Projects in a Global World
Bridging Project Management and International Business

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The internationalization of projects is not a new topic in the project management literature. International projects happen within multinational corporations, multinational consortia, or joint ventures. Many researchers have already tackled the challenges that projects have to handle in such a context, characterized by features such as high complexity (Yang, Kherbachi, Hong, & Shan, 2015); multiculturality within teams (Henderson, Stackman, & Lindekiilde, 2018); cooperation (Egginton, 1996; Konieczny & Petrick, 1994); coordination (Hosseni & Chileshe, 2013); risk (Kardes, Ozturk, Cavusgil, & Cavusgil, 2013); and stakeholder management (Aaltonen & Sivonen, 2009).

Although these issues have been covered at the project level in the project management literature, the relations between the projects and the permanent organizations that implement them are far less studied. With the growing projectification of firms (Schoper, Wald, Ingason, & Frideirsson, 2018), however, temporary and permanent organizations are becoming more and more related (Bakker, DeFillippi, Schwab, & Sydow, 2016). This special issue focuses on such relations in the context of business globalization.

These relations merit study for the following two reasons:

1. From the permanent organization to the projects: On one hand, innovation management at the global level is a growing phenomenon (Ben Mahmoud-Jouini, Burger-Helchen, Charue-Duboc, & Doz, 2015), resulting in challenges such as a more internationalized R&D footprint (Gassman & Von Zedwitch, 1999), specific innovation processes (such as transnational and meta-national models (Bartlett & Ghoshal, 1989; Doz, Santos, & Williamson, 2001; Meyer, Mudambi, & Narula, 2011). These challenges will affect project management, in particular as the globalization of business may emanate in more internationalized projects. However, there is a lack of research using a project management perspective on innovation management at the global level (Doz & Wilson, 2012).

2. From the projects to the permanent organization: On the other hand, international projects can be a learning process by which firms extend their reach to new markets and resources and, from one project to another, become global and transform their permanent organization (Brady & Davies, 2004; Söderlund & Tell, 2013; Midler, 2013; Midler, 2019). As projects can serve as enablers of a firm’s globalization, temporary projects become a focal point of attention. In such cases, project management may be a powerful lever to develop and coordinate the globalization of the firm.
This call intends to address these two sides of the related globalization dynamics between projects and the permanent organization in various contexts: from large multinational corporations (Johanson & Vahlne, 2009) to “born global” start-ups (Knight & Liesch, 2016). Moreover, while previous studies have focused mainly on Western organizations, there is now a new breed of emerging market multinationals (Cuervo-Cazurra & Ramamurti, 2014; Fleury & Fleury, 2011). In these emerging markets, little is known about how temporary projects interact with permanent structures in general and, more specifically so, the temporary-permanent dynamics in their rapid internationalization.

We welcome submissions tackling one or more of the following issues:

- Globalization of the firm and project management
- Internationalization of innovation processes and project management
- Knowledge management in the globalized firm and project management
- Globalization of human resource management and internationalization of projects
- Innovation, globalization, and projects
- New modes of organizing global operations in temporary structures
- International consortia and project-based organizing
- Emerging market dynamics and project internationalization
- Digitalization, project management, and the globalization of business
- International bodies, standardization, and the diffusion of project organizations
- Deglobalization: Implications for project management
- And further related...

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