Announcement and Press Release

Industry Studies Association (ISA) Announces First Winners of Ralph Gomory Best Industry Studies Paper Award
May 11, 2017

The Industry Studies Association (ISA) is pleased to announce the winners of its 2016 Best Industry Studies Paper Award, selected from nominated journal articles published in calendar year 2016 in seven top academic journals. The Best Industry Studies Paper Award is newly named after Ralph Gomory, who as President of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation initiated and steadfastly supported the Industry Studies Program that helped launch so many academic careers and so many important research projects. It is one of several annual awards given out by ISA, which was created as an academic association to carry on the mission of encouraging excellent industry studies research. The award winners will be recognized on Friday, May 26th at the Awards Luncheon of ISA’s Annual Conference, held this year in Washington, D.C.

Participating journals this year, in a newly redesigned process, are (in alphabetical order): Industrial and Corporate Change (ICC), Industrial and Labor Relations Review (ILRR), Journal of International Business Studies (JIBS), Manufacturing and Service Operations Management (MSOM), Production and Operations Management (POM), Strategic Management Journal (SMJ), and Strategy Science (SS). Other top journals may join this set in future years.

Each journal designated someone from its editorial team to nominate up to three articles that were published during calendar year 2016 (based on the “in print” rather than “online” date). The selection committee (identified below) chose two winners (in a tie) and a “first runner-up” from a set of five Finalists.

Winning Article (tie): “Entry Timing and Innovation Strategy in Feature Phones” by Ronald Klingebiel (Frankfurt School of Finance and Management) and John Joseph (Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine), published in Strategic Management Journal (SMJ) and nominated, collectively, by SMJ Editors Constance Helfat (Tuck School, Dartmouth), Alfonso Gambardella (Bocconi), and Sendil Ethiraj (London Business School)

Winning Article (tie): “The Impact of Supplier Inventory Service Level on Retailer Demand” by Nathan Craig (Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University), Nicole DeHoratius (Booth School of Business, University of Chicago), and Ananth Raman (Harvard Business School), published in Manufacturing and Service Operations Management (MSOM) and nominated by MSOM Associate Editor Jeremie Gallien (London Business School)

First Runner-Up: “The Song Remains the Same? Technological Change and Positioning in the Recorded Music Industry” by Mary J. Benner and Joel Waldfogel (both Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota), published in Strategy Science (SS) and nominated by SS Editor Daniel Levinthal (Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania)
In addition to these three award winners, two other articles were Finalists:

Finalist: “Contesting Firm Boundaries: Institutions, Cost Structures, and the Politics of Externalization” by Virginia Doellgast (Cornell University), Katja Sarmiento-Mirwaldt (Brunel University, London), and Chaira Benassi (King’s College, London), published in Industrial and Labor Relations Review (ILRR) and nominated by ILRR Editor Rosemary Batt (Cornell University)

Finalist: “Exaptation Dynamics and Entrepreneurial Performance: Evidence from the Chinese Internet Video Industry” by Kenny Ching (University College, London), published in Industrial and Corporate Change (ICC) and nominated by ICC Editor Michael G. Jacobides

ISA provided a set of general criteria for nominating articles. Once the nominations were received, a selection committee of faculty was convened reflecting the range of disciplines and fields that are reflected in industry studies research. The selection committee devised a more fine-grained set of criteria to choose among the nominated articles.

The selection committee included these members (with primary fields and affiliation):

- John Paul MacDuffie — Strategy, HR and Industrial Relations; Production, Technology, and Innovation Management; Professor at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania (chair of this award committee and ISA founding board member)
- Víctor Martínez de Albéniz – Production, Technology, Operations Management; Professor at IESE Business School, University of Navarra, Barcelona, Spain
- Andrew von Nordenflycht — Strategy and Organization Theory; Associate Professor, Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada
- Bradley Staats — Operations and Service Management; Associate Professor, Kenan-Flagler Business School, Univ. North Carolina
- Tim Vogus — Organization Studies and Human Resources; Health Care Management; Associate Professor, Owen School of Management, Vanderbilt University

The ISA asked the editors of all participating journals to provide one page in a future issue of the journal for the winning authors to write a brief reflection on the backstory of their paper -- where the idea came from, how they engaged the industry context, and how that context affected their thinking and writing process. We are now working with the authors and journal editors to fulfill this pledge.

Through this new process for the Ralph Gomory Best Industry Studies Paper Award, we hope to educate journal readers about what excellent industry studies research is all about, while also encouraging more researchers to submit their industry studies research to those journals and sensitizing editors to the value of research that explores the industry context deeply. Excellent industry studies research builds relationships with practitioners to gain access to primary data, brings the contextual knowledge gathered in the field to bear on the formation of research questions and research design, and uses that knowledge to guide data analysis, interpretations, and conclusions. We congratulate this year’s winners, finalists, and journals on the publication of these excellent industry studies papers.