…the AIB is undergoing change. In the 3rd Quarter Newsletter I tasked four presidential committees to give me (and the AIB Board and Secretariat) their best thinking on issues related to governance, ethics, our publications at AIB and our finances. What emerged was a series of recommendations and ideas that preoccupied the Board at our recent meeting in Miami. I’ll be commenting on these in a series of blog posts in more detail, but I wanted to give you an idea of what we’re thinking about, when I say we’re going through changes.

We’re thinking about adding another AIB publication. But, we’re not going to impose our thinking on you, the membership; instead, we’re going to ask you directly in a member survey what type of journal publication would add more value for you. Would you prefer another academic type journal, perhaps concentrating on education, or learning, or some other pedagogy? Or, might you prefer a more practitioner type journal, or even a case-based one?

We’ll soon have a committee on “digital media strategy” which will explore how AIB can take advantage of the many possibilities that new Internet and mobile technologies provide to incorporate rich digital media and interactivity into our world. Meanwhile we will work to migrate AIB’s various online systems to provide better support for our chapters and members online.

We will soon ask you to approve constitution and bylaws changes to expand the AIB Board composition. We think it is high time we had more “corporate memory” in our elected board members, and so the governance committee has recommended that we expand our board membership to include the following positions: President-elect, Past Program Chair, and up to two additional VP Administration positions. Thus we would move from about six positions now to a total of nine elected positions and our Secretariat ex-officio, non-voting. We think the expansion will tap into your resources and serve the membership well.

We’ll also be adding a Code of Ethics for the AIB leadership. Usually most professional associations have codes of ethics for their membership (which we will eventually add), but we think that this is a first of its kind, a code for leaders at all levels in the AIB: the Board, the Track Chairs, the Committees, the Chapters, the Fellows, the WAIB, and all others in leadership positions. This one has real teeth, and before we roll it out, we need to vet it with our lawyers to make sure we’re okay in that regard. We’re going to create a standing committee that will be totally independent of the board, to handle dispute resolutions and enforcement.
And, we are continuing to try to bring you the “value proposition” you need for AIB to become your primary professional association affiliation. Accordingly, we have reviewed our financial health, and since the Secretariat at MSU took over the reins in 2004 (you may remember that we had to quickly move our venue from Istanbul to Stockholm), our reserves have gone from $394K to nearly $2 million USD, ensuring the short-term financial stability of AIB, due to incredible stewardship of the finances of AIB by the MSU-based Secretariat. But, with increasing costs that come with visiting the more exciting and new-to-AIB destinations for our meetings, we need to be diligent and examine how we can best generate and use our funds for your benefit.

Accordingly, I have commissioned an “AIB Dream Team” strategy session, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, at the upcoming annual meeting. Your inputs to the various committees I’ve just discussed have been instrumental in helping the Board to try to move us forward. Very shortly, you will be receiving a list of what a “vertical slice of AIB” thinks are the most important issues/challenges facing AIB in the next five years. I want you to read these carefully, and vote for your top three. Your input will be critical in making this strategic planning session successful. We’ve labeled it “AIB Dream Team” because strategic visioning is dreaming about what is possible isn’t it?

In view of what our challenges are in the future, I encourage you to start the conversation now with me, and all the other AIB Board members and the Secretariat. Stay tuned for further information on the brand new AIB Blog, where we can have some of this conversation. I hope you’ll be part of the change initiatives we’re proposing. AIB deserves nothing less than total membership contribution to our future.

With Best Regards,
Mary Ann Von Glinow
AIB President
A beautiful season of Sakura, or cherry blossom, is approaching in Japan. Sakura marks a new start in life in Japan, as the Japanese school year and fiscal year in most business sectors starts in April. As the season of Sakura turns into the summer, the AIB readies itself for the 2011 Annual Conference to be held in Nagoya, June 24-28, 2011. To date, the AIB Nagoya is shaping up to be an exciting program with renowned plenary speakers, special guests, innovative workshops and sessions. I am writing this newsletter article to update you about the latest progress for AIB 2011 Nagoya.

I am pleased to tell you that, this year, we received a record number of submissions, 1,512 in total, which is 40 percent larger than the previous record of 1,115 submissions to the Milan conference in 2008. This is the first AIB meeting held in Japan since the AIB was founded 53 years ago and is one of the largest academic conferences in business and economics studies ever held in the city of Nagoya. Thanks to the hard work of track chairs and our superb colleague, Tunga Kiyak at the AIB Secretariat, we should have finalized the composition of the Nagoya program by the time you read this. We will keep you informed about the conference content and schedule on the conference website (http://aib.msu.edu/events/2011/) so please visit it regularly.

