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DESCRIPTION

*Research Policy: X* is the open access mirror journal of *Research Policy*.

*Research Policy: X* offers authors with high-quality research who want to publish in a gold open access journal the opportunity to make their work immediately, permanently, and freely accessible.

*Research Policy: X* authors will pay an article publishing charge (APC), have a choice of license options, and retain copyright. Please check the APC on the journal home page. As an introductory offer for this journal Elsevier will pay the APC and you can publish free of charge. As this title is newly launched, it does not have a CiteScore or Journal Impact Factor yet, however we will apply for inclusion in all the relevant indexing databases as soon as possible. The journal is indexed in Scopus.

*Research Policy* and *Research Policy: X* have the same aims and scope. A unified editorial team manages rigorous peer-review for both titles using the same submission system. The author's choice of journal is blinded to referees, ensuring the editorial process is identical.

For more information please refer to our FAQs for authors

*Research Policy* (RP) articles examine empirically and theoretically the interaction between innovation, technology or research, on the one hand, and economic, social, political and organizational processes, on the other. All RP papers are expected to yield findings that have implications for policy or management.

*Research Policy* (RP) is a multi-disciplinary journal devoted to analyzing, understanding and effectively responding to the economic, policy, management, organizational, environmental and other challenges posed by innovation, technology, R&D and science. This includes a number of related activities concerned with the creation of knowledge (through research), the diffusion and acquisition of knowledge (e.g. through organizational learning), and its exploitation in the form of new or improved products, processes or services. RP is generally acknowledged to be the leading journal in the field of innovation studies, with its academic status and influence being reflected in a remarkably high 'Impact Factor' for a multi-disciplinary social science journal (please see below).

Authors intending to submit a paper to RP should first check whether that paper is consistent with the journal's Editorial Strategy as detailed in the Guide for Authors. RP uses an online submission process, http://ees.elsevier.com/respol/ and all papers are subject to a 'double-blind' review process, details as in the Guide for Authors. Besides research articles and notes, RP also publishes a variety of other
types of papers including Special Issues (or shorter Special Sections) occasional discussion papers on important topical issues, and book reviews, again further information in the Guide for Authors.

Main Subjects Covered:
Economics of Innovation/Technology/Science; Entrepreneurs/Entrepreneurship; Evolutionary or (neo-)Schumpeterian Economics; Geography of Innovation - e.g. industrial clusters; Indicators - science, technology, R&D, innovation etc.; Innovation and Sustainability; Innovation Management/Organization/Policy/Strategy; Innovation Systems - national, regional, sectoral, technological; Knowledge - creation/production, diffusion/transfer/exchange, adoption/exploitation etc.; Learning (e.g. organizational) and Experimentation; Product and Process Development; Networks - e.g. research/ R&D collaboration, university-industry links, regional clusters, supply chains; Research and Development (R&D) Management/Policy/Strategy; Research Policy; Resource-Based View of the Firm - competence/capability (e.g. absorptive, core, dynamic); Science Policy; Sociotechnical Paradigms/Regimes; Technological Paradigms/Trajectories; Technological problem-solving; Technology Management/Policy/Strategy.

ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING
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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.
To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

INTRODUCTION

Research Policy: X is the open access mirror journal of Research Policy. Both journals share the same aims and scope, editorial team, submission system and rigorous peer review. The difference between the journals is the access model under which the journals will publish your work and the indexation status. Research Policy: X will be indexed in Scopus if the parent is also indexed there; if the parent is indexed in MEDLINE, then Research Policy: X will also be eligible for fast inclusion in PubMed Central. However, please note that Research Policy: X will not have a CiteScore or Impact Factor initially. Applications for inclusion in Science Citation Index / Social Sciences Citation Index and any other relevant citation indexing databases will be made as soon as possible.

Editorial Strategy
Research Policy (RP) publishes original research contributions in the field of 'innovation studies'. RP Editors look for papers that deal with core RP issues such as innovation, technological change, R&D, science, and the management of research and knowledge, issues that are likely to be of interest to the broad RP readership that includes 'practitioners' (e.g. managers, consultants, policy-makers) as well as academic scholars. (See the list of 'Main subjects covered' for a more comprehensive list of the main issues https://www.elsevier.com/locate/respol).

Innovation studies spans a number of subfields including the economics of innovation (with particular attention to evolutionary and neo-Schumpeterian analysis); technology and innovation management; and innovation policy and science (or S&T) policy. In addition to innovation studies, RP also draws upon mainstream disciplines such as economics, management, organizational studies, sociology, economic geography, political science and certain specialized branches of history (history of technology, economic/business history) (see list of 'Main subjects covered'). The term 'innovation studies' has evolved from (and incorporates) the earlier fields of 'science policy,' 'research policy' (hence the name of the journal), 'science and technology (S&T) policy' and 'science, technology and innovation (STI) policy.'

