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# International Journal of Industrial Organization

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## Introduction

For more than three decades, the EARIE annual conference has brought together some of the best work in industrial organization (or industrial economics) in Europe (and the rest of the world). In 2009, as I was appointed president elect of EARIE and chair of its 2009 conference's scientific committee, I was given the challenge to introduce changes in the conference design that would improve its already high standards. One such innovation was the creation of a series of invited presentations, a subset of which is included in the present special issue.

When organizing the EARIE invited sessions, I stressed that I was not looking for regular research papers as the ones submitted to a conference or research journal. Rather, the idea was to collect short pieces that report on the progress of an ongoing project, summarize the results of a past but recent research program, or survey recent developments in a particular subfield. In other words, I expected authors to write about the research they would submit and publish in top journals – though not to present the papers they would submit to those journals.

The result, I am happy to report, fulfilled my expectations – and hopefully the reader's as well. The pages that make up this special

issue provide a concise and thought-provoking overview of various industrial organization topics, a summary of some of the more exciting research projects at the fields' forefront.

Broadly speaking, the present issue's organization follows the structure of the conference's invited sessions. However, my concern was less focused on the particular structure of each session as on the quality and interest of the research in question.

I thank the board of the International Journal of Industrial Organization for hosting this special issue, and Journal's staff for working so efficiently on its edition. Last but not least, I thank the authors for having responded to the challenge of writing and presenting these papers.

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