DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Co-operative Organization and Management (JCOM)* aims to be the leading international journal for the study of co-operatives.

*JCOM* will provide the primary forum for advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge on co-operative organizations and their management. The journal will include up-to-date, high-quality, and original contributions - research papers, reviews, and syntheses as well as book and conference reviews - dealing with questions on how, why and when co-operative organizations occur and succeed, fail and disappear, and what can be done to influence the outcome.

*Co-operative organization* is broadly defined. It refers not only to co-operatives as an institutional form, but any other organization that follows the principles of co-operation. Examples include consumer, housing, producer, and worker co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals, multiparty alliances as well as different forms of collective, community, and social entrepreneurship. In addition to these types of co-operative entities, a variety of non-profit and voluntary organizations will be covered in the journal. *JCOM* calls for contributions focused on the following organizational philosophies and the management of organizations operating along one or more of these philosophies:

- **Voluntary association** of individuals and/or entities (co-operating and networking)
- **Freedom** with fellow individuals and entities (pursuit of autonomy and independence)
- **Accountability** of individuals and entities (membership in organizations and environments)
- User-members’ **collective ownership** of and control over the organization’s resources (democracy)
- **Engagement** in action only if rewards/results are greater than costs/efforts (efficiency and beneficiality)
- Transaction- or contribution-based distribution of economic surplus to members and stakeholders (fairness)
- Education and training of members and stakeholders on co-operation and the underlying principles (knowledge of co-operation).

Theory elaboration on the topic co-operative organizations has an interdisciplinary tradition. *JCOM* will therefore encourage contributions that make rigorous use of variety of theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches. The journal will also welcome critical debate between opposing perspectives.

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Introduction
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The journal will include up-to-date, high-quality, and original contributions - research papers, reviews, and syntheses as well as book and conference reviews - dealing with questions on how, why and when co-operative organizations occur and succeed, fail and disappear, and what can be done to influence the outcome.

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