Authors considering whether to submit a paper to RP need to ensure not only that the main focus of the paper relates to one or more of the core subjects listed in 'Main subjects covered' but also that they approach the topic in a manner that is likely to be of interest to a large proportion of RP’s wide-ranging readership (i.e. the paper should be neither too narrow nor too technical). Amongst other things, this includes engaging substantially with the body of literature familiar to the journal's readership as well as focusing on research with potentially significant policy or management implications.

Submitted papers that have little direct relationship to the core RP issues, even if such papers are good, are likely to be rejected as 'out of scope'. In addition, some submitted papers, while they address an RP issue, may do so in a manner that is more appropriate to publication in a mainstream economics, management or other disciplinary journal, and they too are likely to be desk-rejected.

Types of Paper
RP publishes:
• Research Articles - full-length papers of up to 8-10,000 words
• Special Issues and Special Sections (see below)
• Research Notes - typically of 3-5,000 words, this category is a vehicle for specific types of material that merit publication, but do not require all the 'normal' components of a full research article. This might cover, for example, specific aspects of methodology that have broad relevance for RP readers, or short reports about specific sets or types of data (and their access and use) that merit publication without the full set of requirements for a normal article. It might also be relevant, for example, for updating an earlier RP paper, where it is not necessary to repeat the literature review, methodology etc.
• Discussion Papers - occasionally published on important topical issues where views differ; where such a paper has been accepted in principle, an RP Editor will commission perhaps two responses from those holding different views to appear alongside the discussion paper.

• Book Reviews - commissioned by RP Book Review Editor. (However, RP does not attempt to cover all new books in the field, only a selected few that are felt likely to be of wide-ranging importance for the field of innovation studies.)

**Special Issues and Special Sections**

Approximately twice a year, RP may publish a Special Issue (or a somewhat shorter Special Section) on a particular theme, where an integrated collection of articles has been put together and edited by two or three Guest Editors. Special Issues/Sections can fulfil a number of important functions:

- bringing together and integrating work on a specific theme (for instance, bringing together theoretical and empirical work, or work based on different methodological approaches);

- opening up a previously under-researched area (or one that has perhaps struggled with a rather conservative peer review process in its efforts to achieve recognition);

- constructing a bridge between formerly rather separate research communities, who have been focusing on similar or related topics.

Those thinking of proposing a Special Issue/Section should first consult or download the 'Notes for Proposers and Guest Editors' which can be found at Notes. These notes provide guidance on the nature and content of the 2-4 page proposal required. Proposals should be submitted to respol@sussex.ac.uk at or before the start of March or September each year. These proposals are then reviewed by the RP Editors on the basis of certain criteria that include: the novelty, importance and topicality of the theme; whether the papers will form an integrated whole; the standing of the authors; the experience of the Guest Editors in handling a task of this magnitude; and the overall 'added value' of a Special Issue or Section (as compared with publishing these papers separately in 'normal' issues). Those thinking of submitting a proposal, however, should bear in mind that, out of the half a dozen or so proposals considered every six months, only one on average will be allocated a Special Issue 'slot', so the competition is intense. A group of loosely connected papers from a conference on a fairly standard subject is unlikely to be accepted.

**Review Process**

All RP papers are reviewed using a 'double-blind' process in which reviewers are not informed who are the authors of the paper, as well as the authors not knowing who are the reviewers. To make this possible, authors need to submit two versions of their papers, a 'full' one which will be seen only by the handling Editor, and a 'blinded' version in which the names and addresses of authors have been removed and any identifying references have been suitably anonymised (the version sent to referees).

Submitted papers are first considered by the RP Editor to whom they were submitted. Papers that do not fall within the scope of RP are 'desk-rejected'. (Those that are borderline may be sent to an RP Advisory Editor who is a specialist on that topic for advice.) Papers that, while they address an RP issue, do so in a manner that is more appropriate to publication in a mainstream economics, management or other disciplinary journal, may also be desk-rejected (again perhaps following specialist advice from an RP Advisory Editor). In addition, papers that fail to meet a minimum threshold for quality and originality will be rejected without being sent out to reviewers.

Papers passing through this initial editorial scrutiny are then typically sent out to three referees. If one or more of these turns down the invitation to provide a review, other referees will subsequently be appointed. Normally, at least two authoritative reviews are needed before the handling Editor can make a decision as to whether to accept, reject, or ask for a 'revise and resubmit' of the submitted paper.

