Resistance is a concept of considerable interest in the study of individual (e.g., Oreg 2003; Knowles and Linn 2004), group (e.g., Watson 1982; Burke 2008), organizational (e.g., Hannan and Freeman 1988), and social change (Fairclough 1992; Fiol, Harris et al. 1999). Since resistance is seen as an inhibitor of successful change, attention has focused almost exclusively on identifying the causes of and reasons for its occurrence as well as strategies for avoiding and overcoming it (Kotter and Schlesinger 1979; Amenakis, Harris et al. 1993; Cin, Zanna et al. 2004). Yet, in spite of all this work, there is still no agreed to definition of resistance; rather resistance appears to be “in the eye of the beholder”.

More recently, however, resistance to change has come under closer scrutiny, leading some scholars to question its very value (e.g., Dent and Goldberg 1999; Dent and Goldberg 1999) and others to reexamine and reconceptualize resistance (Mumby 2005; Ford, Ford et al. 2008; Ford and Ford 2009; Thomas and Hardy 2011). As a result, resistance has been portrayed as a potentially useful form of feedback, a product of relational dynamics, and as a phenomenon created by change agents (Arkowitz 2002; Ford, Ford et al. 2008; Ford and Ford 2009; Thomas and Hardy 2011). Although these newer perspectives offer some intriguing ideas, they have yet to be subjected to empirical testing.

It appears, therefore, that even though much has been written about resistance, there is still much that we do not know or understand. The purpose of this special issue is to explore some of these new areas and to address some of the questions that remain unanswered. Among those questions are:

- What is the relationship between leadership and resistance to change? How does the style and form of leadership relate to the occurrence of actions that are considered resistance to change?
- If resistance is a multi-level phenomena (e.g., individual, group, organizational, social), how do we determine the relative contributions of each level and what implications do they have for our strategies for dealing with resistance?
- What conditions determine whether an action will be seen as “resistance” or as “supportive” of change?
- What role does the relationship between change leaders and change recipients play in how both respond to the other?
- What factors influence how change agents interpret and respond to the actions of change recipients?
- How do change agents resist change and what is the impact of their resistance on the implementation of change by change recipients?
- If resistance were a resource, are some forms of resistance more useful than other forms?

For this issue, we are interested in new conceptualizations of resistance, particularly ones that account for or integrate what is known about resistance at different levels. We are also interested in new empirical work that pushes beyond the accepted views of resistance and challenges what we think we know about its occurrence and how it works in the conduct of change. Accordingly, we welcome a wide range of theoretically- or empirically-based manuscripts (applying qualitative or quantitative methods) on resistance to change.
Submission Process

Papers (6000-8500 words) should be submitted as an email attachment with the subject heading ‘JCM Special Issue – Resistance to Change’ to the guest editors at jeffreyford@columbus.rr.com and cliff.oswick.1@city.ac.uk.

Submissions should follow the general guidelines of the Journal of Change Management (http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rjcm).

Refereeing and the selection of papers will be conducted according to the Journal’s normal procedures (double-blind review). Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.

For further information please contact the guest editors.

Submissions due: June 30, 2013 Expected date of publication: 2014