The Transformations of the Global Auto Industry

Digitalisation, Ecological Transition and the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis

29th Gerpisa International Colloquium
14-18 June 2021 / Virtual

Call for papers

Organizers:
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Program Committee:
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Deadline for proposals:
March 15th, 2021
Submission online: http://gerpisa.org/en/node/6237
The 2021 Colloquium will build on our previous research streams, namely the changes occurred in the global auto industry in terms of product architecture, value chains and labour relations, and the wider industry eco-systems, and will continue to investigate key transformations like the electrification, the broader ecological transition, the digitalisation of the sector and the future of work in the industry.

In addition, this year’s Colloquium will also aim to analyse whether and to what extent the COVID-19 crisis has accelerated or halted such changes. We thus welcome proposals on policy measures designed to contain the crisis in the industry, and on the social and political impact of the pandemic, with special reference to increasing inequalities and the changing labour scenario.

This call is organized in three sub-themes of research:

1. **New product architectures: electrification, digitalisation and the impact of COVID-19**
   Key topics: EVs, AVs, connected cars and their related technologies and innovations; their conception, production and distribution; alternatives technologies (biofuel, NGV, etc.); country strategies (e.g. China, USA); company trajectories (OEMS, global and national suppliers, new entrants etc.); profit strategies and product policies; productive organizations; integral vs modular product architectures; global platforms organization and governance; platform economy and related product-services; COVID-19 and its impact on digital transformation and ecological transition of the industry.

2. **New value chains architectures and labour relations: digitalisation, globalisation, de-globalisation and the future of work**
   Key topics: the transformation of global value chains; the impact of new technologies on transnational manufacturers; industrial and innovation policies; economic, functional and social upgrading (downgrading); trade policies, FTAs and neo-protectionism; the future of work and the impact of digital technologies on work and employment; working conditions; upskilling – deskilling; training; organizing labour; restructuring; autonomy and control at work; decent work; impact of COVID-19 on global supply chains, employment structures and labour relations; labour responses to the COVID-19 crisis

3. **New eco-system architectures: transitioning to a ‘green’ industry and embedding the automobile in societal and political contexts**
   Key topics: new mobility models and their implications for the automotive eco-system; new business models for mobility providers; endorsement, acceptance or resistance towards new mobilities by users and workers; the role of old and new actors; public policies and regulations (local, national, and global) and their impact on the industry at the national and global level; work and labour in platform economies; ecological transition and environmental policies; ecological transition and changing mobility patterns.

A selection of the best papers presented during the colloquium, including the winner of the young author’s prize will be included in a special issue of the International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management (IJATM).

**Online submission: [http://gerpisa.org/node/6237](http://gerpisa.org/node/6237)**

**Deadline:** 15th of March 2021.