
TWENTY YEARS OF STUDIES IN BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

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Abstract:

The editorial article celebrates the twentieth anniversary of Studies in Business and Economics (SBE) by examining the journal's development, increased visibility, and scholarly contributions over the past twenty years. Since its inception, SBE has undergone a significant transformation, moving from its origins as a primarily regional academic outlet to establishing itself as a recognized international publication within the broader business and economics research community. This evolution is evidenced by several key factors. First, the journal's strategic inclusion in major academic indexes has played a crucial role in raising its profile and extending its reach to a global audience. Second, SBE's commitment to rigorous editorial standards has helped ensure the quality and credibility of the research it publishes. The implementation of a robust open-access policy has further expanded the journal's accessibility, allowing a wider readership to engage with its content. Finally, the diversification of SBE's research portfolio reflects both the academic mission of its host institution and the ongoing changes in global scholarly publishing, positioning the journal as a dynamic and responsive platform for business and economics scholarship.

Key words: *business, economics, academic journal*

1. Introduction: An Anniversary Moment

Anniversaries offer academic journals a unique opportunity for thoughtful self-examination. They serve as occasions for editorial teams and scholarly communities to revisit previous accomplishments, analyze the journal's growth over time, and identify key strategic priorities for the coming years. In this light, the twentieth anniversary of *Studies in Business and Economics Journal* (SBE) is not merely a moment for celebration, but also a chance for meaningful reflection on its progress and future direction.

Established in 2006 under the auspices of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, SBE has matured within a rapidly evolving and increasingly competitive landscape of academic publishing. The past twenty years have seen journals in business and economics respond to intensified international competition, the proliferation of open-access models, the increasing prevalence of bibliometric performance measures, and the emergence of more

sophisticated research methodologies. The development of SBE should be viewed within this broader context of change and innovation in academic publishing.

Instead of restricting the analysis to technical or quantitative metrics, this review places performance indicators in relation to the journal's institutional mission, intellectual character, and contributions to the wider scholarly community. By situating these quantitative measures within the framework of SBE's purpose and identity, the discussion highlights both the journal's achievements and its ongoing commitment to advancing research in business and economics.

2. From Foundation to Consolidation

In its early stages, *Studies in Business and Economics Journal* primarily served as a regional and national academic journal, providing a dedicated venue for research within economics and business studies. The journal's content and outreach were closely connected to its host institution and associated scholarly networks. This trajectory is typical among university-based journals, which often begin by addressing the needs of their immediate academic communities before gradually broadening their scope and audience.

A significant development in the journal's journey occurred in 2010, when *Studies in Business and Economics* transitioned to a triannual publication schedule. This shift was driven by an increase in manuscript submissions and the strengthening of editorial resources. Establishing a regular and predictable publication rhythm is essential for a journal's credibility; thus, this change marked an important step toward a more robust editorial structure. Throughout this period, the journal maintained a wide thematic range – including economics, management, finance, and business studies – which fostered interdisciplinary exchange and laid the groundwork for future internationalization.

The journal achieved major milestones in its development through its inclusion in prominent academic databases. In 2015, *Studies in Business and Economics* was indexed in the Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index, and later, in 2018, it was added to Scopus. These achievements are recognized throughout the academic community as markers of editorial excellence, rigorous peer-review processes, and consistent publishing practices. Beyond the prestige associated with indexation, these milestones had a measurable impact: bibliometric data show a marked increase in citation activity following the journal's inclusion in these databases. As a result, articles published in *Studies in Business and Economics* became more accessible to researchers worldwide and entered into formal systems of academic assessment used by universities and funding agencies.

While citation-based metrics only partially reflect a journal's influence, they nevertheless offer valuable insight. Within databases like Web of Science and Scopus, *Studies in Business and Economics* has demonstrated a moderate citation impact, aligning with journals indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index and positioned in the third quartile of both Web of Science and Scopus subject categories. Although these citation levels are not yet equivalent to those of long-standing, high-impact publications, they indicate consistent growth and expanding recognition. The notable increase in citation activity since international indexation highlights the importance of visibility and accessibility in enhancing scholarly impact.

Additionally, data from Google Scholar, which include a broader spectrum of citation sources, show that the journal's content reaches beyond strictly indexed publications. This wider visibility is particularly significant for applied fields, where research often informs policy documents, monographs, and professional literature. This period of development was also marked by heightened submission rates and increased editorial selectivity, which strengthened quality assurance processes and further solidified the journal's academic reputation.

Analysis of authorship within *Studies in Business and Economics* offers important insights into the journal's approach to scholarly production. Throughout the indexed period, the average number of authors per article has remained slightly above two, a trend that is consistent with established practices in applied economics and business research.

Single-authored articles continue to represent a significant portion of the journal's published work. This underscores the ongoing relevance of conceptual, theoretical, and reflective scholarship, especially in economics and management, where individual contributions to theoretical synthesis and methodological reflection are highly valued. Nevertheless, the majority of articles in the journal are the result of collaborative efforts. Multi-authored publications dominate the journal's output, highlighting a strong focus on co-authorship. This trend is particularly evident in empirical research, which often requires a combination of methodological expertise and access to diverse data sources. Notably, more than eighty percent of the journal's contributing authors are involved in co-authored works, reflecting the journal's alignment with contemporary collaborative research practices.