Let me overview some of the major events to be organized in the AIB Nagoya below.

**Plenary**

The AIB Nagoya starts with the Fellow’s Opening Plenary. We welcome two distinguished guests on the stage, Mr. Fujio Cho, chairman of Toyota Motor, winner of the 2011 AIB Fellows Executive of the Year Award, and Dr. Richard Nelson, the AIB Fellows Eminent Scholar for 2011. Following the Opening Plenary, the Fellows Featured Plenary kicks off the conference. Chaired by Eleanor Westney, the plenary features three AIB Fellows, Geoffrey Jones, Lorraine Eden, and Ravi Ramamurti, discussing pressing issues centered on the conference theme, “International Business for Sustainable World Development”. Two other plenary sessions focus on strategy and cultural aspects of sustainable world development. In the **Strategy and Sustainability** plenary, Paul Beamish (chair) and three acclaimed leaders in the field, Jay Barney, Michael Hitt, and Stuart Hart, will share their latest views on how strategic management of international business contributes to sustainable world development. In the **Culture and Sustainability** plenary, Masataka Ota (chair), and four top culture research experts, Geert Hofstede, Nancy Adler, Rosalie Tung, and Oded Shenkar, discuss the role of national culture for international business for sustainable world development. The last plenary, the **Teece-Buckley Plenary**, celebrates the 35 year anniversary of the internalization theory developed by Buckley and Teece (Buckley and Casson, 1976; Teece, 1976). The Plenary, chaired by Christos Pitelis, invites David Teece and Peter Buckley as keynotes, and Jean-Francois Hennart and Christos Pitelis discuss their contributions to IB.

**Special Sessions**

We will have several exciting sessions. The **Intercity and International Transport Sector** session welcomes Mr. Yoshiyuki Kasai, chairman of the Central Japan Railway Company (JR Tokai) as a keynote speaker. Professor Tae Oum, the world’s leader of international air transport research, chairs the plenary, and three leading scholars in transport and logistics management discuss the latest issues of international transport practices. The **Asian Business School Deans Forum**, chaired by George Yip, welcomes Deans of six leading business schools in Asia, i.e., National University of Singapore, Hitotsubashi University, Korea University, Indian School of Business, and others.
Nanjing University, and Chinese University of Hong Kong. The Deans are invited to share their views on internationalization of business schools in Asia, opportunities and future agenda. Executive Panel on BOP features practices of BOP (Base of the Pyramid) strategy. Chaired by Masa Okada, senior managers of major Japanese firms, Panasonic, Ajinomoto, and Nippon Poly-Glu, discuss both opportunities and obstacles of BOP strategy in emerging economies. IB’s Contributions to Social Science Disciplines, chaired by Anju Seth and Tailan Chi, invites Jean-François Hennart, John Lawler, Mariko Sakakibara, and Eleanor Westney to discuss how IB has made and can make contributions to advancing social science disciplines. The AJBS Panel, jointly organized by the Association of Japanese Business Studies (AJBS) and The Academic Association for Organizational Science (Soshiki Gakkai), invites renowned experts of Japanese business research, such as Hideki Yoshihara (chair), Taka Fujimoto, and Kentaro Nobeoka, to discuss competitive (dis)advantages of Japanese enterprises and industries. We will have a research methodology workshop, Conducting High Quality Interdisciplinary Research in International Business, where Joseph Cheng (chair), Timothy Devinney, Yves Doz, Michael Hitt, Marjorie Lyles, Oded Shenkar, and other participants will discuss conceptual and methodological issues of interdisciplinary approaches to IB research. The Women in the Academy of International Business (WAIB) celebrates its 10th anniversary and organizes three exciting sessions. They include a roundtable panel on challenges and opportunities faced by women executives and entrepreneurs in Japan; a roundtable panel on career development of women academics; and a session for a memoir of the late Susan Douglas and her contributions to IB and to the AIB.

