

***Editorial Preface***  
***Studies in Business and Economics***  
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It is my great pleasure to present the first issue of Volume 28 of the Studies in Business and Economics Journal. This issue brings together a collection of articles that, while diverse in scope and methodology, converge on a common theme: understanding the mechanisms that drive economic development, determine market dynamics, and shape the possibilities for growth in an increasingly interconnected world. In doing so, the contributions illustrate the journal's mission to combine intellectual rigour with practical relevance.

The issue begins with a study situated at the core of resource-based economies: “*Modelling the Dynamic Relationship between Production of Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas and Gross Domestic Product in Qatar during the Period 2000–2022.*” This article employs robust econometric modelling to capture the long-term interdependence between hydrocarbon production and national income. By applying causal tests and vector autoregression techniques, the authors demonstrate not only the significance of hydrocarbons in sustaining Qatar's growth but also the methodological value of statistical modelling for forecasting and policy-making in resource-dependent economies.

The second article, titled “*Mapping the Intellectual Structure of Global Brand Literature and Automobile Industry: A Bibliometric Analysis,*” shifts attention to the evolving role of brands in shaping consumer decision-making. Through a comprehensive bibliometric study spanning nearly five decades of literature, the authors map the intellectual networks and publication trends that have defined brand research in the automobile sector. The article presents a conceptual framework for future research, highlighting the academic value of systematic reviews in clarifying knowledge trajectories and identifying emerging themes within the field of consumer behaviour.

The third contribution, “*Market Competitiveness and Consumer Acceptability of Polish Manufactured and Agricultural Exports to African Countries: A Comparative Analysis,*” extends the inquiry to international trade relations. Employing competitiveness indices, revealed comparative advantage measures, and import parity price analysis, the study assesses the performance of Polish exports in African markets. Beyond the quantitative results, the findings offer meaningful insights into consumer acceptability, highlighting how perceptions of quality, pricing, and satisfaction influence bilateral trade dynamics.

The issue concludes with an article addressing the structural barriers to foreign direct investment in developing regions, themed “*Interest Rate, Insecurity and Foreign Investment in West Africa: Impact Analysis.*” Using panel data across ten countries over fifteen years, the authors examine how high interest rates and persistent insecurity undermine the region's investment climate. Their

findings underscore the necessity of regional cooperation in security and financial reform, while also illustrating the complex interplay between macroeconomic variables and investor confidence.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the authors, peer reviewers, and members of the editorial board for their commitment to maintaining the scholarly excellence of the Studies in Business and Economics Journal. It is our hope that the research presented herein will stimulate further academic inquiry and encourage dialogue that transcends disciplinary and geographical boundaries.

Thank you for your continued engagement with the journal.

Yours sincerely,

***Professor Hatem El-Gohary***

Editor-in-Chief,

Studies in Business and Economics Journal