

Multinational Firms, Innovation and Productivity



Davide Castellani, Professor of Applied Economics and **Antonello Zanfei**, Professor of Industrial Economics, University of Urbino, Italy

'Castellani and Zanfei have developed an original and comprehensive analysis of the role of multinational firms in the transfer, creation and diffusion of technology. By developing their view of the multinationals as "double network institutions", the authors provide new insights on a variety of key issues at the frontier of economics of international production and innovation. This book is thought-provoking, incisive and topical, and should be required reading for both economists and policymakers alike.'

– Rajneesh Narula, University of Reading, UK

'Castellani and Zanfei present an in-depth theoretical and empirical analysis of the key issues underpinning the relationship between innovation and multinationality. This book is a strongly-recommended reading for any researcher working on innovation or multinationality or the interface between the two.'

– Grazia Ietto-Gillies, London South Bank University, UK



This book gets to the root of how and why multinational firms differ in the cross-border creation, transfer and diffusion of technology, and provides fresh evidence on the effects that these differences have on productivity and innovation in the economic systems in which they are active.

Davide Castellani and Antonello Zanfei consider multinationals as heterogeneous institutions that combine internal networks of subsidiaries with external networks of collaborative linkages, to bridge different economic and innovation systems. They examine heterogeneity in productivity and innovative behaviour between multinational and national firms, as well as across and within multinationals. The authors argue that not every foreign firm is a good source of externality, and not every domestic firm is equally well placed to benefit from multinationals. It is shown that spillovers from multinationals differ according to the technological profiles, embeddedness and linkage creation of both foreign and domestic firms active in local markets. The book supports this view with empirical evidence based on illustrative case studies, and on econometric analysis using extensive firm-level datasets on multinational activities, innovation and economic performances.

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Introduction

Part I: The Changing Role of Multinational Firms in Innovation

Part II: How Firms Differ in Innovation, Productivity, and Internationalisation

Part III: Firm Heterogeneity, Multinationals, and Spillovers

References

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