‘Circumspect vigilance’: reconsidering the implications of Edith Penrose’s single argument for sustainable economic development

Conference or Workshop Item

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The Department of Financial and Management Studies of SOAS, University of London (DeFiMS) is organising a conference in collaboration with INSEAD and The Oxford Institute of Energy Studies to mark Edith Penrose’s centenary (15 November 2014 - 21 October 1996). Best known for her seminal contribution on the theory of the growth of the firm, Penrose’s research spanned some five decades and covered a wide range of topics including: the international patent system and innovation; multinational firms and foreign investment; oil companies and the economies of the Middle East; the theory of the firm; and economic development.

Call for Papers by 8 September 2014


Abstracts of 500-1000 words including authors, institutional affiliation and title, should be submitted by 8 September 2014 to: EPConf@soas.ac.uk. Decisions on acceptance of papers will be notified to authors by 20 September 2014. Final versions of accepted papers to be submitted by 20 October 2014.
Edith Penrose: A Celebration of her work and legacy

The Theory of the Growth of the Firm
“Originally published in 1959, The Theory of the Growth of the Firm has illuminated and inspired thinking in strategy, entrepreneurship, knowledge creation, and innovation. Edith Penrose’s tightly-argued classic laid the foundations for the resource based view of the firm, now the dominant framework in business strategy. She analyses managerial activities and decisions, organizational routines, and also the factors that inevitably limit a firm’s growth prospects.” (Oxford University Press revised edition, published 2009)

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