

New Directions in Innovation Research Working Paper Series

Submission Guidelines

Who can submit to the series?

- The series is open to submissions from researchers, practitioners, and students whose existing work or program of study relates at least in part to the focus of the series.
- Among equally strong submissions, preference will be given to submissions from faculty, researchers, and students based at or affiliated with MIT D-Lab as well as current or past collaborators of the MIT D-Lab Local Innovation Group.

What are we looking for in papers?

We are looking for papers which make a contribution to advancing the scientific understanding and the practice of innovation. We are particularly interested in papers which provide insights into the innovation process in under-studied contexts, and which use empirical evidence (including well-documented experience) to:

- Elucidate how innovation takes place in these contexts, what conditions enable or hinder it, and what results from these processes.
- Correct mistaken notions about how innovation works in particular types of settings
- Clarify key concepts in innovation research and practice
- Propose frameworks and/or methods which can improve how innovation is researched, assessed, and evaluated.

Style Guidelines:

1. Papers should be written at the level and in the style of a practitioner-oriented journal (such as the Stanford Social Innovation Review) or discussion paper (for an example, see [this paper](#) and others published by the Overseas Development Institute). This means that:
 - Authors should assume a wide readership from across a variety of disciplines and avoid overly technical, disciplinary jargon;
 - Papers should be well-organized, clear, concise, and understandable, even by non-experts in the field of the authors;
 - Arguments and conclusions should be supported with examples, facts, and/or data drawn from secondary sources or, if primary data, collected and analyzed using valid research methods.
 - Papers should properly cite all sources following APA style guidelines.
2. All papers should have at a minimum the following sections: an introduction, a discussion of methods used/approach to the material, findings (if the article is based on data) and a discussion of the implications of the paper along with conclusions.
3. Papers must be in English and should be 15-25 pages long (excluding references), single or 1.5 spaced, 11 or 12 point font.