

Foreword

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.

Colette Henry
University of London, UK

REFERENCES

- Christensen, C. (1997). *The innovator's dilemma: When new technologies cause great firms to fail*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press.
- Foss, L., & Henry, C. (2010). 'Gender and innovation: Exploring the hegemonic voice', paper presented at the *Gender Work and Organization (GWO) Conference*, Keele University, 20-23 June.
- Schumpeter, J. A. (1934). *The theory of economic development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Scott, S. G., & Bruce, R. A. (2008). 'Determinants of innovative behavior: A path model of individual innovation in the workplace'. *Academy of Management*, 37(3), 580–607.
- West, M. A. (2002). Sparkling fountains or stagnant ponds? An integrative model of innovation implementation groups, *Applied Psychology: An International Review*, 51 (p. 3).

Colette Henry (BA; MBA; PhD; FRSA; FISBE) is the Norbrook Professor of Business & Enterprise at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), University of London. She also holds visiting professorships at the Universities of Tromsø (Norway) and Birmingham City (UK). A Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce (RSA), Colette is also the former President of the Institute for Small Business & Entrepreneurship (ISBE), and was recently awarded a fellowship in recognition of her work. She has been published widely on the topics of entrepreneurship education & training, programme evaluation, women's entrepreneurship and the creative industries. Her publications include books, edited collections and articles in a range of leading academic journals. Her more recent research focuses on entrepreneurship education and women in veterinary medicine. Colette is also the editor of the *International Journal of Gender & Entrepreneurship* (IJGE).