

## Editorial—A Venue, A Vision, and An Opportunity...

The inaugural issue of the *Industrial Geographer* is an important moment for us the editors and the editorial board. The publication of Volume 1 Issue 1 is an accomplishment that should be positioned within the context of the *IG's* mission, unique format, author opportunities, and delivery mechanisms.

### Rationale & Mission

The *Industrial Geographer* is envisioned as a venue for high quality research and writing on industrial geography. We are motivated to do this because the traditional outlets for theoretically-driven empirically-based industrial geography have increasingly focused on social theory, debates in critical human geography, and/or a variety of social theory-case study hybrids. As such, we believe that a demand and readership exists for this new outlet. At the same time, the *IG* intends to serve as an outlet for emerging geographies that identify new directions and prompts conceptual debates. As the mission statement below illustrates, the journal emphasizes the unique nature of industrial geography and its specific context within the discipline.

*The Industrial Geographer publishes articles and research notes that focus on a broad range of economic issues across all economic sectors and explore issues at all scales from the firm to the globe. The journal encourages submissions that are theoretically driven empirical research, papers with an applied and planning thrust, and papers that explore directions for future research.*

### Format

The journal is structured around two independent sections and editorships. The articles section is unique in that shorter articles are encouraged and submissions of any length are accepted. The intent of the articles section is provide an initial venue—perhaps even a developmental venue—for industrial geographers to shape, form, and rethink current and future research. As such, the review time will be kept to a minimum with the primary objective being the development of high quality manuscripts. The research note and discussion section provides an opportunity to engage in semi-structured discussions with colleagues on methods, concepts, new books, pedagogy, and issues in industrial geography. Likewise, the research note will enable researchers to publish initial brief empirical accounts of research findings. Finally, the notes section of Issue 1 for each volume will include a list of selected papers in industrial geography prepared by the section editor with the assistance of the editorial board. This should act as a quick and useful reference guide for faculty and students alike.

### Authorship

Unlike traditional journals, the *IG* provides authors expanded opportunities. First, authors will retain all rights to their work. As such, authors are encouraged to expand, develop, and rearticulate their ideas in subsequent research with the understanding that

subsequent works will: (1) represent a reasonable extension beyond the boundaries of the *IG* paper; and (2) the *IG* paper be cited in the bibliography. Second, the electronic format provides new opportunities to be creative. That is, the 'press-ready' electronic format will afford the editors the potential to publish in a variety of styles including posters, wide-format maps, or other creative works. Likewise, authors can publish papers that include multimedia components or links to outside Internet resources.

### *Delivery*

The *IG* will be hosted on a Indiana State University server and freely distributed as a PDF via the web and has been included in many e-journal catalogs, such as the University of Colorado's E-journal Miner. Additionally, the *IG* will be indexed and delivered as content to the thousands of subscribers of EBSCO Host and other derivative bibliographic and full-text products of EBSCO Publishers, Inc. In the future, we expect other content aggregators will also include the *IG* as part of their services. In fact, upon publication of the first issue other prominent e-content providers have agreed to review our content and determine its appropriateness for subsequent inclusion.

In this issue, the papers represent a range from reflective to empirical. In the first paper, Stafford uses his own biography to explore the development of traditional industrial geography in North America with an emphasis on the trajectories established by the quantitative revolution. The second paper, MacPherson & Kalafsky's study

of the machine tool industry, puts a new spin on the industrial geography of heavy industry to understand how industrial renewal occurs. Finally, Oshiro provides an interesting albeit more traditional note on the bubble economy and its implications on the real estate industry in Japan as the pressures of territorial industrialization alter the cost of residential and commercial land.

As the articles in this issue imply, the journal welcomes submissions on all aspects of industrial geography and encourages papers that focus on any region of interest to scholars. Moreover, we would like to emphasize that while the journal is based in North America scholars from around the world are encouraged to submit, nominate potential editorial board members, or propose a special issue.

In closing, we thank you for your support and truly hope the *IG* comes to be a valuable contribution to the discipline. Additionally, we would like to acknowledge the support, feedback, and constructive criticism of the editorial process as they have provided needed insights throughout the development and—now—implementation phases of this project. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to share them with any member of the editorial board.

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