

Call for Papers to Special Issue

Sustainable Development invites contributions for a special issue on
“Sustainability in Transforming Societies”

Co-Editors of this Special Issue:

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Abstract submissions due: 30 March, 2021

Manuscripts due: 31 May, 2021

The notion of Sustainable Development has been coined more than thirty years ago to become a dominating concept in many scientific fields and practical applications.

However, the economic, social and environmental circumstances characterising the 1980's and early 1990's have changed considerably in many different ways. Shifts in demographics and the polarization evident in many societies; the impacts of rapid technological innovation including the digitisation of the economy; the shifting centres of economic power and the spread of new business models, as well as resulting changes in lifestyles are just a few trends, which influence both how we work and how we live our everyday lives.

While new solutions have been developed to many sustainability related issues, many problems still persist and are joined by new problems, which have not been foreseen 30 years ago.

The urgency of the need to understand how these changes interact with a need for a more sustainable society has been emphasized by the UN Environment's sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO)¹. The report published in Spring, 2019 concluded that recent, unsustainable production and consumption patterns and inequality, combined with increases in the use of resources lead to the deterioration of our Planet's health at unprecedented rates, which has serious consequences, in particular for poorer people and regions.

The report warns that 'the world is not on track to achieve the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals or other internationally agreed environmental goals by 2030; nor is it on track to deliver long-term sustainability by 2050' (GEO 6 key messages).

On the one hand, incremental change (e.g. the gradual improvement of resource efficiency) has serious limitations such as the time required to achieve significant results and the several types of rebound effects resulting from an increase in population and individual consumption. On the other hand, our understanding of the sustainability implications of current systemic changes in our transforming societies is very limited.

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/global-environment-outlook>
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10991719>

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Thus, urgency to take action combined with the large scale societal changes call for new solutions in every sphere of our societies. To this end, we invite contributions, which either explore the sustainability implications of systemic changes in our societies and/or provide solutions to these challenges. We seek theoretical and empirical papers which may address but need not be limited to the following issues:

- What are the most important changes in transforming societies all over the world and what kind of social and environmental problems do they cause? How do they effect the implementation of Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals?
- What are the limitations of tools currently available to address these problems?
- What kind of new solutions are emerging and what are our experiences with them?
- How do current tendencies influence our understanding of the notion of Sustainable Development?
- What can be learned from sustainable or unsustainable practices in transforming societies?

All manuscripts submitted to the Special Issue will be peer-reviewed. The Co-Editors will be responsible for selecting papers for the Special Issue after the peer review process is concluded. For pre-submission queries, prospective contributors are encouraged to contact the corresponding special issue Co-Editors. While preparing the manuscript, authors are strongly recommended to follow the best practices of systematic reviews and meta-analyses (e.g., Cooper, 2017; Cooper, Hedges, & Valentine, 2019; Higgins et al., 2019; Ringquist, 2013).

Submission Instructions:

Abstract Submission Deadline: 28 March, 2021

Abstracts (not exceeding 500 words) and Covering letters should be submitted for consideration by e-mail to the Co-Editors:

Gyula Zilahy, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, zilahy@eik.bme.hu

Peter Dobers, Södertörn University, Stockholm, peter.dobers@sh.se

Deadline for Submission of First Manuscript: 30 May, 2021

Once the submission materials have been prepared in accordance with the Author Guidelines manuscripts should be submitted online at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nvsm>

Please do not submit to the Special issue unless invited by the Co-Editors.

Special Issue Authors should answer 'Yes' when prompted at Step 1.

For further help with submissions, please contact: IJNVSMoffice@wiley.com.

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References:

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Cooper, H., Hedges, L. V., & Valentine, J. C. (Eds.). (2019). *The handbook of research synthesis and meta-analysis*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Higgins, J. P., Thomas, J., Chandler, J., Cumpston, M., Li, T., Page, M. J., & Welch, V. A. (Eds.). (2019). *Cochrane handbook for systematic reviews of interventions*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Ringquist, E. (2013). *Meta-analysis for public management and policy*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons.

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