The concept of business process goes back to Adam Smith and the origins of economic theories. However, the concept was adopted and exploited in areas outside manufacturing only in the past 20 years, thanks to the rise of a cluster of IT-based technologies that could support business process automation, optimization and reengineering.

Today, business processes constitute the centerpiece around which organizations structure their operations, measure their performance, and base their competitiveness. Business processes have also become a core concept for organizational information systems in the sense that they define the operational environment and many of the requirements for such systems.

The organizational world is evolving at an ever-faster pace to meet global challenges such as the environment, increased regulatory control, and global competition. In this context, business processes have to adapt as well, along with the information systems that support their operations, in order to continue to fulfill their mission. Business process adaptation, and the mechanisms by which it can be supported, constitute today a major research challenge for researchers spanning the Management/Technology landscape.

The edited collection herein constitutes a timely and welcome edition to the literature on business processes. The volume offers a comprehensive, interdisciplinary state-of-the-art overview of research on the topic, covering the research of leading groups around the world. I look forward to reading it!

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