

Digital Ecosystems.

A Sustainable Future for Business and Platforms

The track “Digital Ecosystems. A Sustainable Future for Business and Platforms” aims to bring together leading academic scientists, researchers, and research scholars to share their most recent findings on Digital Business Ecosystems, Digital Platform Ecosystems, and Digital Transformation.

In the last decade, the terms “digital business ecosystems” and “digital platform ecosystems” have become increasingly studied and 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 is a multidisciplinary concept that lie among others on 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; Nambisan, et al., 2017; Spagnoletti, et al., 2015). From a managerial perspective, digital platforms and ecosystems afford business models, strategies, and value co-creation, network externalities (Gawer & Cusumano, 2014; 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, governance practices are studied (Cennamo & Santalo, 2013; de Reuver, et al., 2018; Huber, et al., 2017; Subramanian, 2022). In general, 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 resource or product/service dependencies that confer to them distinct advantages that would have otherwise not emerged (Jacobides, 2019). Ecosystem actors can't be seen in isolation, instead all of them need to actively interact and collaborate with each other to create knowledge and innovate (Pappas et al., 2018b; Spagnoletti et al., 2021; Subramaniam, 2022; Senyo & Effah, 2019; Sutherland & Jarrahi, 2018). Despite the rapid advancement in research on these topics, various important questions remain to be answered, and this track explores methods and solutions for assessing the functioning and governance of these new organizational structures.

Track main topics

We encourage contributions that identify and address most recent innovations, trends, and concerns in the fields of digital platform and ecosystems at individual, organizational, and interorganizational level.

Examples of topics that would be appropriate include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The organizational, social, and environmental implications of digital platforms and ecosystems
- Value co-creation and innovations within a digital platform and ecosystem, disclosing new organizational arrangements and business models
- The nature of cooperation within digital platforms and ecosystems
- Best 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 platform and ecosystems
- Digital transformation: the role of digital platform and ecosystems in the organizational context
- Organizing for continuous and/or discontinuous innovation.
- Consumer behaviors in digital platform 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 for studying digital platforms and ecosystems
- Theoretical implications of digital platform and ecosystems
- Disruption innovation and digital platform and ecosystems
- Data management in digital platform and ecosystems
- Privacy and security issues of digital ecosystems
- Emerging technologies in digital platform and ecosystems (including blockchain, smart contracts, AI systems and cognitive computing, social media, and big data analytics)

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Track Co-Chairs

(From 2 up to 4 co-chairs; at least one international chair; no more than 2 Italian co-chairs)

Name – Surname	Roberta Cuel
(primary contact)	
Title	Associate Prof.
E-mail	roberta.cuel@unitn.it
Affiliation	Dipartimento di Economia e Management, Università degli Studi di Trento, IT

Name – Surname	Federica Ceci
Title	Full Prof.
E-mail	federica.ceci@unich.it
Affiliation	Dipartimento di Economia Aziendale, Università degli Studi Gabriele d'Annunzio – Chieti/Pescara, IT

Name – Surname	PK Senyo
Title	Associate Prof.
E-mail	P.K.Senyo@soton.ac.uk
Affiliation	Department of Decision Analytics and Risk, Southampton Business School, UK

Name – Surname	Ilias Pappas
Title	Full Professor
E-mail	ilias.pappas@uia.no
Affiliation	Department of Information Systems, University of Agder (UiA), NO

Short Bios of track Co-Chairs

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 organization and behaviors. 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 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 process, 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, Information Systems Frontiers among the others. She served as programme chair of the XVII Conference of the Italian Chapter of AIS.

P.K. Senyo (Ph.D) is an Associate Professor in FinTech and Information Systems at the Department of Decision Analytics and Risk within 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.

Track programme committee members

Cristina Alaimo, calaimo@luiss.it, Luiss Business School, Italy

Francesco Bolici, f.bolici@unicas.it, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Italy

Cristiano Ghiringhelli, cristiano.ghiringhelli@unimib.it, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Niloofer Kazemargi, Nkazemargi@luiss.it, Luiss Business School, Italy

Lucia Marchegiani, lucia.marchegiani@uniroma3.it, University fo Roma Tre, Italy

Erica Santini, erica.santini@unitn.it, University of Trento, Italy

Paolo Spagnoletti, pspagnoletti@luiss.it, Luiss Business School, Italy

Francesco Virili, francesco.virili@unicatt.it, Università Cattolica e del Sacro Cuore, Italy

Alessia Zoppelletto, alessia.zoppelletto@unitn.it, University of Trento, Italy

Rafal Wagner, rwagner@wirtschaft.uni-kassel.de, University of Kassel, Germany