

# EIBA Doctoral Events Anniversary Panel

The panel is organized to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> year of Danny Van Den Bulcke Doctoral Symposium and the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the John Dunning tutorial.

- Topic: **What is theory?**
- Chair: Rebecca Piekkari; Panelists: Mark Casson, Catherine Welch, Jeremy Clegg, Jean-Francois Hennart, Ruth Aguilera

The question of ‘What is theory?’ is rarely posed in the IB community. Yet a community consensus would most likely not be reached – nor would such a consensus be desirable. This is due to the multi-disciplinary nature of the field, but also due to the variety of forms or styles that theories can take. While training in some disciplines favour predictive, correlational or normative theory, IB scholars from other disciplines may opt for explanatory, narrative or even emancipatory theory. A persistent assumption in IB research is that theory should be generalizable and context-free. This is intriguing given that our field is largely about how differences in context affect business. This anniversary panel of the EIBA doctoral events opens a debate about what theory is and how we produce it. It welcomes both senior and junior researchers to engage in a discussion about the future agenda for IB research and possibilities for theoretical pluralism.

