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A Structural Approach to the Influence of Regulation on Technological Innovation

ABSTRACT

Research on how regulations influence technological innovation has concentrated on changes in a firm's R&D intensity or changes in patenting rate within an industry. Yet, scholars have neglected the nuanced effects that regulations have on the type of innovation firms choose to pursue and the unintended consequences of this choice for competition and industry dynamics. We take a structural approach to a technology's life-cycle and develop a theoretical framework that explains the effects that regulations have on the emergence of innovation, the type of innovation, and the resulting competitive landscape of an industry. Specifically, we theorize how regulations that place boundaries on existing subsystems prevent the emergence of performance enhancing innovations and limit the development of market niches in an industry. We also explain how the mandated addition of a subsystem may prevent the emergence of an innovation, while allowing previously lagging firms to compete for first mover advantages.

Short Bio:

Maria Minniti is Professor and Louis A. Bantle Chair of Entrepreneurship and Public Policy in the Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University, and Visiting Distinguished Professor in the Department of Management Studies at Aalto University, Finland. She is also the Director of the Institute for an Entrepreneurial Society (IES) at the Whitman School of Management of Syracuse University. Maria holds a PhD in Economics from New York University, a MS in Economics from Auburn University, and a BS in Political Science from the Università' La Sapienza of Rome. Previously, she was Professor and Bobby B. Lyle Chair of Entrepreneurship in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University, and Professor of Economics and Professor of Entrepreneurship at Babson College. Maria has also taught at New York University and Skidmore College, and has been a visiting professor at the London Business School, Humboldt University, Copenhagen Business School and the Max Planck Institute of Economics.

Maria's work has been published in the *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Management*, *Economics Letters*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Business Venturing*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, *Small Business Economics Journal*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, and *Harvard Business Review* among others.

Maria's more recent work focuses on the political economy of entrepreneurship and innovation, and its implication for industry evolution.