

TRACK INFORMATION

Title: Bridging Innovation and Sustainability Management: opposing, related or co-existing fields?

Outline (max. 300 words):

Balancing **technology management** and **sustainability management** principles has been considered for decades a delicate endeavor in companies and organizations. With increasing concerns about climate change, social equity and new systems of production and consumption, the **joint pursuit of sustainability and innovation** has become the focus of many strategic activities in the corporate sector.

However, the scientific literature in business management, economics, and social sciences has tackled the tensions and complementarities between sustainability concerns and the search for innovation with **two parallel streams of literature**, which have for long remained separate. The lack of a common approach to the sustainability-innovation nexus jeopardizes the development of a cumulative body of knowledge.

In recent year, **the intersection of sustainability and innovation has gained increasing popularity**: as of October 2022, Web of Science recorded 5,009 publications that mentioned the term 'innovation' and 'sustainability' in title, keywords, or abstract, with more than 90% published in the last decade. However, the 500 top-cited articles present **separate clusters of citations**, indicating that they did not build on the same bibliographic foundations. In particular, studies in innovation economics and management focusing on the sustainability transitions and their implications on innovation are disconnected from studies delineating concepts like sustainability-oriented innovation, sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems, sustainable supply chains, sustainable new product development, and sustainable business models.

The objective of this track is to **bridge the two research streams on innovation and sustainability management**, identifying how the core theoretical concepts overlap and how each body of knowledge can inform the analysis of the other field. In particular, the goal of this session is to highlight the interplay of these concepts in the latest empirical literature, looking for integration and convergence of core concepts that so far have remained compartmentalized.

Indicate a maximum of 5 key topics to be addressed in the track:

- Sustainability-oriented innovations,
- Green open innovation,
- Circular business model innovation,
- Digital eco-innovations,
- Dynamic capabilities and sustainable competitive advantage

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Journal:
Title of the Special Issue:
Key dates: