

# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Daniel Rottig, Ph.D.,  
Editor

With this issue of *AIB Insights*, we publish the 2018 edition of the Peter J. Buckley and Mark Casson AIB Dissertation Award, a focused issue series that is already in its sixth year. Since 2013, this series has become an invaluable conduit for the timely dissemination of the latest, state-of-the-art dissertation research in international business, and we are proud to continue the great momentum with this year's edition.

Each year, we publish the extended dissertation abstracts of the award-winning and award-nominated dissertations in international business. As in previous years, we have also asked our contributing authors to summarize their dissertation research in one "BIG" question in order to capture their extensive and exceptional scholarly endeavors in a brief and concise statement.

*Award-winning dissertation:*

"Firm's Economic Reliance to National Markets and the Corporate Provision of Public Goods: Evidence from Corporate Disaster Philanthropy" by Luis Ballesteros (Ph.D. awarded by The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, USA)

*BIG Question:* "What determines the engagement of business organizations in the provision of public goods, i.e., pro-social behavior, and what are the conditions and mechanisms of performance benefits associated with such behavior and those of an economic surplus for external stakeholders?"

*Award-nominated dissertations (in alphabetical order):*

"Country Familiarity: Three Essays on Entrepreneur Foreign Market Selection" by Daniel Clark (Ph.D. awarded by IE Business School, Spain)

*BIG Question:* "How do decision makers use their country familiarity when making foreign market selection decisions?"

"What Drives Tax Avoidance Strategies Adopted by US MNEs: Understanding the Heterogeneity of Approaches to Corporate Tax Planning in US Multinational Enterprises" by Maggie Cooper (Ph.D. awarded by the University of Reading, United Kingdom)

*BIG Question:* "What drives tax avoidance strategies adopted by US MNEs and why do they differ in their approaches?"

"Institutional Voids, Investment Purposes, and Foreign Subsidiaries of Multinational Enterprises" by Yamlaksira S. Getachew (Ph.D. awarded by Western University, Canada)

*BIG Question:* "How and when do institutional voids (the lack and/or absence of market-supporting institutions) have implications for the performance of foreign subsidiaries?"

"Essays on Nonmarket Strategy" by Jin Hyung Kim (D.B.A. awarded by Harvard Business School, USA)

*BIG Question:* "In light of the rising importance of nonmarket and political activities of firms, what are the drivers of these political behaviors and how do firms achieve positive economic outcomes through their nonmarket and political strategies in an international setting?"

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: Sumit Kundu (Florida International University, USA), who served as chair, Sumit Kundu, Shige Makino (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, SAR-PRC), David Reeb (National University of Singapore, Singapore), and Marcus Møller Larsen (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark).

On pages 24–25 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 2018 AIB dissertation awardee and finalists for their significant accomplishments!

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