It is now widely acknowledged that innovation drives the knowledge economy, fuelling productivity and growth. It is innovation that essentially underpins successful entrepreneurship, creates jobs and contributes to the sustainable development of economies around the globe. It is not surprising therefore, that the topic of innovation continues to attract increased attention from academics and politicians alike.

While earlier literatures depict innovation as ‘creative destruction’ that erodes existing markets and industries (Schumpeter, 1934), more recent commentators refer to innovation in the form of ‘disruptive, radical technologies’ that allow entire markets and industries to emerge, transform or even disappear (Christensen, et al; 1997). Research has also been growing with regard to innovation in the workplace, its link to human resource management and how innovation relates to organizational structures (Scott and Bruce, 2008; West, 2002, as discussed in Foss and Henry, 2010). However, there remains a gap in the literature with regard to the study of innovation in the context of organizational competence building and the identification of key creative areas that can create and drive sustainable innovation processes.

In this book the editors have brought together a range of important topics under the heading of Technological, Managerial and Organizational Core Competencies. Nobre, Walker and Harris discuss knowledge management, networks, sustainability, marketing, R&D, Information Systems and internationalization across a range of geographical contexts and organizational settings. Strategically organized in nine sections, the editors combine empirically and theoretically based research contributions from leading commentators around the globe. The diversity of authors providing insights on innovation in different economies highlights the strong international dimension of the book. However, the unique contribution of the book undoubtedly lies in its identification of key creative and typically untapped areas within an organization that can build competencies towards dynamic innovation and sustainable development. Essentially, this book enhances current understanding of the innovation process and platforms its importance as a driver of 21st century entrepreneurship. The book will be of value to those studying and researching the broad field of innovation, particularly as it relates to dynamic organizational processes. The contributions will also be of interest to innovation educators, R&D managers and those working within the general innovation support system. This timely edited text offers a multidisciplinary perspective on innovation, reminding us that innovation is dynamic in nature and highly creative in its origins.

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REFERENCES


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