CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Section of Economia e Politica Industriale - Journal of Industrial and Business Economics

Giacomo Becattini, industrial economics, and local development

Guest Edited by:

Marco Bellandi, University of Florence, Italy
marco.bellandi@unifi.it
Joan Trullén, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Giacomo Becattini was one of the best-known Italian economists internationally thanks to his tireless and inspirational writings in industrial economics and development, regional studies and economic geography, in the extended meaning of the term. Unexplained by mainstream neo-classical economics, he sensed, as early as the 1960s, that a hidden strength was driving centers of industrial specialization made of many firms, both small and embedded in a fabric of socio-cultural local relations, within paths of light industrialization in Tuscany. He started to grasp that important contemporary phenomena of economic development and industrial organization were strictly related to the evolution of local societies and territories. Becattini found in Alfred Marshall's writings an approach that allows to understand industrial development as a place-based process: concepts such as industrial districts, industrial atmosphere and external economies inspired Becattini and gave him the intellectual tools to interpret the localized sources of development of the Italian industries. Cases and concepts of industrial districts intersected fruitfully since the 1980s with international streams of research that looked at flexible specialization and post-Fordism; innovative milieux and innovation poles; business clusters; new economic geography and regional innovation systems, social capital and human development. Many friends accompanied him in his intellectual journey. One of them was Sergio Vaccà, the founder of Economia e Politica Industriale. Becattini became involved in the journal in 1985, and maintained an active participation for the following two decades. He was interested in comparing his thinking with the approach of Vaccà on multinational companies. He was somewhat intrigued by the possibility that multinationals could favorably interact with industrial districts and small firms. This vibrant intellectual dialectic produced, over the years, important editorial campaigns hosted by the journal.

The special section of Economia e Politica Industriale - Journal of Industrial and Business Economics aims at both investigating these complex issues and stimulating/disseminating research on them, possibly also to practitioners and lawmakers. We especially welcome theoretical and empirical papers focusing on (but not limited to) the following topics related to Giacomo Becattini contributions, their development and diffusion, and particularly their possible value for present and future streams of research:
- Forms of industrial districts, local production systems, and external economies
- Industrial districts and large urban areas within regional and national systems
- Labour and entrepreneurship between local systems and global flows
- Industrial districts, medium sized companies, and multinationals
- The Italian models of specialization and the “district” effects
- Models of local development in areas of economic crisis, transition, take-off
- Integrated policies for local development, innovation, inclusion, resilience
- Marshall’s thought and neo-Marshallian approaches to industrial organization

**Key dates**

The deadline for submission of papers to the special section is June 30, 2017. Short research papers (up to 40,000 characters) are also welcome. The publication of the special section is expected as the last issue 2017 (on December 2017).

All submissions will be subject to the standard review process followed by *Economia e Politica Industriale - Journal of Industrial and Business Economics*. All manuscripts must be original, unpublished works that are not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere. All submissions should conform to the journal manuscript submission guidelines available at [http://www.springer.com/economics/industrial+organization/journal/40812](http://www.springer.com/economics/industrial+organization/journal/40812).