This special issue is dedicated to the memory of Professor M. Atilla Öner, who passed away in the most fruitful times of his scholarly life on the 29th of August 2018. Prof. Öner graduated in the first place of the Engineering Faculty at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey in 1978. Continuing in the path of engineering, he completed his academic degrees of M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at Yale University. He went back to his home country following his Ph.D. and worked in the industry leading several R&D projects for more than a decade from 1985 to 2000. While he had gained intensive practical experience in the real sector, he never disconnected his ties with academic life. Prof. Öner taught courses in the field of technology management at Boğaziçi University and advised projects at the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey during these times as an adjunct faculty. As of 2000, he permanently moved to academia to achieve his tremendous passion for teaching and research at the Department of Business Administration at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. He was a Professor of Technology and Operations Management and served as the managing director of the Management Application and Research Center at Yeditepe University. He contributed to the scholarly work in the fields of methodology, technology road mapping, R&D management, and technology management. He supervised several MS/MBA and Ph.D. theses on national innovation systems, pilot national (sectoral) foresight studies, system dynamic modeling of R&D management, project management, and public policy issues. He was an associate editor of Technological Forecasting and Social Change and served on the editorial board of Foresight, Futures, International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management.
Prof. Öner was a person of challenges. The brick walls could not have stopped him from achieving his dreams. He had this passion of doing more, however better and together, which he passed on to his surrounding as a mentor, colleague, and friend. He had an overflow of ideas and an inexhaustible desire to work on them with his colleagues and students, which we all take on from now onward.

The special issue was initially envisaged while Prof. Öner was alive with an intention to improve the understanding of the management of artificial intelligence used in products and processes by an attempt to reveal many aspects of implementing new technologies. Considering his previous scholarly work in the broad area of technology management, we have widened the scope of the issue to the management of emergent technologies as a tribute to his scholarly work in this field.

Five papers contribute to this special issue, including one of the latest research of Prof. Öner, which was published in the *International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management* in 2018. Prof. Öner coauthors the paper “Impact of Knowledge Management Capabilities on New Product Development and Company Performance,” with Yildirimaz and Herrmann. This research conceptualizes a model where knowledge management enablers are linked to the knowledge creation process, which affects the new product development (NPD) capability and the perceived company performance. The hypothesized structural equation model is empirically tested using data collected through a web-based survey employed to the managers in the Turkish IT sector [*Yildirmaz et al.* (2018)]. This study is vital in revealing the links between knowledge management enablers and knowledge creation processes, which could be used by the managers to gain better NPD capabilities and boost organizational performance.

The second paper is “Edge AI-Driven Technology Advancements Paving Way Towards New Capabilities,” written by Agarwal, Magnusson, and Johanson. This paper focuses on the emergent technology, i.e. Edge AI, which brings together the concepts of IoT and AI without a need for connectivity of IoT sensors and devices or processing heavy computational machines to produce intelligence. Analyzing three development projects initiated by a Swedish OEM, Agarwal *et al.* [2020] explore the new capabilities offered by the Edge AI and the competitive advantage they bring in. While new technologies such as Edge AI are seen as a resource from the perspective of the resource-based view, the authors point to the dynamic capabilities that such technologies could offer and their role in sustainability.

The third paper crafted by De Boer, Jansen, Bustos, Prinse, Horwitz, and Hoorn is entitled “Social Robotics in Eastern and Western Newspapers: China and (Even) Japan are Optimistic.” The authors question the belief that Eastern societies receive the acceptance and use of artificial intelligence in the form of social robots more positively than Western societies. De Boer *et al.* [2020] perform a content analysis using 120 published articles on social robots in four different Asian-English and Western-English newspapers. Western papers demonstrate more negative tendency across social, fairness-and-equality, and safety-and-health frames than the Eastern papers. Besides, Eastern papers expect more economic benefits as compared to the Western ones. Overall, this study makes implications to the
policymakers and technology developers from a different perspective of AI such that the Eastern society, including Japan, is more willing to adopt the new technology. In contrast, Western society is concerned about the effects of the use of social robots on their health and safety and believes that social robots might create fairness issues surging the digital divide.

The fourth paper, “Matching co-innovation project types to diverse customer relationships: perspective of an industrial technology supplier,” is by Lehtimäki and Komulainen. In a technologically complex industrial context, this study aims to understand the match between the supplier’s co-innovation goals and diverse customer relationship types, identifying the type of customer involvement. Lehtimäki and Komulainen (2020) come up with a typology of the best matching co-innovation projects and different types of customer relationships. Their findings reveal that collaborative development projects best match facilitative customer relationships for which the relations do not require strong bonds. On the other hand, integrative customer relationships are best suited for new knowledge development projects with high uncertainty. This study contributes to the co-innovation literature making implications for managers on how to plan co-innovation projects based on the suppliers’ goals and types of customers and their involvement.

The last paper of this issue is written by Del Vecchio, Passiante, Barberio, and Innella, entitled “Digital Innovation Ecosystems for Circular Economy: the case of ICESP, the Italian Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform.” This study explores the link between the innovation ecosystems empowered by digital platforms and the circular economy. Their findings reveal how the interaction of the digital innovation ecosystem and platform for the Italian Circular Economic Stakeholder fosters Italy’s technological entrepreneurship. This study offers important implications for policymakers and practitioners for developing strategies to achieve sustainable and collaborative innovation via better exploiting the digital platforms in creating innovation ecosystems for the circular economy.

Acknowledgments
I would like to give a special thank you to the Editor in Chief Prof. Alexander Brem of the International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management to remember him in a meaningful way that would make him proud. This special issue would not be here without the support of the reviewers. I thank all the reviewers for their time and effort.

References


**Biography**

**Gökçen Arkah Olcay** is an Associate Professor at the Department of Management at Gebze Technical University. She received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Bilkent University and her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Operations Management from the University of Texas at Dallas. Her research interests include empirical research in operations management, innovation management, and entrepreneurship. She teaches courses on operations management, statistical analysis, business research, and business analytics at both undergraduate and graduate levels.