Special Guests
The AIB Nagoya is honored to welcome a visit of Professor Sir James Mirrlees, a winner of the 1996 Nobel Prize in Economics. Professor Mirrlees will join a session organized by the doctoral and junior faculty consortiums and present on “What I thought when I was a doctoral student/junior faculty,” “How I developed my path-breaking ideas,” and “What I did when I was stuck,” which will be a great learning experience for all participants. In addition, Mr. Fujio Cho, chairman of Toyota Motor, Mr. Yoshiyuki Kasai, chairman of the Central Japan Railway Company, and Dr. Richard Nelson, a co-author of “An Evolutionary Theory of Economic Change” (Nelson & Winter, 1982), will also visit us as winners of the AIB awards and as our distinguished guests.

Other Sessions and Events
Prior to the main conference, Sea-jin Chang and Sri Zaheer chair the Doctoral and the Junior Faculty Consortiums. We expect to welcome around 100 participants in total coming from across the world. The list of the faculty panel members can be found on the conference website. As you will see in the list, we will have a group of excellent scholars joining the consortiums. The JIBS/AIB Paper Development Workshop will also be held prior to the main conference. Organized by Petra Christmann and chaired by John Cantwell, Editor-in-Chief of JIBS, the Workshop provides junior scholars with developmental feedback on their current research projects in international business studies. Following recent innovations in AIB annual meetings, we will organize a number of the State-of-the-Art sessions selected by the track chairs of AIB 2011. The sessions represent the most cutting edge research in their respective areas. We will continue have the Fellows Café where participants will start the day with a cup of coffee while engaging in conversations with AIB Fellows on IB topics of mutual interest.

In addition there are many more exciting workshops and sessions that are not introduced in this newsletter.

Social Activities
Thanks to the local host’s effort, we will be able to offer several exciting social activities to make your visit to Japan more memorable. Following is the list of such activities (the Gala dinner is included in your registration, the rest will be at additional cost).
- Gala dinner at Atsuta Jingu (Atsuta Shrine)
- Excursion to Ise Jingu (Ise Shrine) and Miki-moto, a famous pearl jewelry producer
- Ukai (cormorant fishing) at the Nagara (http://www.kankou-gifu.jp/en/ukai/)
AIB 2011 Annual Meeting Lodging Information

AIB 2011 will take place at the WINC Aichi - the Aichi Industry and Labor Center in Nagoya, Japan. The facility is less than 5 minutes walking distance away from Nagoya Station as well as the main conference hotel (Marriott Associa Hotel); the hotels are listed below. The room rates are valid for the nights of June 22-28, 2011, and are per person, per night, including breakfast, service charge and consumption tax.

Please visit http://aib.msu.edu/events/2011/Lodging.asp for up-to-date information and access to the central lodging reservation system.

**Nagoya Marriott Associa Hotel**
- Double (Standard) 1 person(s) with breakfast: JPY 20,000
- Twin (Deluxe) 2 person(s) with breakfast: JPY 16,500
- Twin (Standard) 2 person(s) with breakfast: JPY 14,500

**Castle Plaza** (for low-income and student members)
- Single 1 person(s) with breakfast: JPY 11,600
- Twin 2 person(s) with breakfast: JPY 9,900
Women Pearl Divers and Ise Jingu Shrine
Date: June 24, 2011
Time: 8:00-19:30
Price: JPY 25,000 per person (including lunch, English speaking guide service)

Visit Mikimoto Pearl Island, a museum dedicated to Kokichi Mikimoto, the first person to successfully cultivate pearls. Also enjoy the rare opportunity of meeting and interacting with women pearl divers and take a tour of Ise Jingu Shrine which is the most sacred shrine of Shinto religion.

Toyota Motor Plant Tour
Date: June 27, 2011
Time: 9:00-15:30
Price: JPY 10,000 per person (includes lunch, English speaking guide service)

Explore the world’s largest automobile manufacturer on this exciting tour through Toyota’s assembly plant. Take a closer look at the pursuit of new technology and techniques being conducted by Toyota.

Nagoya Castle and Toyota Commemorative Museum
Date: June 25, 2011
Time: 9:00-12:30
Price: JPY 5,900 per person (no meals included, English speaking guide service)

Learn about past and future of Nagoya, famous for both its historical and commercial value. First, visit the Toyota Commemorative Museum of Industry and Technology. Proceed to Nagoya Castle, a symbol of Nagoya that was originally built in 1612 by Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu. From the observation deck on the top floor of the castle, you can enjoy a sweeping view of the city while browsing exhibits about life in feudal Japan.

