

## International Journal of Electronic Commerce

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### Call for papers

Special issue of the

*International Journal of Electronic Commerce:*

**“Transformation and Sustainability of Digital Platforms and Ecosystems”**

This Special Issue aims to bring together leading scholars to share the most recent findings on Digital Platforms and Ecosystems, with specific attention to Digital Transformation and Sustainability.

In recent years, digital business ecosystems and digital platform ecosystems have become increasingly studied and the terms have been used in both scientific and business worlds. Digital ecosystems are defined as a technology-enabled community of individual, organizational, and networked entities that contribute toward a focal value proposition (Jacobides et al. 2018). Digital ecosystems take the form of a complex network of affiliated actors, whose activities and outputs are linked in multilateral ways that cannot be reduced to the sum of bilateral connections between ecosystem participants but show dependencies running across many participants and along several dimensions (Jacobides, 2019). Studies tend to concur that ecosystems are not hierarchically managed, but few have specifically looked at the rules governing membership and relationships (Puranam & Puranam, 2012). Participants are linked together by several resources or product/service dependencies that confer distinct advantages that would have otherwise not emerged (Jacobides, 2019). Ecosystem actors can not be seen in isolation; instead, all of them need to interact and collaborate actively to create knowledge and innovation (Pappas, et al., 2018; Spagnoletti, et al., 2021; Subramaniam, 2022; Senyo, et al., 2019; Sutherland & Jarrahi, 2018).

“Digital ecosystems” is a multidisciplinary concept that spans, among others, biology, engineering, management, and organization studies. From an engineering perspective, digital platforms and ecosystems are technical artifacts with a variety of peripherals and complements that, through a modular architecture, enable the management of collective actions, collaboration, and complexity (Baldwin & Woodard, 2009; Bolici, et al., 2022; Nambisan, et al., 2017; Spagnoletti, et al., 2015). From a managerial perspective, digital platforms and ecosystems afford business models, strategies, value co-creation, and network externalities (Gawer & Cusumano, 2014; Cuel, et al., 2021; Kazan, et al., 2018; Song, 2019; Sahut, et al., 2019; Tan, et al., 2015). From an organizational perspective, digital platforms and ecosystems are environments where innovation is enabled, behaviors are affected by networked externalities, and governance practices are studied (Cennamo & Santalo, 2013; de Reuver, et al., 2018; Huber, et al., 2017; Subramanian, 2022). Paramount importance to the topic of ecosystems and platforms is given in the context of electronic commerce, shaped as an ecosystem of sellers, consumers, and stakeholders, and characterized by unique innovation dynamics (Arakji & Lang, 2010; Khansa, Zobel & Goicochea 2012; Zhang, Lu & Kizildag, 2017; Li, Wang & Song, 2019; Li, et al. 2019).

Despite the rapid advancement in research on these topics, various important questions remain to be answered, and this special issue explores methods and solutions for assessing the functioning and governance of these new organizational structures. We encourage contributions that identify and address the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns in the fields of digital platforms and ecosystems at the

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June 1, 2022: Call for papers announced  
November 15, 2022: Full paper submission and Initial screening decisions  
January 15, 2023: First round of decisions (reviews, rejects, and desk rejects)  
March 15, 2023: Resubmission deadline  
June 30, 2023: Second round of decisions (rejects, second review)  
September 30, 2023: Final resubmission deadline  
October 30, 2023: Final decision or minor revisions handled by editors only



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### Guest Editors

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**PK Senyo** (Ph.D.) is an Associate Professor in FinTech and Information Systems at the Department of Decision Analytics and Risk at Southampton Business School. His research focuses on how the use and adaptation of new digital technologies impact individuals, organizations, and society. His current research interests include Financial Technologies (FinTech), Financial Inclusion, Platform Ecosystems, Artificial Intelligence, ICT for Development (ICT4D), and Digital Innovation. PK is a Senior Editor for Information Technology & People and Associate Editor for the European Journal of Information Systems.

**Ilias Pappas** (Ph.D.) is full Professor of Information Systems at the Department of Information Systems, University of Agder (UiA), Norway. His research activities include data science and digital transformation, user experience in different contexts, as well as digital marketing, e-services, and information technology adoption. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals and conferences and has been a Guest Editor for several journals. He is or has been a track chair on AI as well as on Big Data Analytics at ECIS and AMCIS, among others. He serves as the vice-chair of the IFIP Working Group 6.11: Communication Aspects of the E-World. Pappas is a recipient of ERCIM and Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowships.