, and senior venture exchanges?
- What are the value implications of Internet fraud in terms of corporate financial performance, corporate social performance, and innovation?
- How do the intersections of “big data” and the Internet and social networks mitigate or exacerbate Internet fraud risks?
- Related research questions are welcome.

Next Steps

Interested contributors should submit preferably **full papers** (6,000 to 9,000 words), but **extended abstracts** (1,000 to 1,500 words) may also be considered if they show considerable promise **no later than January 15th, 2016**. Papers are submitted to the attention of Douglas Cumming (dcumming@schulich.yorku.ca), Sofia Johan (sjohan@schulich.yorku.ca) and Denis Schweizer (denis.schweizer@concordia.ca) with the subject heading: "CMR-Concordia-Schulich Conference on Entrepreneurship, the Internet, and Fraud: Managerial and Policy Implications" according to the following guidelines. The full paper as well as the extended abstract have to be formatted according to CMR guidelines (see <http://cmr.berkeley.edu/submit/requirements.html>). It should clearly state (1) the aim of the paper; (2) the particular innovation and/or entrepreneurial management issue addressed in your study; (3) theoretical grounding; (4) applied research methods and data gathering process (if applicable); and (5) the relevance of your work for practitioners, academic scholars, and CMR readership. You are also welcome to contact either one of the Guest Editors for further information.

Based on these drafts, the Guest Editors will select those that are most likely to result in first-rate, high-impact publications and these will be invited to a special developmental conference organized by the Guest Editors. To aid in the development of papers the authors will receive developmental feedbacks from the (Guest) Editors and invited discussants during a two-day conference, which will be held at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada on June 2-3, 2016. The conference will feature an evening reception on June 2 with the keynote speaker. **Conference paper presentations will be on May 26th and 27th, 2016 (tentative) at Concordia University, Montreal (Canada).**

Subsequent to the conference, authors will be invited to revise and resubmit their papers taking on (guest) editors and reviewers' comments and comments from the discussant and conference participants. Papers will be reviewed again externally, with final decisions made in this third and final stage. Authors will then be asked to **submit their revised version through the CMR portal by November 4th, 2016**, which will be peer reviewed. After the normal review process, we expect to publish the Special Section in 2017.