
Call for Papers

Special Issue "Methods of Innovation Research"

in HSR ("Historical Social Research / Historische Sozialforschung")

The special issue "Methods of Innovation Research" aims at exploring a broader set of research methods and theory-method-bundles for approaching processes of innovation in social sciences. Papers should address one of the questions below either at a more general methodological level or using a concrete example in a specific research project:

- Which qualitative and/or quantitative methods are best suited for which kind of theoretical problems in innovation research? Are there new ways of linking theory and methods?
- What methodological innovations concerning innovation-research can be observed? How can we use the whole set of traditional social science methods or how can they be adjusted to address problems in innovation research?
- Which types of comparison can help us to grasp processes of innovation more adequately?
- Which sampling strategies are appropriate for grasping processes of innovation?
- What are the specific data requirements for analysis of innovation and how can these data be collected?
- Which strategies of data analysis are appropriate?
- Which techniques of case-selection are appropriate?
- How can we combine different forms of data or data-analysis to gain new insights in innovation-research?

We especially welcome contributions beyond the narrow aisle between thick ethnographic descriptions of activities in labs or indicator-based observations of whole regions or nations dominant in innovation research today. Researchers can ask how we can grasp the special, highly complex processes of invention and diffusion of new symbolic or material artefacts methodologically or which combination of theories and methods are appropriate for such an endeavour.

If you are interested in contributing a paper, please send an extended abstract with your paper proposal to Robert J. Schmidt (robert.schmidt@tu-berlin.de) by November 30th 2013. The abstract should state which methodological aspect you will discuss and how you will address the problem.

The preliminary timeframe for the special issue is:

- November 30th 2013 – submission of abstracts with paper proposals
- January 15th 2014 – notification of acceptance of paper proposals for the Special Issue in HSR
- August 15th 2014 – submission of first draft of full paper
- October 16th – October 18th 2014 – Author Conference (voluntary, there will be travel allowances for selected international authors)
- December 15th 2014 – submission of the final version of the paper
- 2015 – publishing of the Special Issue

About the Journal HSR

(<http://www.gesis.org/en/gesis-publications/journals/hsr/> & <http://www.hsr-retro.de/>) "Historical Social Research/ Historische Sozialforschung (HSR)" is an international peer-reviewed journal on historical social research in English and German which exists since 1976 and is edited by the "Zentrum für Historische Sozialforschung" (Cologne, Germany). It is listed in the most important data bases, such as SocINDEX with FULL TEXT (EBSCO), Social Science Citation Index (Thomson Reuters), SCOPUS (Elsevier), Sociological Abstracts (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts), Historical Abstracts (ABC-CLIO), International Political Science Abstracts (SAGE), Social Research Methodology Database (SAGE / NIWI) and Social Science Literature Information System (GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences).