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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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individual, organizational, and inter-organizational levels, paying specific attention to digital transformation approaches. Some of the proposed research topics include, but are not limited to:

- Organizational, social, and environmental implications of digital platforms and ecosystems
- Value co-creation and innovations within digital platforms and ecosystems, disclosing new organizational arrangements and business models
- The nature of coopetition within digital platforms and ecosystems
- Strategies and practices to effectively manage digital platforms and ecosystems
- Behaviors and usage patterns in digital ecosystems
- Transformation of individual and collective work patterns in digital ecosystems, including equity, wellness, environment, and sustainability issues
- Knowledge, learning, and continuous innovation with digital platforms and ecosystems
- Digital transformation and the role of platforms and ecosystems
- Organizing for continuous and/or discontinuous innovation.
- Consumer behaviors in digital platforms and ecosystems
- Governance and regulation of digital platforms and ecosystems
- Organizational, social, and ethical issues arising with new digital ecosystems
- New business models or strategies
- The role of universities in digital platforms and ecosystems
- Novel research approaches and theories for studying digital platforms and ecosystems
- Theoretical implications of digital platforms and ecosystems
- Disruptive innovation and digital platforms and ecosystems
- Data management in digital platforms and ecosystems
- Privacy and security issues of digital ecosystems
- Emerging technologies in digital platforms and ecosystems (including blockchain, smart contracts, AI systems and cognitive computing, FinTech, social media, and big data analytics)

Timeline

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

Roberta Cuel (roberta.cuel@unitn.it) Department of Economics and Management, University of Trento, Trento, Italy

Federica Ceci (federica.ceci@unich.it) Department of Management and Business Administration, University Gabriele d'Annunzio – Chieti/Pescara, Pescara, Italy

PK Senyo (P.K.Senyo@soton.ac.uk) Department of Decision Analytics and Risk, Southampton Business School, Southampton, UK

Ilias Pappas (ilias.pappas@uia.no) Department of Information Systems, University of Agder (UiA), Kristiansand, NO

Associate editors

- Cristina Alaimo, Luiss Business School, Italy
- Francesco Bolici, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Italy
- Cristiano Ghiringhelli, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy
- Niloofar Kazemargi, Luiss Business School, Italy
- Lucia Marchegiani, University fo Roma Tre, Italy
- Erica Santini, University of Trento, Italy
- Paolo Spagnoletti, Luiss Business School, Italy
- Francesco Virili, Università Cattolica e del Sacro Cuore, Italy
- Alessia Zoppelletto, University of Trento, Italy
- Ralf Wagner, University of Kassel, Germany

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Guest Editors

Roberta Cuel (Ph.D.) is associate professor of Organizations Studies and Human Resource Management in the Department of Economics and Management, University of Trento (Italy). Her research interests include the impacts of digitalization on organizations and business models, intangible assets and knowledge, routines and practices, as well as on teams and communities. She published peer-reviewed books and international journal papers on themes connected to the impact of digitalization on organizations. She served as conference chair of the XVIII Conference of the Italian Chapter of AIS.

Federica Ceci (Ph.D.) is full Professor of Organization and Innovation at the University G.d'Annunzio (Italy). Her research interests focus on the theory of the firm, management of innovation, the role of personal relationships and cultural values in enabling and diffusing innovation, analysis of managerial implications of digitalization of organizational processes, innovation dynamics, and organizational characteristics of digital ecosystems and platforms. She has published in Research Policy, European Journal of Information Systems, Industrial and Corporate Change, Journal of International Management, and Information Systems Frontiers among others. She served as program chair of the XVII Conference of the Italian Chapter of AIS.

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.