

# JOURNAL OF BUSINESS LOGISTICS

## Call for Proposals: Special Topic Forum

### Past Accomplishments and Future Challenges within Supply Chain Management Research

The goal of this special issue is to provide integrative reviews of supply chain management (SCM) research and to guide its future development. The guest editors invite authors to submit a *proposal* (not a full paper) that outlines a plan for creating a high-impact scholarly review of an important research stream. In this context, the term 'research stream' refers to a body of work (a) that is focused on a specific topic; or (b) that applies a particular theory across different topics. Quantitative reviews such as meta-analyses are outside the scope of the special issue, as are reviews of the application of methods.

Proposals should be double-spaced with no less than one-inch margins and twelve-point font. Proposals should be no more than seven pages of text. References (single-spaced with a space between entries), tables, and appendices do not count against this page limit; authors can include up to ten pages of such materials in addition to the seven pages of text. Proposals that exceed these limits will not receive consideration. Any given author is limited to participating in one proposal. Proposals will be evaluated based on these criteria:

**Need for a Review.** The proposal should center on a significant SCM research stream. The proposal should establish why a review is needed and explain what tasks the planned review will accomplish. Proposals to review research streams for which no published reviews exist will have an advantage.

**Feasibility.** In addition to taking on a significant task, the proposal should represent an achievable project within the compressed timeline outlined below. Proposals that need more than four authors to execute are perhaps tackling an overly broad topic. Providing a summary of an initial literature search – such as the set of journals examined, the years examined, and the number of articles found – is not required but would help the guest editors assess feasibility.

**Breadth of Interest.** Proposals of interest to scholars across various SCM specialty areas – and perhaps also in neighboring fields – will have an advantage over proposals of interest to a small set of scholars. Likewise, proposals to review research streams with steady or growing interest will be viewed more favorably than those declining in interest.

**Coherence.** The proposal should read clearly and use a logical structure.

**Future Research.** The proposal should make clear to what degree future research is needed within the research stream and how a full paper would lay a valuable foundation for that work.

**Quality.** Reflective of the above, the special issue seeks high quality submissions. Thus, authors are encouraged to leverage insights from two prominent articles on how to construct a review article:

Webster, J., & Watson, R. T. (2002). Analyzing the past to prepare for the future: Writing a literature review. *MIS Quarterly*, xiii-xxiii.

Short, J. (2009). The art of writing a review article. *Journal of Management*, 35 (6), 1312-1317.

The special issue timeline is as follows:

October 1- November 1, 2021

Proposals may be submitted via the *Journal of Business Logistics'* online submission portal at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jbl>

Please be sure to select Special Issue as the submission type. Please note that early and late proposals will not be considered nor will proposals submitted directly to the guest editors. The guest editors will not be able to pre-screen ideas or rough drafts, but authors are encouraged to seek feedback from trusted colleagues prior to submission.

December 1, 2021

Decisions on proposals will be provided. Authors of successful proposals will be invited to submit full papers.

May 1, 2022

Full paper due.

August 1, 2022

Feedback to authors on full paper. The hope is that all papers will advance to the next stage, but this is contingent on the quality of the work.

October 1, 2022

Revised paper due.

Early 2023

Issue will be published.

Please note these are basic guidelines, each paper may require different timing and a different number of revisions.

GUEST EDITORIAL TEAM

David J. Ketchen, Auburn University  
Christopher W. Craighead, University of Tennessee