Guidelines and Criteria for the Submission of Short Papers at EGOS Colloquia

Short papers should focus on the main ideas of the later full paper, i.e. they should explain the purpose of the paper, theoretical background, the research gap that is addressed, the approach taken, the methods of analysis (in empirical papers), main findings and contributions. In addition, it is useful to indicate clearly how the paper links with the sub-theme and the overall theme of the Colloquium, although not all papers need to focus on the overall theme. Creativity, innovativeness, theoretical grounding and critical thinking are typical characteristics of EGOS papers.

Your short paper should comprise **around 3,000 words** (inc. references, appendices, and other material).

Submission deadline for short papers for the (main) 42nd EGOS online Colloquium hosted by the University of Bergamo, July 9–11, 2026:

- Tuesday, January 7, 2026, **12:00 CET**

The deadline is unchangeable and therefore **extensions can not be granted**!

Formatting your short paper

Your short paper should comprise **around 3,000 words**, according to the following format:

- Font: 12 pt, Arial or Times New Roman
- Margin left/right: 2.5 cm
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Use APA style for your citations

Do not use capital letters in your paper's title, unless they are proper nouns (e.g. "London", "Thomas"), quoted titles, or if it is the first word after a colon or hyphen. For example: *Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn": Summary, analyses, and quotations.* Do not write your title in ALL CAPS.

Please **state your name** (and that of your co-author/s, if applicable) + affiliation + email at the top of your short paper (because no [single/double blind] peer review).

Short papers should be submitted as a **pdf or docx file**. Please do not upload txt files!

Steps prior to uploading your short paper

- To upload a short paper, you must be a **registered user** on the EGOS website.

  If you have never been an EGOS member, never uploaded a short paper for one of the previous EGOS Colloquia, or never attended an EGOS Colloquium before, you need to **register on the EGOS website**. Click here and follow the instructions. Once you have an EGOS member number and password, please **log in to the member area** "MyEGOS" and follow the instructions for uploading your short paper listed below.

- If you are an active (or former) EGOS member, **log in to "MyEGOS"** using your email [or your EGOS member number] and your password.

Uploading your short paper

You can **only upload one short paper** with your EGOS member number! If your short paper is co-authored and you have already submitted a (single-authored) short paper to another sub-theme, then your co-author (one of your co-authors, respectively) has to upload this co-authored short paper by using their EGOS member number. Please note: You may only appear as **co-author in a maximum of TWO further short papers**!

- In the MyEGOS section of the website, click on **Submit your short paper**.
- Fill in the form.

  Do not use ALL CAPS for your paper title.

  As the uploader, you are the main author. Add all co-authors (can also be added when submitting your full paper).

  Upload your paper as pdf or docx.

- If you want to re-upload you short paper because you submitted it to the wrong sub-theme or have an updated version, you can do so until the deadline:

  In MyEGOS, you will see Status: Edit your short paper

  Click delete your short paper application.

  Submit your short paper again.

If you have any further questions, please contact the EGOS Executive Secretariat.

Sub-theme 38: Open Strategy: Exploring Different Contexts, Actors, and Domains

42nd EGOS Colloquium
University of Bergamo
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EGOS

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Call for Papers

Over the past decade, Open Strategy (OS) has turned into a flourishing field of strategy research that transcends the traditional boundaries of strategic management (Whittington, 2019). In its 'germination' phase, OS focused primarily on clarifying the concept of openness by cultivating its constructs of inclusion and transparency while differentiating itself from other domains (Hautz et al., 2016; Whittington et al., 2011). Now, OS has transitioned into its 'blossoming' phase, focusing on deepening our understanding of the phenomenon by elaborating on its core dimensions, exploring its multi-faceted nature, diversifying it into various contexts, and investigating its relations to other research phenomena; thereby seeking to expand the boundaries of OS.

With this sub-theme, we aim to cover the greater breadth and depth of OS by encouraging research that (1) deepens our understanding of existing dimensions and (2) broadens its horizons by addressing new contexts, domains, and actors.

1. **Deepening our understanding of OS**

In recent years, research has significantly advanced the scholarship of OS. With inclusion and transparency at its core, OS continues to evolve, branching into new sub-fields of interest. For instance, recent studies have explored different forms of participation (Mack & Szulanski, 2017; Plotnikova et al., 2021; Vaara et al., 2019), decision-making rights (Dobusch et al., 2019; Splitter et al., 2023), and equity (Langenmayr et al., 2023), expanding the dimensions and issues for OS. For this sub-theme, we invite research that explores inclusion and transparency in greater depth and advances these dimensions in new and promising directions.

2. **Broadening the horizons of OS: Exploring contexts, actors, and domains**

Contexts*:* As OS continues to diversify, there is a growing need to examine how its principles are applied across varied geographical, cultural, and industrial contexts (Dobusch & Kapeller, 2017). For instance, extending OS research into non-Western settings or extreme contexts, such as crisis scenarios or resource-scarce environments, can reveal how OS principles unfold differently across contexts and organizational forms.

Potential questions for expanding on contexts in OS include:

- How do different geographical, socio-economic, cultural, and political contexts influence the adoption, enactment, and outcomes of OS?
- What contextual factors mediate participants' perceptions of openness and their engagement in OS processes?

Actors*:* OS increasingly acknowledges a broader range of actors in strategy-making processes. Beyond human participants, non-human actors – such as artificial intelligence (AI), digital platforms, or material artefacts – are emerging as influential actors shaping strategy processes and decisions (Ortner et al., 2025; Tavakoli et al., 2017). This expansion introduces new complexities for inclusion and raises critical questions about agency, power, and accountability in OS.

Potential questions for expanding on actors in OS might include:

- How can OS effectively integrate non-human actors, such as AI, social media, or ecological systems, into strategy-making?
- How do hybrid forms of agency (e.g., human-AI collaboration) reshape inclusion, decision-making, and accountability in OS?

Domains*:* OS *presents* significant *potential* for addressing grand societal challenges, such as climate change, inequality, and social justice, by enabling innovative and inclusive approaches to strategy-making. At the same time, OS itself raises ethical dilemmas, such as balancing

business-case justifications with normative considerations of inclusion and transparency. Investigating how OS can drive *systemic* change while navigating competing demands represents a key avenue for future research.

Potential questions for expanding on domains in OS might include:

- How can OS be effectively leveraged to design and implement strategies that address broader societal and organizational challenges?
- What ethical dilemmas and practical barriers limit the applicability of OS to complex societal challenges, and how can they be overcome?

For this sub-theme, we invite conceptual, methodological, and empirical papers that contribute to advancing our understanding and the boundaries of OS. Given the shared dimensions of openness, we also encourage submissions regarding adjacent phenomena, such as Open Organizing (Splitter et al., 2023), Open Innovation (von Krogh & Geilinger, 2019), Open Theorizing (Leone et al., 2021), Open Social Innovation (Gegenhuber & Mair, 2024), or Open Platforms (Boudreau, 2010).

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