

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



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This issue of *AIB Insights* constitutes the fifth anniversary edition of the Peter J. Buckley and Mark Casson AIB Dissertation Award, a focused issue series that we started in 2013. This series has established itself as an invaluable conduit for the timely dissemination of the latest, state-of-the-art dissertation research in international business.

As in the four previous years, this special issue publishes the extended dissertation abstracts of this year's award-winning and award-nominated dissertations. For the second consecutive time in this annual series, we have asked our contributing authors to summarize their dissertation research in one "BIG" question and so capture their extensive and exceptional scholarly endeavors in a nutshell.

Award-winning dissertation:

"Three Essays on Corruption, Government Transparency and Foreign Direct Investment" by Neli Kouneva Loewenthal (Ph.D. awarded by George Washington University, USA)

BIG Question: "How does firm-specific technology disruptiveness affect the relationship between country-level corruption distance, host government transparency, and MNE's decision to expand in an emerging market?"

Award-nominated dissertations (in alphabetical order):

"Three Essays on the Influence of Political Connections on Firm International Expansion Strategy" by João Albino-Pimentel (Ph.D. awarded by HEC Paris, France)

BIG Question: "How do capabilities stemming from firms' non-market engagement influence their strategy and performance? Specifically, how do firm political connections impact international expansion strategy and performance?"

"Responses to Subpar Performance in Foreign Subsidiaries" by Vanessa C. Hasse (Ph.D. awarded by Western University, Canada)

BIG Question: "When foreign subsidiaries experience subpar performance, what responses can be observed (if any), how effective are these for recovery and survival, and what role does the timing of a response play?"

"Managing Complex Multinational Enterprises: Internal Network Structure and Expatriation Strategies" by Jong Min Lee (Ph.D. awarded by the University of Reading, United Kingdom)

BIG Question: "How do multinational enterprises configure crucial managerial resources such as expatriates across the portfolio of differentiated subsidiaries?"

"A Text Analytic Approach to Study Host Country Nationalist Sentiments and MNE Responses during National Conflicts" by Xiaocong Tian (Ph.D. awarded by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR-PRC)

BIG Question: "How can MNE subsidiaries use rhetorical strategies to mitigate the influence of host country nationalist sentiment during national conflicts?"

On behalf of the AIB community, we would like to thank this year's AIB Dissertation Award Committee for their invaluable and dedicated efforts, work, and commitment: Rebecca Piekkari (Aalto University, Finland), who served as chair, Sumit Kundu (Florida International University, USA), Shige Makino (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR-PRC), and David Reeb (National University of Singapore, Singapore).

On pages 22–23 in this issue, we also provide an overview of all previous winners of this prestigious award, starting with the award's founding year of 1968.

Congratulations to the 2017 AIB dissertation awardee and finalists for their significant accomplishments!

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