

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 your 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 55: Sustainability Agency: Exploring an Evolving Multi-Theoretical, Multi-Level, and Interdisciplinary Field of Study



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Call for Papers

There is increasing evidence that the world is heading toward an environmental crisis. Human perturbations have destabilized Earth-system processes at planetary scale (Steffen et al., 2015; Richardson et al., 2023), with climate change and biodiversity loss as exemplars of the ongoing ecological collapse (Dasgupta, 2021; Diaz et al., 2019). To secure a future-proof future for all species, there is need to undertake systemic change toward sustainable ways of living and doing business (Dyllick & Muff, 2015). In this endeavor, the agency of actors is critical (Geels & Schot, 2007; Pesch, 2015). Upon closer look, though, one can ask, who is engaged in sustainability work and what are the evolving dynamics of such proactive engagement?

We build upon definitions of agency that view agency as an individual's or collective's capacity to act (Giddens, 1984; Dietz & Burns, 1992). The focus on one's 'capacity to act' explains why questions of agency can be considered to define what it means to be human (Bandura, 2001).



The bulk of theorizing in the social sciences has equated human agency with individual-level agency (Emirbayer & Mische, 1998). However, agency can also refer to collectivities that act (Ritzer, 2000; Crozier & Friedberg, 1980), such as social classes, or even cities. What is more, agency can materialize in relationships with others, operating at the interpersonal level as proxy agency (Bandura, 2001), or relational agency (Burkitt, 2015). While social scientists' bias is toward human agency, agency also involves non-human forms (Latour, 2005; Rupprecht et al., 2020).

Taking a closer look at academic knowledge on actors' agency in building sustainable futures, though, one finds more questions than answers. As the literature spreads across the social and natural sciences, there is no 'one body of literature' to turn to for answers. Indeed, numerous actor types have been identified as active change agents in the pursuit of sustainable futures, be it social entrepreneurs, shareholder activists, or employee volunteers, among many others (de Haan & Rotmans, 2018; Avelino & Wittmayer, 2016; Doherty et al., 2014). Critically speaking, the terminology used to appreciate actors pursuing sustainable futures is multifaceted, spans levels of analysis, theoretical bases and fields of science. As regards knowledge integration, the sustainability transitions literature has developed actor categorizations (Fischer & Newig, 2016; Koistinen & Teerikangas, 2021), while individual actors, such as within-firm change makers (Rodell et al., 2016), or collectives, such as social movements (de Bakker et al., 2013), are reviewed in management studies. Based on interdisciplinary knowledge integration, sustainability agency is defined as intentional, proactive individual or collective level action geared toward sustainable futures, also involving interaction with non-material forms of agency (Teerikangas et al., 2021), adopting individual, activist, relational and governance-related forms.

This sub-theme engages the EGOS community in exploring this evolving multi-theoretical, multi-level and interdisciplinary field of study in order to appreciate the many facets of sustainability agency. In so doing, this sub-theme aims to appreciate and take stock of this broad, loosely coupled body of knowledge that spans disciplines, involves numerous terms, concepts and theoretical bases, and can be discussed at different levels of analysis. We are further interested in overlaps and interconnections between the variety of concepts, theoretical perspectives and levels of analysis used in the appreciation of sustainability agency. Going forward, the ambition is to create a platform for scholars with various backgrounds to engage in, explore and further develop this interdisciplinary field of research.



We invite and encourage empirical, theoretical and conceptual submissions addressing the agency of different kinds of actors engaged in the making of sustainable futures. Taking a closer look, submissions are invited as regards (but not limited to) the following potential avenues.

On the one hand, who are the individuals involved in shaping the sustainability agenda, how do they exercise their agency, and what are the theoretical lenses adopted in their study? For example:

- The role of individual change agents or activists
- Managers at different hierarchical levels, be it team leaders, line managers, middle managers, top managers and executives, CEOs or board members
- Professionals and managers whose professional role relates to sustainability, be it CSR and sustainability managers or sustainability consultants
- Institutional work and institutional entrepreneurship as lenses to appreciate sustainability agency
- Leadership as a lens of exploring the agency of individual actors
- Future stakeholders, as in actors that have not been imagined/created yet

On the other hand, what are the organizational and inter-organizational actors, dynamics and collaborative arrangements used in the pursuit of sustainable futures, and the theoretical lenses used in their study? For example:

- Sustainability-gearred entrepreneurial activity, e.g., social or environmental entrepreneurship
- Companies', non-governmental organizations', public sector organizations', such as cities', local or national governments' or international institutions' agency in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss
- Public-private partnerships, cross-sector collaboration or ecosystems as means of collectively pursuing strategic sustainability agendas
- Social movements as vehicles of sustainability transformations
- Leadership as a lens of exploring the agency of organizational actors

Third, what is the role of non-human actors and forms of agency in building sustainable futures? For example:

- The agency of materials, as, e.g., in circular economy business models
- The agency of plants and animals



- The agency of natural forces, as evident in eco-catastrophes, floods and hurricanes

Finally, how do different kinds of actors collaborate and collectively engage in the making of sustainable futures? For example, via:

- Projects as agents of sustainability transformations
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration
- Shared and collective leadership to explore actors' collaborative sustainability agency

Going forward, the ambition is to create a platform for scholars with various backgrounds to engage in, explore and further develop this interdisciplinary field of research.

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