

Call for contributions

Rethinking Paths on Creativity, Innovation, and Sustainability in the Age of Disruption

5th anniversary of Artem Organisational Creativity and Sustainability Conference (ARTEM OCC)

We continue to live with poly-crises on a global level: geopolitical conflicts, wars, global warming, terrorism, energy crises, humanitarian crises, health crises, social unrest, and the continued emergence of nationalism. With it, the challenges to more sustainable societies are increasing. The growing complexity of the challenges emerging from the cross-effects of these concurrent pressures demands new paths of creativity, innovation and sustainability-driven mindsets and approaches that transcend disciplinary perspectives. However, while past research demonstrated that creativity and innovation are increasingly required to address sustainability-related challenges and disruptions faced by organisations, local communities, and whole societies (Awan, Sroufe & Kraslawski, 2019; Schulz and Mnisri, 2020; Schulz, Mnisri, Shrivastava and Sroufe, 2021; Huesig & Schulz, 2022), a transdisciplinary approach to these issues seems to have been less privileged.

Against this backdrop, in ARTEM OCC editions since 2015, we discussed how creativity and innovation can foster sustainable practices, including the creativity-related mechanisms and tools that can be used to address sustainability pressures; how sustainability-related pressures can trigger creativity and innovative thinking, and the creative responses that can be given to sustainability-driven events. It is not new that disciplinary answers are insufficient to address the aforementioned disruptive wicked problems and grand challenges (e.g. Rittel and Webber, 1973), however transdisciplinarity shall not remain on an academic and conceptual level. New frames must be co-designed to gain multi-perspectives and transdisciplinary views on grand challenges. Hence, academics and non-academic stakeholders have to co-develop new types of knowledge and methods capable of not only addressing *what is* from an analytical perspective, but also developing conceptual solutions that can eventually be concretized, implemented and diffused across the social systems (Guimaraes-Costa, 2022).

In the 5th anniversary of the ARTEM OCC conferences, we will create an open discursive space where scholars from such diverse backgrounds as the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and applied science will be able to meet practitioners, representatives from different local communities, and other stakeholders to engage in problem-focused and solutions-oriented discussions, debates, performances, and experiments. We intend to put together different epistemologies, ontologies, and methodologies, paying testimony to the diversity of perspectives, types of knowledge, and understandings co-occurring elsewhere in the world. We want this anniversary edition to be the starting point of a transformational transdisciplinary process of co-design, co-development, co-implementation and diffusion of solutions.

For this call, we invite thinkers and practitioners, including academics, artists, policy-makers, corporate representatives, and other stakeholders of the sustainability-related challenges we are facing to submit theoretical and practical contributions – including scientific papers, case studies, artistic performances, role plays and experiments – that delve into the multifaceted intersection between creativity and innovation to deal with disruptive sustainability challenges.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Prescriptive Theorizing for addressing Grand Challenges
- Aesthetics, ethics and design science for sustainability
- Art, creativity & innovation for sustainability
- Advocacy and policy-making for sustainable transformation
- Role of education in promoting sustainability
- Humanistic management
- Implementation and diffusion of a sustainable future
- Cultural integrated landscape management for sustainability
- North-South dialogues on creativity and innovation for sustainability
- Impact, social and sustainable entrepreneurship
- Understanding and fostering imagination for Sustainability-Oriented Innovation
- Integration of AI technologies in the creative process
- Digital transformation and sustainability

UKZN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARTEM OCC

ARTEM OCC is the ARTEM International Organizational Creativity and Sustainability Conference. It was founded by [ICN Business School](#) in 2015 as part of its mission to continuously develop impactful research, enhance its societal responsibility, consolidate its close relationship with the business world and reinforce its international stand. UKZN's involvement in ARTEM OCC started in 2017 when it was held in Nancy, France. We attended together with a group of students and staff. Since 2017 our involvement became stronger, however, COVID curtailed our visits once again to France and Germany. However, the 2023 ARTEM OCC symposium was hosted by UKZN in September 2023. The ARTEM OCC is an integral part of the memorandums of understanding between UKZN and the Chemnitz University of Technology (CUT) and ICN Business School.

The 5th anniversary of the ARTEM OCC will be hosted by the ICN Business School in Berlin, Germany.

DEADLINES, DATES & FEES

Conference Date: **26 March 2025 – 28 March 2025**

Submission

The submission must be made on the conference website: <https://www.artemocc.org/aboutArtemOcc.html>

- Submission deadline: 31/10/2024
- Sending notification to authors: 30/11/2024
- Resubmission deadline: 15/12/2024
- Sending final notification to authors: 15/01/2025

Registration

- Opening registration: 01/02/2025
- Early bird registration deadline: 28/02/2025 (midnight CET)

- Final registration date: 15/03/2025 (midnight CET)

Conference Fees

- Early bird registration: 300 €
- Early bird registration for PhD students: 200 €
- Regular registration: 400 €
- Regular registration for PhD students: 250 €
- Special registration fee for participants from organizations from [Least Developed Countries](#): 100 €
- Registration fee for artists with active contribution: 50 €
- Registration fee for guests (social events only): 50 €

These fees include the welcome reception, lunches, coffee breaks, conference dinner and welcome bag.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

All conference proposals/extended abstracts will be subjected to a blind peer-review process.

Each submission must be in 12-point Times New Roman font and single-spaced. Do not include any identifying information in the file containing your submission. Please indicate the topic of your submission (as per the list above) and the respective submission type (presentation, workshop, panel, exhibition, case studies, videos, artistic and playful interventions, or practical demonstrations). All abstracts should have approx. 1500 Words and include the following aspects:

- What is the problem?
- Why is it important?
- What did you do?
- What did you find?
- What do you recommend?

Submission of an abstract constitutes a commitment that at least one author will attend the conference if the submission is accepted. Contributions without a registered presenting author will be withdrawn from the programme.

Everyone submitting an abstract can be requested to serve as a reviewer for a maximum of three other submissions.

In order to submit an abstract you need first to register for an account on the conference website (being updated). After you have created your account, you need to login as an author and follow the instructions to submit your proposal.

PUBLICATIONS & AFFILIATED JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES

Participants in the 6th anniversary of Artem Organisational Creativity and Sustainability Conference (ARTEM OCC) will be invited to submit their papers to special issues of peer-reviewed international journals. Papers submitted for the special issues should be revised

after presentation at the Conference to consider discussants' remarks. Submitted papers will then follow the submission and review processes of the journals.

ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

Kamel Mnisri	ICN Business School, France
Klaus-Peter Schulz	ICN Business School, France
Nuno Guimarães da Costa	ICN Business School, France
Leonhard Gebhardt	ICN Business School, France
Estelle Durand	ICN Business School, France
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Micheline Naude	University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
David Wasieleski	Duquesne University, USA / ICN Business School, France

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- Guimaraes-Costa, N. (2022) Transdisciplinary Collaborations for Achieving the SDGs. In W. Leal-Filho; A. M. Azul; L. Brandli; A. L. Salvia; T. Wall. *Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, Springer International Publishing, pp.1-16, 2020, Partnerships for the Goals
- Huesig S., Schulz, K. P. (2022) (eds.). Connecting Creativity, Innovation and Sustainable Development in the Age of Disruptions. (2022). *Special Issue Int. J. Technology Management*, 88(2/3), 4.
- Rittel, H. W., & Webber, M. M. (1973). Dilemmas in a general theory of planning. *Policy Sciences*, 4(2), 155-169.
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