

# JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LOGISTICS

## CALL FOR PAPERS: SPECIAL TOPIC FORUM

### Retail Industry Research

The retail industry's evolution continues to create new opportunities for innovation in retail supply-chain management and logistics (SCML). SCML is critical to the retail industry's management of a broad set of factors, including the ongoing expansion of e-commerce, the continuing development of omnichannel capabilities, and the recent shock of the pandemic. Moreover, advancing customer expectations and technological developments continue to create new prospects for, and demands upon, retail SCML practitioners. Such ongoing developments within the retail industry generate substantial opportunities for academics in SCML to conduct "research that examines more expansive SCML boundary-spanning processes and capabilities" (Richey Jr. and Davis-Sramek, 2020).

The special topic forum (STF) on retailing seeks to extend our knowledge about modern retail SCML. Potential contributions include, but are not restricted to, the following topics:

- How to build and manage excellent omnichannel supply chains
- Adapting supply chains for the race to same-day delivery
- Determining and operating omnichannel nodes
- Store layouts and processes for supporting omnichannel and same-day delivery
- In-store technology that supports SCML
- How SCML can enhance the in-store experience
- How SCML can support personalization
- Managing and tailoring complex assortments for channels or retail concepts
- Automation and digitization in planning and logistics
- Returns, packaging waste, sustainability, and omnichannel
- Risk management and omnichannel
- Supply-chain strategy and segmentation.

As guest editors of this STF, we seek high-quality empirical and conceptual research that addresses modern retail SCML. We encourage the innovative use of empirical and analytical approaches that yield new knowledge and frameworks for understanding the evolving retail industry. Moreover, we urge scholars to pursue partnerships with practitioners in order to develop relevant knowledge that supports managers in building excellent retail organizations. 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 retail SCML.

JBL is open to all methods as long as the method is well-suited to answer the research question(s) at hand and 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 August 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: Ken Boyer ([boyer.9@osu.edu](mailto:boyer.9@osu.edu)) and Nate Craig ([craig.186@osu.edu](mailto:craig.186@osu.edu)).