Currently, approximately one third of the papers submitted to RP are desk-rejected, about one third are rejected after peer review, and one third are eventually accepted (most after being revised once if not twice).
Contact details for submission
Submission to Research Policy now proceeds totally online via the EES system http://ees.elsevier.com/respol/ (see below). EES provides detailed guidance to authors submitting papers as well as to referees invited to submit a review. Authors in need of assistance should contact: The Editorial Assistant, Research Policy Editorial Office at SPRU, SPRU-Science Policy Research Unit, Freeman Centre, School of Business, Management & Economics, Jubilee Building, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9SL. Tel: +44 (0) 1273 678173. E-mail: R.Ganesan@elsevier.com

Submission checklist
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

Ensure that the following items are present:

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• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
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For further information, visit our Support Center.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

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Research Policy and Elsevier adhere to the highest standards with regard to research integrity and in particular the avoidance of plagiarism, including self-plagiarism. It is therefore essential that authors, before they submit a paper, carefully read the Ethical guidelines for journal publication. Particular attention should be paid to the sections under 'Duties of Authors' on 'Originality and Plagiarism' and 'Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publication'. When submitting a paper on EES, authors will be prompted as to whether they have read and agree to these guidelines before proceeding further with their submission. They will be asked specifically for an assurance that the paper contains no element of data fabrication, data falsification or plagiarism (including unacknowledged self-plagiarism). Authors are reminded that, where they draw upon material from another source, they must EITHER put that material in the form of a quote, OR write it entirely in their own words (i.e. there is no 'middle way'). In both cases, they must explicitly cite the source, including the specific page number in the case of a quote or a particular point.

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statement using this template and upload to the submission system at the Attach/Upload Files step. If there are no interests to declare, please choose: 'Declarations of interest: none' in the template. This statement will be published within the article if accepted. More information.

When submitting a paper to RP, authors need to select a specific Editor. They should choose the Editor who is best suited in the light of the content of the paper, please see list of relevant keywords for each editor here. However, authors should not submit to an Editor working in same institution (or one who has worked in the same institution over the previous five years). Nor should they submit to an Editor with whom they have co-authored, collaborated or had some professional or personal relationship over the last five years. If in any doubt, authors should explicitly mention the nature of their relationship and any possible conflict of interest in a covering letter to the Editor when they submit the paper so that the Editor can take a view and, if necessary, allocate the paper to be handled by another RP Editor.

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Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed.
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Please note that such information should appear in the 'Acknowledgements' section.

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You will be asked to submit both a full version of your paper and also a 'blinded' version in which all the authors' names and affiliations have been removed and any identifying references have been suitably anonymised. You may also want to submit a covering letter to the Editor, bringing to his/her attention any pertinent facts with regard to the changes made in the 'blinded' version.

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Please submit your article via http://ees.elsevier.com/respol/. Please note that one, unified editorial team manages the peer-review for both Research Policy and Research Policy X using the same submission system.

PREPARATION
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There are no strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.
If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.
Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

*Figures and tables embedded in text*

Please ensure the figures are tables included in the single file are placed either next to the relevant text in the article or on separate pages(s) at the end (not a mixture of both).

**Peer review**

This journal operates a double blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor’s decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

**Double-blind review**

This journal uses double-blind review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. More information is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:

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*Blinded manuscript (no author details):* The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

**REVISED SUBMISSIONS**

The Editors request that text should be left-aligned and double-spaced (or at least 1.5 spacing), with margins of 1 inch or 2.5 cm all round.

In addition, make sure that you have first 'accepted' all changes previously listed in earlier versions under 'track changes', and that all embedded comments or highlighting of the text has likewise been removed.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the "spell-check" and "grammar-check" functions of your word-processor. Authors for whom English is not their first language should also seek help from colleagues or professional editors if this is necessary to bring the standard of the written English up to an acceptable standard.

**Use of word processing software**

Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). See also the section on Electronic artwork.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

**Article structure**

*Subdivision - numbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Please note that the 'acknowledgements' section at the end should not be included in the section number either.

A typical article might include the following main sections.

*Introduction*

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

The introduction should also justify why the topic of the paper is important and that the content is original. The summary of results should have been dealt with in the abstract.
Literature review, conceptual framework, hypotheses etc.
This section should extend (but not repeat) the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for the work being reported. It should identify the most relevant previous literature on the topic (but not in excessive detail) in order to position the paper and demonstrate how it will make a significant contribution. It (or a separate section) should set out (and justify) the theoretical or conceptual framework adopted in the paper. It may identify a number of hypotheses to be tested or research questions to be explored. In short, this section (or sections) should explain what is the motivation for the paper and why its contribution is original and significant.

Material and methods
Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

The reader needs to know that the empirical data and/or other material are relevant, reliable and capable of supporting robust conclusions, and that the methodology is appropriate, systematic and rigorous.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion
This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

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The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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