Digital and Sustainable Transformations, and Innovation on a Post-COVID World

February 24th-25th

11th INTERNATIONAL e-CONFERENCE OF RIDIT (11th ICRIDIT 2022)

CALL FOR PAPERS

August 2021

Digital and Sustainable Transformations and Innovation on a Post-COVID World

The RIDIT, an Ibero-American Research and Teaching Network, and the International Entrepreneurship Lab Smart Money (IELSM), a European-Latin American Digital Platform, in collaboration with the University of Guanajuato, the Berlin BSP Business and Law School, and the Autonomous Metropolitan University, call and invite scholars to the biennial international e-Conference to be held on February 24-25th, 2022.

WHAT IS THE CONCEPT for the e-Conference?

One of the RIDIT permanent and highly relevant activities is the national and international Conferences held annually in itinerant venues, where space for dialogue and exchange is generated. The network topics are discussed in state-of-the-art, both for research and teaching.

The e-Conference is conceptualized as an instrument of scientific dissemination where different disciplinary perspectives on technological and social change converge to explain current Digital and Sustainable Transformation. From the researchers' expectations, the e-Conference is a space of virtual interaction to meet knowledge at state of the art and look for progress in the interest topics.

SCOPE OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference is dedicated to studying the global Covid-19 crisis consequences and new needs and practices in developing and disseminating digital and clean technologies. The conference covers social and economic matters studying organizations and information technology, and natural resources management. Significant disciplines include Economics, Business, Sociology, Information Technology, Computer Science, Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Development.

IMPORTANT DATES

The timeline to submit papers to this conference is as follows:

Submission dates:

From Aug 10th to Nov 15th.

Review process: On a rolling basis from Aug 25th to Nov 30th

Possible publication: March 2022.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All papers must be original and meet international criteria that guarantee academic quality. Your article must not be in the process of publication in another journal or conference.

The content of the papers is the sole responsibility of the authors.

The author or authors with an Accepted Paper must register, participate, and present their paper during the event.

The following paper categories are welcome:

Theoretical papers: these are concept development, literature review with identification of gaps, or critical analysis. This paper presents the results of research in which several publications have been analyzed and systematized. Such research must include one of the requested follow-up topics to account for progress, criticisms, or trends. One of its main characteristics is that they present a careful bibliography of at least 50 references.

Paper with methodological applications: in this article, new practices for studying a particular phenomenon are supported, explained, and shown. This type of research includes both theoretical and practical aspects.

Empirical research paper: this document shows the original results of research projects in detail and answers questions from a particular field or topic.

Please register and submit your proposal first (Declaration of interest). Here is the format for submissions (Submission Guidelines).

The paper should be written in Spanish or English formally and appropriately in scientific prose.

The paper must include, broken down into sections and subsections, if necessary, the following: abstract, introduction, methodology, development, results, discussion and analysis, conclusions, and references.

The abstract should be 200 words long.

The maximum extension for the paper must be 4,000-5,000 words, including abstract, text, references, tables, figures, photos, illustrations, etc.

A camera-ready template will be provided for the papers (Template).

All submissions will undertake a double-blinded peer-reviewed process.

Please submit your contribution online using systems provided by Easychair.

COMMITTEES

General Organizing Committee

Dr. Salvador Estrada Rodríguez. (RIDIT-IELSM, University of Guanajuato)

Dr. Rafael Palacios-Bustamante (IELSM, Berlin Business and Law School)

Dra. Graciela Carrillo González (RIDIT, Autonomous Metropolitan University)

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BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATIONS

The study of digital and sustainable transition may consider several research and practice disciplines and communities. Future development is at stake without the existing business transformation. Current social, economic, and environmental challenges represented by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals may be partially attained by digitalization and sustainable practices diffusion. This process's antecedents, occurrences, and consequences are currently under investigation, but the big challenge is to get a systemic view.

The digital data provides prodigious opportunities for changing business models and contests current theories to explain the upsurge of analytics ecosystems and clarify how they contribute to the transition towards digital and sustainable transformations. The examination of the digital economy, namely Industry 4.0 analysis, sheds light on how actors, design principles, and technologies are related to sustainable functions such as energy efficiency, emission reduction, social welfare attainment, and improvement.

The digital transformation of manufacturing as a systemic phenomenon is under research; its advantages as efficiency, sustainability, customization, and flexibility seem to be obtained only through specific strategies, so there is a considerable gap in addressing several research agendas. The value chain life cycle may be a core topic for insights into the current digital and sustainable transformation readiness. To predict socioeconomic business performance, eco-innovation, either technological or organizational, is utmost and permits considering indirect network cooperation effects and awareness of the role the Internet of Things may have to improve its efficiency.