Mizkan Vinegar Museum and Sake Museum
Date: June 28, 2011
Time: 9:00-13:00
Price: JPY 8,400 per person (no meals included, English speaking guide service)

Learn about the history of making Vinegar at Mizkan (Mitsukan) Vinegar Museum. At Sake Museum you can learn Japanese Sake making technology.

Kyoto 1-Day
Date: June 29, 2011
Time: 7:30-19:00
Price: JPY 33,000 per person (includes lunch, English speaking guide service)

This one-day guided tour to Kyoto, Japan’s former capital, leaves from Nagoya by bullet train. Visit the Tokuwa shogun’s residence, Nijo Castle, before marveling at the gold leaf covered Golden Pavilion and strolling through its exquisite surrounding garden. Visit the Kyoto Imperial Palace and watch traditional artisans work their crafts at the Kyoto Handicraft Center. Then walk through Sanjusangendo, Japan’s longest wooden structure, and stroll to Kiyomizudera Temple for a sweeping view of the city.

Please visit http://aib.msu.edu/events/2011/ for more information and to reserve space for the tours.
Adopt-a-Library

Our gratitude goes out to the following members for their generosity in supporting the Adopt-a-Library program in the 2010 calendar year:

Institutional Benefactor
Madhuri and Jagdish N. Sheth Foundation

Full Benefactors – gifts of $100 and above
Susan P. Douglas Masaaki Kotabe
Masahiro Imao Srilata Zaheer

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Andrew Finger Catherine Pereira
John B. Ford Anupama Phene
Takeshi Fujisawa Malika Richards
Giorgio Gandellini Susan Scott
Mehmet Genc Fernando Serra
Andrew C. Gross Yoshikazu Shusa
Yen-Chen Ho Aubrey Webb

The Adopt-a-Library program was initiated by the AIB Fellows to help libraries around the world that could not otherwise afford to subscribe to JIBS. Donations to the Adopt-a-Library program can be made during AIB membership renewal or annual conference registration processes, or may be sent separately to the AIB Secretariat.

AIB Foundation

Our gratitude goes out to the following members for their generosity in supporting the AIB Foundation and its activities in the 2010 calendar year:

Full Benefactors – gifts of $100 and above
Abdulrahman Al-Aali
Masahiro Imao
Noritake Kobayashi
Masaaki Kotabe
Motofusa Murayama
Donald M. Pattillo
Saeed Samiee

Associate Benefactors – gifts of $50 to $99
Olivier Bertrand
Ken-Ichi Enatsu
Yasuhiro Hagiwara
Lee Radebaugh

Assistant Benefactors – gifts of up to $49
Kofi Afriyie Marjorie A. Lyles
Jean J. Boddewyn Catherine Pereira
Shao-Huan Chen Alex Rialp
Silburn Clarke Malika Richards
Jean-Claude Cosset Fernando Serra
Johannes W. de Jager Akanni Razaq Shodeinde
Randall Donohue Yoshikazu Shusa
John B. Ford Stephen Bruce Tallman
Takeshi Fujisawa Rehan ul-Haq
Andrew C. Gross Aubrey Webb
Constantine
S. Katsikeas
Mari Yanagi Kobayashi

The AIB Foundation is a charitable organization that funds projects which aim to advance the cause of international business. Under the Foundation’s charter, these funds may be used for a wide variety of purposes: student scholarships, faculty fellowships, research grants, travel grants, doctoral dissertation grants, and publications subsidies. Donations to the AIB Foundation can be made during AIB membership renewal or annual conference registration processes, or may be sent separately to the AIB Secretariat.
Institutional Members

We thank the following organizations for their support of the Academy of International Business through an institutional membership for the 2010 calendar year:

Dongbei University of Finance and Economics, China
Florida International University, USA
George Washington University, USA
Georgia State University, USA
Gitam Institute of International Business, India
Indiana University, USA
Kean University, USA
Michigan State University, USA
National University of Ireland, Galway
Peking University, China
Rosario University, Colombia
St. Mary’s University, USA
Temple University, USA
Texas A&M University, USA
Universidad de la Sabana, Colombia
Universidad Eafit, Colombia
Universidad Iberoamericana, Dominican Republic
University of Auckland, New Zealand
University of San Francisco, USA
University of South Carolina, USA
The University of West Indies-Cave Hill, Barbados
Youngstown State University, USA
York University, Canada

