

# JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LOGISTICS

## CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL TOPIC FORUM

### Global Supply Chain Research

A recent editorial at JBL reminded us of Adam Smith's concept of absolute advantage to explain the rationale underlying global trade and ultimately the existence of global supply chains and production networks (Zinn and Goldsby, 2020). It took about two centuries after Adam Smith's theory until the term supply chain management was coined by Oliver and Webber (1982), consultants at the time, when they discovered that the average television traveled an average of 30,000 miles across the globe before arriving in European or American households. In fact most modern supply chains cut across national and cultural boundaries at some stage. Hence, the global nature of supply chains was omnipresent already when the term was established. Moreover, today's theory of the supply chain acknowledges that geographical dispersion as well as physical and cultural distances are core characteristics to be considered when managing global supply chains (Carter, Rogers and Choi, 2015).

The presence of global supply chains in conjunction with increased environmental uncertainty, stemming from structural complexity, dynamism, and munificence, introduces practical management challenges. Moreover, volatile international relations among countries or political & economic unions can influence a firm operations and their underlying supply network design through the interactions among trade policies and firms. For example, how can the risk be assessed and what measures are effective in ensuring the continuity of a global supply chain in a global crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic or in a trade war like the current one between the U.S. and China? What is the cost of counterfeiting and security breaches in global supply chains? Should firms be able to adjust supply chains flexibly during the times of increasing trade restrictions and political instability? How can local management teams of facilities connected in a global supply or production network overcome obstacles to integration and achieve coordination at the network level? These examples illustrate that traditional supply chain management practices may be ineffective due to the uncertainty affecting global supply chains.

This special topic forum (STF) aims to extend our knowledge base on global supply chain management. Items for contributions include – but are not restricted to – the following topics:

- Management of global supplier, production, and distribution networks
- Global supply chain integration
- Sustainability along global supply chains
- Global supply chain or network structures and competitive performance
- Global supply chain risk and security management
- The role of (national) culture in global supply chains
- Behavioral research on global supply chains
- Planning, management, and control across multi-tier stages of a global supply chain
- Drivers and implications of global supply chain structural changes such as reshoring, nearshoring, or geographical diversification decisions
- Managing supply chains during international expansion, for instance the internationalization of firms originally headquartered in emerging markets
- Effects of government policy on global supply chains

This STF seeks to solicit and publish research that is not only of interest to the academic readership but also to supply chain professionals. Consequently, research questions should seek answers to real-world problems and phenomena within the scope of global supply chains.

As guest editors of this STF, we seek high quality empirical, but also conceptual research that articulates and illuminates the critical features of global supply chains and addresses key aspects in their management process. In line with JBL's mission statement and the most recent editorial by the journal's incoming editors, authors must clearly identify how their research extends or contributes to theory relating to global supply chain management. In addition, we seek papers that examine boundary spanning SCM phenomena addressing interdisciplinary touchpoint such as information systems or consumer research (Richey Jr. and Davis-Sramek, 2020). Submitted papers need to be global – that means that the external validity goes beyond a single country studied. For example, a study on supply chains with the data from only one country or region (e.g., Germany) that has no external validity beyond German supply chains is considered too narrow in scope for this STF. Special consideration will be given to papers whose research domain crosses national and regional boundaries and seeks to extend, develop, and apply theory in such global contexts.

JBL is open to all methods as long as the method is well-suited to answer the research question(s) at hand and that the methodology is applied at the state-of-the-art. Empirical studies that employ survey or experimental methodologies, structured case or action research and secondary data analysis as well as other empirical approaches are welcomed. The submission deadline is May 31, 2021. Early submissions are welcome. Papers can be submitted via Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jbl>). Please indicate in your cover letter that your paper is being submitted to this STF. Papers submitted must follow the Journal of Business Logistics guidelines and will undergo a double-blind review. Should you have questions about the STF, please feel free to contact the guest editors: Kai Foerstl ([kai.foerstl@ebs.edu](mailto:kai.foerstl@ebs.edu)), Henrik Franke ([hfranke@ethz.ch](mailto:hfranke@ethz.ch)), and Sangho Chae ([S.Chae@tilburguniversity.edu](mailto:S.Chae@tilburguniversity.edu)).

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