Research reviews reveal numerous streams from business perspectives, but other relevant sectors to be tackled are agriculture, tourism, and services beyond manufacturing issues. Digitalization is rapidly increasing, and enterprises must find new ways to innovate for business advantage. Literature recursively revisits finance, human resources, marketing, and innovation management to get the best knowledge.

A society shall take giant steps to create smart nations. One way to advance in this direction is to study institutional frameworks to foster innovation and sustainability, either urban or rural, so cities may no longer be the primary research focus, considering an interdisciplinary approach. Smart perspectives are sustained in digitalization and bred by the circular economy, quality of life, and social value lenses. Our societies and economies are passing through a cultural change to raise an alternative answer to this quest.

The global Covid-19 crisis has stressed and accelerated current and new needs and practices in developing and disseminating digital and clean technologies. Practically whole industries worldwide have been changing the way they operate, organize, and perform. In a scarce-resource environment, savings and efficiency are required to maintain working the Economic Systems. The old business models change to novel and unexpected models and give pace to creativity and entrepreneurship hand by hand with digital technology adoption and sustainable practices.

Whatever these changes may be smooth or radical, the resulted dynamics are stressing tensions and contradictions among systems: resources are needed to keep operations going on but to invest in technological modernization, to maintain employments on a human friendly-organization as to bet on retraining human capital and automate processes, to redesign the product to adapt to the changing clients' needs but to retain current customer base and build loyalty, to strength customer-supplier links to explore new platform models and redefine business ecosystems, to manage outbound marketing couple with inbound marketing strategies in such way to optimize sales and foster business positioning in traditional and digital channels, to avoid and minimize waste as to profit from these actions. So, to cope with these conflicts, organizations are demonstrating a tremendous fitness to provide solutions and much flexibility to accommodate their resources, processes, structures, and cultures.

A scientific publication network analysis revealed that extant literature is showing how the digital and sustainable transition is expressing the current COVID crisis:

1) Innovation is a strategic approach towards Industry 4.0.
    a. Digitization is critical for business model innovation and digital entrepreneurship.
    b. Social and economic effects must be considered in this Industrial Revolution.
    c. Data analytics may lead the Science and Technology as well as Public Administration.
    d. Industry 4.0 poses challenges for management practices, manufacturing, and the triple bottom line.
    e. Digitization has change R&D and Higher Education business models.
    f. Surveys show SMEs are adopting digital solutions to sustain sales and enhance life cycle management.
2) Digital transformation is progressing towards sustainability.
    a. The digital economy is increasingly based on metadata and big data.
    b. Systematic reviews show that Artificial Intelligent is at the core of digital and green transformation.
    c. Digital solutions are growing, mainly based on blockchain, digital storage, big data, life cycle management, ergonomics, and precision agriculture.
    d. Digital technology is contributing to sustainable development through sustainable business models.
    e. Automation, virtual reality, and e-learning may be drivers for industrial research, engineering education, and sustainable business.
3) Sustainable development may be based on smart cities.
    a. Broaden access to the Internet and other services like banking enables smart cities' development.
    b. Smart cities are a result of IT planning and competition.

c. Smart cities raise several sustainability issues.
d. Tourism intelligence shall be a crucial quest for business and entrepreneur innovation and competitiveness as well as to avoid "over-tourism."

WHAT MAY BE THE IMPACTS (OUTCOMES) OF THIS TRANSFORMATION?

The current transformation of existing businesses may lead to economic and environmental sustainability. Driven Data Analytics and Big Data ecosystems are crucial for digital and sustainable societies. Sustainable and smart cities may be achieved through Artificial Intelligence applications for urban planning and development. Precision agriculture may be suitable for several kinds of farming systems worldwide, improving efficiency and sustainability. An information-driven reconfiguration of value chains occurs while countries struggle with pandemics outcomes, and new business models are bursting digital entrepreneurship and revamping traditional ones. Small businesses follow complementary paths towards digitalization and sustainability to gain competitiveness.

One of the most relevant practical experiences currently identified by RIDIT on the set of theoretical and practical aspects mentioned above is the European-Latin American Digital Platform: *International Entrepreneurship-Lab Smart Money (IELSM)*. This digital platform has served to reaffirm state of the art and trends of digital transformation and environmental sustainability and has also been a fundamental instrument to define the proposal of the topics proposed in this conference.

MAJOR TOPICS AND QUESTIONS

1) Digitization Progress and SDG.

What is the role of digitalization in contributing towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?

2) Developments on Digital and Sustainable Education and Learning.

What changes have technologies imposed on institutions during Pandemics?

How is the education sector managing technological, organizational, and cultural changes related to Digital and Sustainable Transformation?