AIB invites other organizations to become institutional members. For more information about institutional membership and its benefits, please visit http://aib.msu.edu/membership/.
Candida Brush (Babson College, USA), Lars Kolvereid (Bodo Graduate School of Business, Norway), L. Oystein Widding and Roger Sorheim (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway) have co-edited The Life Cycles of New Ventures: Emergence, Newness and Growth (Edward Elgar, ISBN: 978-1848446977). The contributors to this book provide a cross-national comparison of venture emergence, newness and growth. Their chapters examine the influences of cultural, social and economic factors on venture development, compare the approaches of entrepreneurs who move from idea to emerging organization, and investigate acquisition and development of resources in growth and performance. The authors consider important issues in new ventures research such as technology commercialization, management team development, and influence of equity funding. While its particular focus is on Norway and the US, the book offers broad and intriguing contributions with regard to the emergence and growth of knowledge based firms in developed economies, and has implications for both direct and indirect government policy with regard to stimulating the formation and development of knowledge based firms.


George Siedel (University of Michigan, USA) and Helena Haapio (Lexpert Ltd, Finland) have published Proactive Law for Managers (Gower, ISBN: 978-1409401001). This book explains how managers can use contracts pro-actively to reduce their costs, minimize their risks, secure key talent, collaborate to innovate, protect intellectual property, and create value for their customers superior to that offered by competitors. The book builds on recent research that focuses on how law can be used to achieve competitive advantage and on advances from the Proactive Law Movement in Europe. This research is complemented by a Manager’s Legal Plan that provides a practical guide to managers seeking to create sustainable competitive advantage through the law. The publisher has agreed to provide AIB members and their students with a 35% discount by using the code PLM35US when ordering the book at www.gowerpublishing.com/isbn/9781409401001.
Ali Taleb (HEC Montreal, Canada), Rick Milz and Catalin Ratiu have co-edited *The Multinational Enterprise in Developing Countries: Local versus Global Logic* (Routledge, ISBN: 978-0415492522). A key distinctive feature of multinational enterprises (MNEs) as organizations resides in the fact that they span across borders. This exposes them to dissimilar and often unfamiliar social and economic conditions as they venture into foreign countries. MNEs from industrialized economies that are active in developing countries and emerging markets face particularly challenging hurdles due to both economic and institutional discrepancies between their home and host countries. This book focuses on the uneasy interaction between the traditional logics of developing countries and the economic logic of MNEs. The traditional logics of most developing countries are built around community-based legitimacy and an intuitive but concrete epistemology. Conversely, the economic logic of MNEs from developed economies is built around technical and economic legitimacy and an abstract intellectual epistemology. Unpacking the uneasy interactions between these two logics will help achieve MNEs’ objectives of competitiveness in developing countries as well as globally.

Members on the Move

Zafar U. Ahmed (Ph.D., Utah State University, USA), has been invited by the Graduate School of Management (GSM) at the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) to serve as a “Renong Distinguished Endowed Chair of Marketing” and Professor of International Business. In this capacity, he will be responsible to provide leadership for the establishment of (1) Malaysian Center for International Business and Education (Malaysian CIBER) within GSM, (2) “Global EMBA Program” and (3) “Mini-MBA Program” in collaboration with the coveted William Davidson Institute, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, USA. Zafar served as Dean, College of Business and Management, Fahad Bin Sultan University in Saudi Arabia before moving to Malaysia. He was also a Tenured Full Professor of Marketing and International Business at the Texas A&M University at Commerce, Texas, USA before moving overseas in 2007.
New AIB Members

AIB welcomes the following 116 new members who joined our community between November 1, 2010, and January 31, 2011.

Naila Aaijaz
Claudette Alexander
Sebastian Alexander
Thankom Arun
Charles Baden-Fuller
Rashid Bakarr
Ilker Beyhan
Ramudu Bhanugopan
Tamarra Blackman
Alicia Boisnier
Jaime Alfonso Bonache Perez
Jamal Bouras
Lobna Boushnni
Annette Brown
Thomas Buerki
Psyche Burke
Luis F. Bustamante Zapata
Shari Bynoe
Kathleen Byrne
Anthony Cannizzaro
Tachia Chin
Gunae Choi
Peerapat Chokesuwaittakanul
Thomas Clausen
Ratan Dheer
Jerome Donovan
Jeanne Duplessis
Benjamin Eckman
Rolando Estrada
Xuejiao Fan
Ivan Filby
Stephanie Fisher
Francesco Frova
Wa Gao
Gen Ge
Shakida Grant
Namrata Gupta
Ingrid Haynes
Charleen Holder