However, institutional analysis reveals a strong anchoring of SBE in its host institution, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. This centrality has provided editorial continuity, academic stewardship, and long-term strategic direction. Such institutional grounding is a strength rather than a limitation, particularly for open-access university journals. Beyond the host institution, the journal has attracted sustained contributions from a wide range of Romanian universities, consolidating its role as a national forum for business and economics research. More importantly, international participation has increased steadily over time. Authors affiliated with institutions across Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa contribute regularly to the journal. This geographic diversification enhances the journal's intellectual pluralism and supports comparative research perspectives. In disciplines where institutional and regional contexts matter greatly, such diversity contributes to richer and more nuanced scholarly debate.

Institutional analysis demonstrates that the *Studies in Business and Economics Journal* is firmly anchored in its host institution, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. This central role has enabled the journal to maintain editorial continuity, provide consistent academic stewardship, and pursue a long-term strategic direction. The strong institutional grounding is a significant asset for open-access university journals, serving as a foundation for stability and sustained development.

In addition to its host institution, SBE has successfully attracted ongoing contributions from numerous Romanian universities. This broad engagement has helped consolidate the journal's position as a national forum for business and economics research, fostering collaboration and exchange among scholars across the country.

Importantly, the journal has seen a steady increase in international participation over time. Authors affiliated with institutions throughout Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa regularly contribute to SBE. This growing geographic diversification enriches the journal's intellectual pluralism and encourages comparative research perspectives. In fields where institutional and regional contexts are highly significant, such diversity enables more robust and nuanced scholarly debates.

Over the past two decades, the thematic orientation of articles published in *Studies in Business and Economics* has revealed a coherent and distinctive intellectual profile. The journal has consistently emphasized core research themes such as economic impact, growth, and performance. These areas form the foundation of its scholarly contributions, providing valuable insights into macroeconomic performance, sectoral growth, firm productivity, and profitability.

In addition to these core areas, the journal's content is enriched by studies focusing on management, corporate governance, organizational behavior, and entrepreneurship. This breadth of topics situates the journal firmly within the domain of applied business and economics research, allowing it to address critical questions related to efficiency, development, and strategic decision-making.

A notable feature of the journal's approach is its consistent effort to bridge micro-level and macro-level analysis. This dual perspective enhances the relevance of its research for both academic researchers seeking theoretical advancements and practitioners looking for actionable insights.

The journal has also demonstrated adaptability to changing research agendas and global scholarly trends. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in articles addressing emerging topics such as sustainability, corporate social responsibility, digital transformation, and bibliometric analysis. The incorporation of these subjects highlights the journal's commitment to staying responsive to evolving academic interests while maintaining a strong sense of thematic continuity.

A defining characteristic of *Studies in Business and Economics Journal* is its commitment to open-access publishing without imposing article processing charges. In a publishing environment where fee-based open-access models are increasingly prevalent, this approach makes a significant contribution to the equitable dissemination of knowledge. By maintaining a no-fee open-access policy, the journal greatly enhances accessibility for researchers, students, and practitioners worldwide, including those in regions with limited access to subscription-based resources.

For early-career scholars and authors from emerging economies, *Studies in Business and Economics* provides an essential platform for engaging in international academic discourse. The journal's inclusive approach ensures that participation in scholarly conversations is not hindered by financial barriers, supporting a more diverse and globally representative research community.

Upholding academic quality within this open-access framework requires robust editorial oversight. The journal demonstrates its commitment to scholarly responsibility through continued adherence to double-blind peer review and the maintenance of high editorial standards. These practices are vital to ensuring the integrity and credibility of published research.

Like many mid-tier academic journals, Studies in Business and Economics faces ongoing challenges. These include increasing competition for high-quality submissions, evolving expectations regarding transparency and research ethics, and the growing prominence of bibliometric evaluation. Addressing these challenges necessitates continuous editorial adaptation to uphold the journal's standards and reputation.

3. Future directions

After twenty years of continuous publication, Studies in Business and Economics Journal has achieved the status of a mature and stable academic journal with significant international visibility. The journal's development over these two decades exemplifies a careful balance between remaining anchored within its institutional origins and actively engaging with the global research community. This evolution is also marked by its ability to maintain thematic coherence while welcoming a diversity of intellectual perspectives, thus ensuring both accessibility and the maintenance of rigorous academic standards.

While the journal's impact indicators have not yet reached the level of the most prominent international publications, Studies in Business and Economics has nonetheless established itself as a credible and respected journal within the worldwide business and economics research ecosystem. Looking ahead, a continued focus on high-quality empirical research, a selective approach to thematic areas, and fostering international collaboration will be key to further strengthening the journal's academic reputation and influence in the coming decade.

Acknowledgments: *We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of the authors, reviewers, and colleagues from the broader academic community who have contributed to the achievements of Studies in Business and Economics Journal. Their dedication and scholarly input have played a essential role in advancing the journal's mission and upholding its standards. These collective efforts have not only shaped the quality of research published but have also fostered a collaborative environment that continues to enhance the journal's reputation in the global business and economics research landscape.*

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4. Usefull links regarding SBE

- <https://reference-global.com/journal/SBE>
- <https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr-jp/journal-profile?journal=STUD%20BUS%20ECON-ROM&year=2024&fromPage=%2Fjcr%2Fhome>
- <https://15109f5sv-y-https-www-scopus-com.z.e-nformation.ro/sourceid/21100888810>
- <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=21100888810&tip=sid&clean=0>
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