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Organizational successions in industrial districts: a relational study

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Much effort has been made to analyze industrial districts (IDs) because of their local influence on both employment rates and economic growth. IDs are rooted in locally defined environments, but they are also embedded in global value chains that influence their strategic approaches and their capacity to generate effects on local communities. Companies operating in IDs, which are mainly family firms, are particularly sensitive to significant and breakthrough events (e.g., organizational succession, financial operations, technological transformations). Among these, organizational succession significantly impacts the way they interact: as members of districts, companies rely on interrelated activities to remain innovative and generate value. Failing in organizational succession may have negative effects both on the ID itself, with the risk of its decay (e.g., skill and knowledge dispersion), and on the company's internal structure, hindering its ability to preserve its innovation capabilities. Studying the inter- and intra-organizational relational aspects characterizing IDs and companies can shed light on their ability to address external shocks. In this study, I will adopt a combination of systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis to explore recent literature developments and provide an overview of their evolution. In particular, time-defined data will be collected from the Scopus database and then analyzed through two specific bibliometric tools. First, a co-word analysis will be conducted on specific keywords to determine conceptual and semantic maps. Second, a bibliographic coupling on shared references will be used to identify actual and emerging streams of research. The study will focus on the unexplored streams of social impacts of organizational successions, both on the social relations of IDs and inside companies, highlighting how the organizations at both levels react and adapt.

Keywords/Topics

Industrial Districts, Organizational Succession, Bibliometric Tools

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