



Section: Economic and Business Aspects of Sustainability

Special Issue : Knowledge Management and Innovation Forecasting for Sustainable, and Just Future

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Research Interests: 1) Knowledge-Management (KM) and Knowledge-Based (KB) aspects in the New Economy at the company, region and global levels of analysis; and 2) Human Capital in the Knowledge-driven Economy, and the way that companies are managing and measuring the value of their human assets as well as sharing knowledge.

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Dear Colleagues,

The accelerating pace of the technological revolutions, the pressures from ecological and social threats and the Covid 19 pandemic are forcing the new data and knowledge intensive economy to evolve, adopt and drive a set of alternative 'solutions' for the short- and long-term time frames. The evolving amalgamation of the machine and human aspects 'incorporated' into decision making and learning as new knowledge is developed and shared, and is seen by some as a key business asset and a crucial component of national, organizational, and individual strategies, and by others, as the driving force of the next phase of the evolution of the human race. The need for a sustainable environment, sustainable and agile economy, as well as for a just society at every scale (e.g., regional, national, and global), has never been more uncompromisingly needed. The ability to manage knowledge, therefore, is quickly becoming vital for securing and maintaining organizational survival and success. Moreover, artificial intelligence, digitalization, platformization and data management are changing the landscape of knowledge, social and human capital management, and is creating a need for incorporating tools and methods developed over the years in innovation and technology forecasting. The use of such tools could increase the success rate of implementing new technological solutions while arriving at just and sustainable outcomes concurrently with minimizing the costs of possible mistakes and risks.

For the purpose of this special issue, we will recognize knowledge management (KM) as a socio-technical phenomenon in which the basic social constituents such as person, team and organization require interaction with ICT applications and learn and make decisions prospectively to support a strategy and add value to the organization, while improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of an ecosystem and providing for a just future to its constituents.

Innovation forecasting is one set of tools and methods that can facilitate such future-oriented learning, decision making, new knowledge development and knowledge sharing. Innovation

forecasting encompasses both qualitative and quantitative (as well as mixed) set of tools. Those tools can include (but are not limited too):

- Qualitative and semi-quantitative techniques/methods:

Analogies; Morphological Analysis; Implication Analysis; Content Analysis; Stakeholder Analysis; Patent Analysis; Scanning Monitoring; Alternate Scenario Planning; Delphi Surveys; Nominal Grp. Conference; Structured/Unstructured Interviews; and Comprehensive Opportunity Analysis.

-Quantitative techniques/methods:

Technical Trend Analysis; Substitution Analysis; Growth Limit Analysis; Learning Curves; Precursor Trends; Feedback Models; and Monte Carlo Models.

To support such endeavors, this special issue's intention is to encourage an interdisciplinary fusion between diverse disciplines. Specifically, this call for papers will solicit articles from a multidisciplinary array of scholars, including (but not limited to): Economic Development, Financial, Systems-Networks, IT/IS Data/Analytics, Behavioral, Social, Environmental Ecosystems, Technological innovations, Governance Systems and other related (e.g., NGOs) Ecosystems. Multi-level and multi-discipline chapters that synthesize diverse bodies of knowledge are strongly encouraged. When appropriate, plurality of empirical methods from diverse disciplines that can enhance the building of a holistic theory of knowledge management for sustainable and just futures are also encouraged. Original research articles, case studies, reviews, critical perspectives, and viewpoint articles advancing theory, concepts, frameworks and applications in the field study of knowledge management for sustainable and just futures are suggested topics that may include (but are not limited to):

- Energy transformation scenarios
- Sustaining the security of global food systems
- Criteria for selection of scenario methods for a just future
- Using creativity in scenario methods to develop sustainable future
- Selection and retaining of participants in Delphi surveys to enable diverse outcome sets
- AI innovation, KM and social, educational, and economic inequalities
- Role of networks in KM for a sustainable and just future
- Sustainable and a just future as a goal and/or a journey
- Business models of 'for profit' and 'not for profit' organizations for sustainable and a just future
- Role of social capital in KM for sustainable and a just future
- The moderating and/or mediating effect of human capital for sustainable and a just future
- Prospective decision making for a just and sustainable future
- Using 'Big Data' for a just and sustainable future
- Regional planning and policy management for a just and sustainable future
- Integrated reporting for a just and sustainable strategy
- Machine learning and human decision making for a just and sustainable future

Keywords: knowledge management; innovation forecasting; sustainable future; just future; Information Communication Technologies (ICTs); Artificial Intelligence (AI); social capital; human capital.