Wanrong Hou
Michael Houston
Aydin Inemek
Agnieszka Jagiello
Hao Jie
Merve Kaleagasi Eren
Oi Yan Kam
Linzi J. Kemp
Nicole Knight
Daniel James Kratochvil
Goh See Kwong
John Lawler
Sunyoung Lee
David Leslie
Ying Li
Giuseppe Liberatore
Mai S. Linneberg
Marvo Little
Kai Liu
Chunguang Ma
Peter Marik
Dale Thomas Mathews
David Mayers
Donelda McKechnie
Abel Kinoti Meru
Adel Kinoti Meru
Westman Mina
Muhammad Mohiuddin
Eric Motta
Mona Mustafa
Noraani Mustapha
Lamia Obay
Marie Oehme
Olufemi Ogunyemi
Rajmohan Pannerselwam
Vik Pant
Olga Petricevic
Raymond Reboulet
Adrienne Reynolds

James Robins
Nick Robinson
Liana Saenz
Monica Sainz
Vijay Sampath
Manjit Singh Sandhu
Atsuko Sato
Stephanie Schleimer
Liam Sebastian
Katsuhiko Shimizu
Hyun Shin
Mitsuhide Shiraki
Hamadoun Sidibe
Simone Stanford
Corey Straker
Lauriston Streekes
Balan Sundararaken
Naeem Tabassum
Ichiro Takahashi
Hideyuki Takenouchi
Hiroshi Takeshita
Joy Elly Tulung
Naoki Watanabel
Kim Webster
Claudia Wirz Leite Sa
Ronray Worrell
Qiumei Xu
Kazuko Yokoyama
Wendy Young
Ayanna Young-Marshall
Fahim Youssofzai
Pranvera Zhaka
Yanzhi Zhao
Jiuli Zhou
Nan Zhou
Yu Zhou
Florian Zock
CALL FOR PAPERS
Special Issue of the Journal of International Business Studies

The Multinational In Geographic Space

Special Issue Editors
Ulf Andersson, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Sjoerd Beugelsdijk, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
Ram Mudambi, Temple University, USA
Srilata Zaheer, University of Minnesota, USA

Deadline for submission: November 18, 2011
Tentative publication date: Spring 2013

Introduction
Although the impact of the changing strategy of MNEs on global economic geography is beginning to receive attention in the literature, IB scholars’ understanding of space remains relatively underdeveloped (McCann and Mudambi, 2005). The O (Ownership) and I (Internalization) dimensions of Dunning’s eclectic paradigm are relatively well understood compared to the L (Location) dimension.

Because of the historical role of national borders, location in IB is often conceptualized and operationalized as a country-specific characteristic. Spatial heterogeneity exists in IB to the extent that countries differ in terms of their cultural and institutional framework, level of economic development and availability of natural resources. The IB literature tends to view space in terms of distance between countries, relying on measures such as cultural distance, institutional distance, psychic distance, distance between country centers, and so on. Whereas for some of these types of distance, the country is appropriate unit of analysis, this is not necessarily true for all. For example, the international cultural distance between two Scandinavian countries like Denmark and Sweden may well be smaller than that between two Indians, one from the Hindi-speaking North and the other from the Tamil-speaking South. Alternatively, to understand the role of geographic distance in the Canadian automotive supply chain by measuring the distance to the traditional industry cluster in Detroit would miss the emerging new automotive clusters in the American South where most non-US MNEs like Nissan, Toyota and BMW have located their assembly plants.

To improve our understanding of the spatial dimension of IB activity and the interaction of location with governance and organization aspects of MNE activity, we need to build on insights from economic and human geography and regional science. By integrating IB more closely with literatures that explicitly recognize the subtleties of geographic space, we push the frontiers of the field. In the process, we make connections with the emerging literature in international strategy that emphasizes the importance of firm-level decision-making on geographical outcomes, insights that can advance the research frontiers of economic geography (Nachum and Zaheer, 2005; Shaver and Flyer, 2000; Alcacer and Chung, 2002). At the most fundamental level, this involves incorporating the impact of sub-national locations on decision-making and performance of multinational enterprises (MNEs). We contend that uniting the IB literature’s rich insights on the organization and governance of the MNE with the nuanced analysis of space in the economic geography literature offers great opportunities for advancing our understanding of both internationalizing firms and locations.

