

Resuming research in post-COVID settings

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The manuscripts of this issue still deal with pre-pandemic conditions and present us with interesting and fruitful opportunities to make pre-post COVID-19 restrictions type of research settings as future research avenues, besides reporting interesting findings on their own.

Utriainen & Valtonen deal with emotions in the creative process and how different positive and negative feelings ensue during the phases of the innovation creation process. While we know that emotions and feelings have great influence on human behavior, surprisingly little has been traditionally investigated emotions during the innovation process and its influence on this process.

Dosi et al., on the other hand, go to more of a macro-level of innovations in studying reshoring policy design and implementation with design thinking methods. They find that in policy making similar benefits are attainable as in more micro-level innovation process like close contact and collaboration between stakeholders. Their study also presents an interesting continuum of opportune future actions and research as the policy implementation has been disrupted by the pandemic. Hence, future will show both how practice embraces the findings here, and case unfolds itself how pandemic influences reshoring activities of multiple stakeholders.

Finally, Buurmeijer et al. investigate how consideration for technological boundaries and imagination with creative thinking influence the innovation process. Even during the midst of pandemic restrictions, they were able to conduct interesting experiments with technology at hand, namely ATTRACT PEBBLES. They find that starting with basic technological function and processing this with imagination and creativity tools leads to improved ideation outcome than starting with considerations of technological functionalities and boundaries restricting functions. This is potentially important output for technology-driven innovation processes which in many cases concentrate well too early to pure technological attributes and functionalities.

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