

**3rd edition of the International Conference
THE GOVERNANCE OF A COMPLEX WORLD**

**2014 Conference theme:
Smart, inclusive and sustainable growth: lessons and challenges ahead**

**18-20 June, 2014
Torino, Italy
<http://gcw2014.sciencesconf.org/>**

**SPECIAL TRACK ON FIRM AGE AND PERFORMANCE
Organised by Alex Coad, Jacob Rubæk Holm, Jackie Krafft, Francesco Quatraro**

It is under-recognized that, until recently, firm-level longitudinal datasets have not had data on firm age. Brian Headd of the US Small Business Administration recently commented on "the dearth of information by business age. Simply stated, industrial organization and small business researchers are deprived of firm-age data" (Headd and Kirchoff 2009, *J Small Bus Management*, p548).

However, firm age has an important effect on a firm's changing identity and its performance. Haltiwanger et al (2013, *REStat*) recently observed that "our main finding is that once we control for firm age there is no systematic relationship between firm size and growth." Hence a detailed focus on age may overturn previous core results in the industrial organization literature.

The special track will take stock of recent research on firm age and performance and identify areas for further exploration. We encourage contributions to go beyond merely taking age as a linear control variable, and looking for more complex relationships between age and performance (mediation & moderation effects, non-linearities, heterogeneous effects across quantiles, different causal pathways for firms of different ages, etc). In the special track, we will also seek new theoretical developments for the effects of firm age on performance.

A selection of the papers presented to the special session will be considered for inclusion in a special issue published in the *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*.

Submission:

Submit a 1000 words abstract to <http://gcw2014.sciencesconf.fr>

The abstract should clearly mention: title of the paper; name of the author(s) and full address of the corresponding author (postal address, phone, fax and email); submission to the special track 'Firm age and Performance'; aim of the study and methodology; (expected) results and/or conclusion; up to 5 keywords.

Important dates:

- Deadline for abstract submission: **March 31, 2014**
- Notification of acceptance: **April 30, 2014**
- Full paper submission: **May 31, 2014**