



Introduction to the 2003 International Industrial Organization Conference Special Issue

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This special double issue of the *Review of Industrial Organization* is devoted to papers presented at the inaugural International Industrial Organization Conference held on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts, April 4–5, 2003. The conference included invited and submitted papers, keynote addresses, and panel sessions covering all aspects of industrial organization. There were approximately 350 attendees and 270 papers presented. Further information on this and upcoming conferences can be found on the website <http://www.ios.neu.edu/homepage.htm>.

The purpose of this special issue is to provide rapid publication of some of the high-quality research from the Conference. This double issue contains two groups of papers. The first group includes the keynote addresses delivered at the conference. The keynote speakers are two of the top researchers in the field; I am grateful to the speakers for agreeing to include their addresses in this issue. The papers provide an excellent survey of their topics, describing the cutting edge of current research and providing a guide for future research. They should be useful to graduate students looking for dissertation topics and to current practitioners in the field.

Michael Riordan delivered the first of the two keynote addresses. He is the Laurans A. and Arlene Mendelson Professor of Economics and Business, in Columbia University's Department of Economics and the Graduate School of Business. He has had positions at the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, Yale, and recently served as Chief Economist at the Federal Communications Commission. Professor Riordan has published widely on various topics in theoretical industrial organization, including contract theory, competition and strategy, and antitrust, and has held editorial positions at top journals. His paper (Riordan, 2003) is on the interaction between capital markets and product markets, an issue on the boundary between the fields of industrial organization and corporate finance.

Ariel Pakes delivered the second of the two keynote addresses. Prior to his current position as Professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at Harvard University, he held positions at the University of Jerusalem, Wisconsin, and Yale. He has published seminal articles on the use of structural econometric models in industrial organization. Professor Pakes was the recipient of the 1986 Frisch Medal of the Econometric Society, and has held editorial positions at leading journals in the field. His paper in this issue (Pakes, 2003) is on the use of new econometric methods (simulation and semiparametrics) to empirical industrial organization to overcome the computation problems associated with the estimation of realistic structural models.

The second group of papers contains six articles that were submitted in response to a call for papers at the conference. Any paper presented at the conference was eligible for submission. Authors were promised a dedicated outlet for the papers and a fast turnaround time for review. Thirty-one papers were submitted. This pool contained more quality papers than could be included in the special issue. I reviewed the papers and selected a subset of these to be refereed and carefully edited. This process resulted in the six accepted papers included here, an acceptance rate of 19 percent. It should be emphasized that this group of papers in the special issue were refereed and edited according to the usual standards of the *Review*, and thus should be given similar regard as any of the top quality papers published in the *Review*. The papers cover many topics and methodologies, ranging from an experimental study of network externalities (Charavarty, 2003); to intra-industry econometric studies of various industrial organization hypotheses in the taxicab (Flores-Guri, 2003), winegrape (Goodhue et al., 2003), and soft drink (Mariuzo et al., 2003) markets; to an inter-industry study of firm dynamics (Bottazzi and Secchi, 2003); to a theoretical application of robust comparative statics to study innovation incentives (Weiss, 2003). Together with the keynote addresses, these papers represent a nice cross-section of current research in industrial organization.

It would not have been possible to publish this special issue as soon after the end of the conference without the cooperation of a number of parties. Special thanks are due to the referees for returning thoughtful reviews in record time, to the authors for turning around revisions quickly, and to Suzanne Robblee for helping process the manuscripts. I am also grateful to John Kwoka for advice and to the sponsors of the 2003 International Industrial Organization Conference: the Industrial Organization Society, American Public Power Association, Analysis Group, Charles River Associates, Giannini Foundation, Kluwer, and Northeastern University.

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