Topics for the Special Issue
We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions, and papers adopting either a single or multi level analysis. Illustrative topics are mentioned below:

The ‘death of distance’ and ‘spiky’ global innovation; some scholars have declared the globalized world to be flat, but at the same time the strategic and economic importance of geographically concentrated networks of firms has increased (e.g. Lahiri, 2010). Global connectedness is increasingly recognized as crucial determining the position of individual clusters in the global hierarchy (Cantwell and Janne, 1999; Meyer et al., 2011) and the success of firms within them. For MNEs, managing a portfolio of locations and serving as
a key part of the “connective tissue” amongst clusters puts them in a powerful position. Equally, MNEs that fail to leverage their unique position may find themselves weaker in consequence. How does the increased importance of connectedness affect the traditional view in IB linking control to ownership given that connectedness does not necessarily coincide with ownership?

While there is a rich literature in IB on the MNE’s local embeddedness (e.g., Andersson et al., 2002), its spatial aspects are often simply assumed; they have rarely been distinguished or explored in an explicit manner. Influential IB scholars have recently highlighted this lacuna (Dunning, 2009). How is IB theory and practice affected when geographical co-location and embeddedness are disentangled?

From Ownership, Location and Internalization to Place, Space and Organization (PSO); within the OLI framework the role of transaction costs is crucial. In the core-periphery model the role of space, dominates. How does an interpretation of transaction costs along spatial dimensions (PSO) affect the predictions of the OLI framework?

Distance and the liability of foreignness; distance is conceptualized as a multidimensional construct mostly relating to inter-country characteristics. Is it meaningful to conceptualize distance as a multidimensional construct? Can we do a better job of disentangling these dimensions, in order to distinguish more clearly what is attributable to geographic distance, and what is attributable to cultural distance? E.g. the institutions of a place may depend partly on cultural characteristics, and partly on geographic issues such as resource availability, climate, proximity and relationship to other places etc. So papers that better compared and related the dimensions of distance in an IB setting might well prove foundational for other work to be done in this domain.

Economic geographers are concerned with firm location in general: why they start in certain places, why they tend to stick to those locations, why they sometimes move, why they expand by making investments in other locations and how they organize and co-ordinate their multi-locational activities. Is the multinational firm simply a special case of a multi-locational firm? How do the notions of place, space and organization bear on this question?

The role of the MNE in cluster formation; clusters are known to have life cycles. Whereas MNEs can play a catalyzing role in the start of a cluster and its further development, it is not clear how clusters and the (subsidiaries of) MNEs belonging to these clusters are affected when clusters are imploding or dissolving. Economic geography provides insights on cluster life cycles, and the questions arise relating to MNEs’ roles in these life cycles. More specifically, MNEs improve the external connectivity of a cluster and we need to know more the implications of this connectivity for the development of the cluster.

Entry mode theory and spatial heterogeneity; entry mode theory is dominated by the role of transaction costs in determining the optimal governance structure. This theory and the associated empirical studies are in general space neutral. Economic geography has shown that transaction costs are not space neutral. How are the predictions made by entry mode theory affected when we incorporate the notion of spatial transaction costs? Whereas country level institutional characteristics have been incorporated in entry mode studies, sub-national level spatial heterogeneity has so far been absent.

Spatial antecedents and consequences of geographical value chain disaggregation; as value chains are increasingly disaggregated into activities, projects and tasks, the internal networks of MNEs are becoming more open and increasingly decentralized. What does this likely imply for the international locational dispersion of activity across the full networks orchestrated by MNEs (which may include both ‘internal’ and ‘external’ elements if we define these purely in traditional ownership terms)? Conversely, what are the implications for locations of being relatively more (or less) conducive to more open kinds of firm networks locally, e.g. with respect to their IP regimes or other local institutional conditions?

In addition, we provide illustrative examples of some more general topic areas:

• Local partners and geographic space; spatially proximate vs. spatially distant local partners;
• The disaggregation of the value chain and the location of value creation;
• Extra-organizational knowledge spillovers in industrial districts/clusters.

Submission process

All manuscripts will be reviewed as a cohort for this special issue. Manuscripts must be submitted in the window between November 1, 2011, and November 18, 2011, at http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jibs. All submissions will go through the JIBS regular double-blind review process and follow the standard norms and processes.

For more information about this Call for Papers, please contact the Special Issue Editors or the JIBS Managing Editor (managing-editor@jibs.net).

Note: Please see full version at www.jibs.net for list of references cited in this call.
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