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Editorial

A Decade of Triple Helix journal – Achievements and Challenges

Marcelo Amaral | orcid: 0000-0002-8607-3520
Co-Editor-in-Chief of Triple Helix journal, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
mgamaral@gmail.com

Yuzhuo Cai | orcid: 0000-0002-7934-3828
Co-Editor-in-Chief of Triple Helix journal, Tampere University, Finland
yuzhuo.cai@tuni.fi

This editorial opens the last issue of year nine of the Triple Helix – A Journal of University-Industry-Government Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Now, it is time to celebrate the tenth anniversary and it is also time to define and promote a route for the next decade.

Regarding celebrations, we first give credits to Henry Etzkowitz and Loet Leydesdorff who proposed the Triple Helix model in 1995 and since then a community of research has evolved. Then, it is important to recognize the key people who brought us here. Our visionary founder, Henry Etzkowitz, who has led Triple Helix Association (THA) and the journal for many years. The past president of THA, Emanuela Todeva, and the current president, Josep Piqué, for the confidence they granted us. As well as the members of the executive committee of the THA for supporting the initiative over the years. Behind the scenes, Maria Laura Fornaci, for almost a decade head of the executive secretary of THA, and Anne Rocha Perazzo, our indefatigable Managing Editor since the beginning, are two key persons to be cited. Also, the editors of Springer...
and Brill, with special mention to John Bennett from Brill. And finally, our thanks to the editorial board members and the consulting editors for sharing this adventure with us. Of course, we cannot forget the authors, reviewers, and readers. Our warm acknowledgments! In essence, the journal is done by and for all of you.

*Triple Helix* journal is now consolidated as a fast growing journal in the knowledge area of business and management. The Citescore index grew from 1.5 in 2021 to 3.1 in 2022, essentially due to the increase in citations in recent publications. These results put *THJ* in the second quartile (Q2) in the areas of business, management and accounting (42nd) and management of technology and innovation (35th in Scopus). For the second year, we reached 400 citations in Google Scholar, with led us to an H index = 23 and an i10 = 51.

These achievements are essentially the results of actions taken over the last three years. We can highlight some of them, such as:

1) The acceptance in the Scopus and Web of Science databases,
2) The review of publication strategy and updates in the editorial process flow, reducing the evaluation time,
3) The renovation of the editorial board and creation of the consulting editor’s board,
4) The improvement of the communication with authors and potential authors,
5) A better integration with Triple Helix conference organizers.

Also, we can highlight the regular publication of editorials as a relevant improvement. These not only have the function of introducing the issues but also of sharing, promoting and discussing research ideas (like in Cai & Amaral, 2022). The *THJ* has a double-side mission. First, to be the channel of dissemination of academic research in the area. Second, to contribute to the knowledge in the area by suggesting and promoting themes and topics to enhance the Triple Helix model discussion. One example is the organization of special issues, like the 9.1, 2022 issue, proposing a debate around Leydesdorff and Lawton Smith’s article (2022).

The good results from the last years don’t mean that our mission is over. On the contrary, there is still a long road to travel. The triple helix is a live and open model with several improvements or advancements to be brought to. Publishing the most recent contributions in the field, *THJ* is assuming a position as a lighthouse for the academic movement and general users. As part of the research community in the area, as well as editors, we are in a unique position where we can see the academic movement as a whole. When we publish our vision of a research agenda (Amaral & Cai, 2021), we share ideas and provoke the authors not to follow us but to lead us. For example, some of the *THJ*’s recent...
publications go through the confrontation of different helices models to a new synthesis (Cai, 2022; Carayannis and Campbell, 2022). There is a clear stream in the research innovation and entrepreneurship studies to:

1) Improve the helices models to comprehend social and economic actor’s behavior better, and, as an example, how to measure trilateral or more than tridimensional relations among them,
2) Create practical and/or managerial methods and tools to enhance the model application,
3) Make comparative studies among countries and regions about S&T policies and innovation and entrepreneurship experiences.

By the end, the reinforcement of the vision of “triple open access” is in our DNA, and this is a flag we have supported in the transition of the editorial business models over the last decade. The journal team and the THA are making a permanent effort to keep free access to readers, authors, and publishers. For this mission, it is undeniable to recognize the partnership with the Chinese Association for Science of Science and S&T Policy (CASSSP), which, in collaboration with THA, supports the journal’s financial functioning.

Not only us but all international associations, journals, and non-profit science and technology activities have faced several challenges in the last three years due to the Covid-19 crisis and the consequent economic transformations. To THA and THJ, it was not different. The reinvention of THA and its business model led us to an additional effort to rethink the editorial process, cut costs and do more with less without losing quality and a long-term vision. In the end, we leave this process stronger and with the hope of better days.

In terms of news, the year 2023 will be plenty of activities. We are glad to announce the following:

1) A triple editorial call is open in partnership with the Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship¹ and the Journal of Knowledge Economy,² both published by Springer,
2) The organization of a session of editors in the next Triple Helix Conference (June of 2023 in Barcelona³),
3) A publication of a special issue with research papers from the XX Triple Helix Conference (held on June 2022 in Florence).

Submit your research to the Triple Helix conference and meet us to discuss your publication. Full papers submitted will be evaluated on a fast-track basis.

¹ https://innovation-entrepreneurship.springeropen.com/afae.
Articles in This Issue

The issue opens with “The endless perspective to University-Industry-Government relations.” An article by Pedro Simões, António Carrizo Moreira and Carlos Mendes Dias questioning the analytical potential of the Triple Helix model as well as of further developed N-tuple helices models in addressing internal boundaries to the institutional spheres of the university, industry and government. The novelty of this study is that it expands the existing theory by proposing that adding “scopes”, instead of introducing new helices, can increase the analytical potential of the Triple Helix model.

After a short analysis of different sustainability concepts, the paper by Stefan Emeis and Joachim Fallmann – “Unsatisfying transfer of climate research to urban planning; the regulatory trap in the Triple Helix” – considers each of the three dimensions (science, local governance, and regulatory processes) to make proposals as to how these dimensions could interact more smoothly.

In the article “Facilitating academic engagement with society. A bonding social capital approach to self-determination”, Eva Sormani and Sue Rossano-Rivero examine how academic engagement with society can be facilitated by higher education institutional (HEI) managers by studying academics’ needs and the managers’ support for autonomy, competence, and relatedness, i.e., the determinants of self-determination.

Finally, Marilia Schocair, Alexandre Dias, Simone Galina, and Marcelo Amaral, in their article “The evolution of the Triple Helix thematic: a social network analysis,” study the evolution of the Triple Helix thematic using social network analysis. The research covers 1,122 publications in the Web of Science database between 1995 and 2022. The results show two different trends related to the literature relevance across innovation systems. The first one is a possible theoretical replacement by leaders in innovation whose research has migrated from the Triple Helix model to the Quadruple Helix. The second, is related to the studies’ continuity based on the prior model, by authors who investigate innovation systems in less advanced technological ecosystems with newborn or young relationships.

We hope that readers enjoy this issue and invite them to participate in our future activities. Follow THA website⁴ and social networks (we are on LinkedIn⁵ and Facebook⁶).

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5 https://www.linkedin.com/company/triple-helix-association/.
References


