SPECIAL ISSUE – 30 YEARS OF TRIPLE HELIX INNOVATION MODEL

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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In January 1995, Henry Etzkowitz and Loet Leydesdorff published the paper "The Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relations: A Laboratory for Knowledge-Based Economic Development" in the EASST Review. This publication signified a pivotal advancement in the conceptualisation of relationships among key stakeholders within economic and innovation processes.

> A "triple helix" of academic-industry-government relations is likely to be a key component of any national or multinational innovation strategy in the late twentieth century. The focus on interactions between institutions of fundamental research "on the supply side" and corporations has not only been reflected in technology policies, but also in technology studies. Linear models of "demand pull" or "technology push" have been superceded by evolutionary models that analyze the developments in terms of networks (e.g., Nelson & Winter 1982; Dosi et al. 1988; Leydesdorff & Van den Besselaar 1994). Non-linear dynamics has provided us with co-evolutionary models… (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 1995:2).

While not the earliest mention of the Triple Helix concept, this paper was the first co-authored by Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff and served as the thematic foundation for the 1996 conference. It also invited submissions of extended abstracts through August 1, 1995, marking an important call to the academic community. Recalling this moment, Leydesdorff emphasises its significance:

> The "Triple Helix of University-Industry-Government Relations" originated as a research agenda from a confluence of Henry Etzkowitz's longer-term interests in the entrepreneurial university (Etzkowitz, 1983, 2002; cf. Clark, 1998) with my interest in the evolutionary dynamics of science, technology, and innovations as a result of three (or more) different sub-dynamics.
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> In the summer of 1994, Etzkowitz and I met again at a workshop in Abisko (Sweden) and discussed a follow-up project combining his interest in university-industry relations with my interest in the dynamics of science, technology, and innovation. In the email conversations that followed, we developed the Triple-Helix (TH) model of university-industry-government relations as a common denominator (Etzkowitz & Leydesdorff, 1995).1 We agreed about using this title in email exchanges during the month of November 1994. (Leydesdorff, 2021: 89-90)

Following the initial publication, the inaugural Triple Helix International Conference—a modest workshop—was held from January 4–6, 1996, at the University of Amsterdam. This event laid the foundation for what has become a distinguished conference series, which will reach its twenty-third iteration in 2025 (Carraro *et al*., 2025).

These pioneering efforts fostered a productive collaboration between Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff, resulting in a substantial scholarly legacy. Their visionary framework catalysed a broad field of research and inspired further developments such as the Triple Helix Twins (Zhou & Etzkowitz, 2021), the Quadruple and Quintuple Helix models (Carayannis & Campbell, 2009; Carayannis, Barth and Campbell, 2012), the study of innovation districts (Pique et al., 2009; Rapetti et al. 2023), the neo-Triple Helix model (Cai, 2022), and ecosystem metaphors.

The 1996 conference marked the beginning of the global dissemination of the Triple Helix concept, attracting a wide cohort of scholars and students and igniting a sustained academic movement. Subsequent publications by Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff and their collaborators, along with the formal establishment of the Triple Helix Association and the launch of this journal, have consolidated the Triple Helix both as a theoretical construct and as an established academic movement.

Call for Submissions

In recognition of thirty years since the inception of the Triple Helix, Triple Helix – A Journal of University-Industry-Government Innovation and Entrepreneurship (http://www.brill.com/thj), the leading academic forum of the Triple Helix community, invites contributions for a commemorative special issue. Submissions are welcomed in the following categories:

1) Short Papers (3,000 words):

Articles commenting on, discussing, or revisiting seminal works from the Triple Helix movement, particularly those listed in Annex I. Comparative analyses of papers, authors, or theoretical perspectives are also encouraged.