How may learning capabilities contribute to sustainable business development and digital entrepreneurship?

What strategies should universities develop to promote sustainable university entrepreneurship through the use of digital platforms?

3) Digital and Sustainable Transformations in Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Services.

Which are the determinants and deters for adopting precise agriculture?

How does the digital economy support development of countries' manufacturing industries?

How is the circular economy driving business growth in bio-economy, industry, and services?

4) Digital and Sustainable Transformation on Health and Wellbeing.

Considering the experience and knowledge in the factory system, which are the critical factors for the company and the sustainability of the levels of worker's welfare?

How to explore the digital transformation of health and care to sustain planetary health in various diseases?

How do digital technologies allow monitoring the evolving prevalence of therapies and the improvement of health services optimization?

How to develop alert systems based on integrating information technology tools for climate, weather, air pollution, and aerobiology in mobile health applications?

5) Digital and Sustainable Agendas: Overview and Foresight.

How should regions understand the digital economy?

What are the significant issues government and business need to assess to keep pace with worldwide accelerating transformations post-pandemic trends?

How does digital transformation affect the competitiveness, resilience, and viability of the overall innovation system?

What are the new roles of government in promoting entrepreneurship by using digital platforms?

6) Digital & Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Business Models.

Are digitalization and sustainability complementary or substitutive paths toward small business competitiveness?

How can small businesses create value by leveraging digital platforms?

How do incumbent firms organize and manage their digital transformation efforts?

What are the role and processes should digital platforms develop to promote entrepreneurship and new business models?

How do industrial firms seek to develop offerings that can reduce their negative ecological impact while still economically viable?

7) Cooperation in Sustainability and Digitization.

How can businesses leverage digital transformation to support engagement with sustainability challenges?

Will digital innovation create the conditions for an equally rapid and profound transformation of sustainable practices?

What is the influence that external infrastructure and institutions have on digital entrepreneurship development?

8) Intellectual Property, Financing, and Taxation on Digital and Sustainable Transformation.

How can the funding gaps facing sustainable infrastructure be bridged using sustainable finance?

How to combine digital and innovation management investments to prepare and facilitate the use of new technologies in metropolitan city digital transformation planning?

Which strategies could grant autonomy and sustainability to cultural organizations in engaging in digital transformation?

Which intellectual property issues are critical to developing digital technologies—such as Internet-of-Things, artificial intelligence, big data, geospatial technologies, smart sensors, wearables?

9) Smart, sustainable, and resilient cities and communities

Can AI applications succeed in achieving smart and sustainable cities, which are the barriers and the obstacles?

Which are the key factors that contribute to the design of a sustainable and smart city?

How do spatial and digital network effects interact to develop externalities, and how do these outcomes play a vital role in ecosystems' formation, expansion, and sustainability?

How to design and implement digital transformation strategies to uptake advanced digital services and the smart growth of city ecosystems?

How to convert metropolitan areas into smart cities that can serve as ecosystems for innovation?

10) Challenges in Digital and Sustainable Infrastructures

What role does industrial policy play in the developmental process of Data Analytics and AI, the platform economy, digital trade, fintech innovation, and societal and economic sustainability?

How do we define and optimize the manufacturing process in a virtual environment?

How to assess digital transformation technologies adoption for sustainability purposes?

How will governance innovation regulate the social embedding of the information commons and their relationship to the free market?

PUBLICATION

After the peer-reviewing process, only the full papers written in English will be published in the proceedings and submitted to the related indexes/databases.

As a result of the conference, a special issue will be published in the SHS Web of Conferences. This publication is indexed or listed by the following sources: CNKI, Conference Proceedings Citation Index (Web of Science) (Subject to acceptance - as for all proceedings journals), DOAJ, EBSCO (EBSCO Discovery Service), Google Scholar, Social Science Database (ProQuest), Social Science Premium Collection (ProQuest), Sociology Collection (ProQuest), Sociology Database (ProQuest), and Wanfang Data. Furthermore, the SHS Web of Conferences Journal is indexed in Crossref.

Before publication, SHS Web of Conferences will randomly review papers using the text comparison tool “iThenticate”, to prevent plagiarism malpractices.

VENUE

The virtual conference will be hosted by the University of Guanajuato, campus Celaya-Salvatierra and it is organized jointly with the Berlin BSP Business and Law School. The whole event will be transmitted through institutional social media belonging to the University of Guanajuato and may be shared and diffused by the other conference partner organizations.

Virtual participants will receive presentation certificates and their papers will appear in the program, abstracts, and may be considered for the proceedings special issue journal. Participants will receive all-conference documents digitally.

CONTACT

All questions about submissions should be emailed to congresoridit@gmail.com

SOME KEY REFERENCES

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