2) Full Revisionist Papers (8,000 words):

From 2019 to 2021, the Triple Helix field experienced a period of critical reflection, with several publications (Cai & Etzkowitz, 2020; Leydesdorff, 2021) examining core aspects of the model and outlining future research directions (Cai & Amaral, 2021). For this reason, we invite manuscripts addressing theoretical aspects of the Triple Helix model or tracing the evolution of the academic movement. Suitable full-length papers include re*search* articles, systematic literature reviews with clear contributions to Triple Helix scholarship, or studies employing bibliometric techniques (Carraro et al., 2025), social network analysis (e.g., Schocair et al., 2023), or similar methodologies.

3) Full Research Papers (8,000 words):

Submissions are also sought for studies evaluating multiple contexts or ecosystems, or critically comparing innovation environments across regions or nations. We encourage papers featuring innovative empirical methodologies, as well as case studies highlighting societal engagement or novel approaches within specific sectors.

Thematic areas

To deepen the scholarly engagement and reflect the Triple Helix's multi-dimensional legacy, we explicitly invite contributions addressing the following (but not limited to) thematic areas:

- Theoretical Advancements and Critiques
    - Revisiting the foundational Triple Helix framework and its conceptual extensions (e.g., Quadruple and Quintuple Helix, Triple Helix Twins, Neo-Triple Helix).
    - Critical appraisals of the model's explanatory power across disciplines and contexts.
    - Integration with adjacent theories (e.g., innovation ecosystems, multi-level governance, institutional logics).

- Methodological Innovations
    - Novel quantitative or qualitative methods to study Triple Helix interactions.
    - Advances in bibliometric analysis, network analysis, or mixed methods for innovation research.

- Contextual and Comparative Analyses
    - Comparative studies of Triple Helix applications across countries, regions, or sectors.
    - Context-sensitive adaptations of the model in Global South or emerging economies.
    - Urban, regional, or sectoral innovation dynamics (e.g., innovation districts, smart cities).

- Triple Helix in Practice and Policy
    - Case studies of university-industry-government collaborations with demonstrable societal or environmental impacts.
    - Evaluation of national or regional innovation policies inspired by the Triple Helix framework.
    - Lessons learned from policy implementation, governance challenges, and stakeholder tensions.

- Future Directions and Emerging Topics

    - Triple Helix in the era of digitalisation, artificial intelligence, and platform economies.
    - Sustainability, climate action, and the green transition through the lens of Triple/Quadruple/Quintuple Helix models.
    - Societal engagement, responsible innovation, and citizen science as evolving dimensions.

Prospective authors are strongly advised to consult Cai & Amaral (2024) before submitting full papers. Manuscripts must clearly articulate the research question, theoretical framework, and anticipated contribution to the discipline. All submissions must be original works not under review or previously published elsewhere.

Special Issue Timeline

- **December 15th, 2025:** Expression of interest and optional abstract (approximately 500 words) due via email to the guest editor.
- **December 22nd, 2025:** Notification of acceptance/rejection and editorial recommendations for manuscript development.
- **February 22th, 2026:** Submission deadline for full manuscripts. Submissions will be processed via the journal's standard system for external peer review. Accepted papers will be published online ahead of print.
- **September 2026:** Publication of the special issue.

Submission Instructions

Expressions of interest should be sent to: triplehelixofinnovation@gmail.com.

Upon preliminary approval, full manuscripts should be prepared following the author guidelines provided here:

https://brill.com/fileasset/downloads_products/Author_Instructions/THJ.pdf.

Final manuscripts must be submitted through the *Triple Helix Journal* submission platform: https://www.editorialmanager.com/thj/.

All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer review process and accepted articles will be published collectively in the special issue.

For editorial enquiries, please contact the editors.

Additional Information

Authors whose submissions are accepted benefit from open access publication, including:

- Efficient Publication: Online submission, electronic peer review, and streamlined production processes facilitate swift and straightforward publication.
- Enhanced Visibility: Open access ensures maximum exposure and international readership—your article is accessible to anyone with internet access.
- Author Rights: Authors retain copyright under a Creative Commons licence, allowing for free redistribution and reuse with proper attribution.
- No APC Fees: Article processing charges are covered by the Triple Helix Association and its partners.

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ANNEX I

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