



**Sinergie SIMA**  
Management Conference



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# **Management of sustainability and well-being for individuals and society**

*Conference Proceedings*

*Long Papers*

*Parma (Italy)*

**13-14 June 2024**

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**13-14 June 2024**

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Long Papers

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To the reader,

this volume contains the long papers of the Sinergie-SIMA 2024 Management Conference, hosted by the University of Parma on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Theory and practice in the field of management have been challenged by the emergence of sustainability and well-being as major global policy priorities. Both sustainability and well-being are complex, value-laden, and strongly interconnected; however, they tend to exist in separate realms.

Sustainability literature has recorded an evolution in the way the concept of sustainable development is understood, leading to the articulation of sustainable development as human “well-being” and “flourishing”, rather than “needs”. Nevertheless, some scholars have pointed out a lack of clarity in the conceptualization, which causes some ambiguity in terms of definition (Ronen & Kerret, 2020). Kjell (2011) observed that human needs and well-being are poorly understood, characterized, and developed by sustainability research. Along the same vein, Helne & Hirvilammi (2015) observed that the overarching goal of sustainable development (i.e., well-being) has often been narrowly interpreted, mainly in economic terms, while connections between the natural environment and human flourishing have been overlooked. More recently, O’Mahony (2022) remarked that the literature conceptualizing human well-being continues to exist largely outside sustainable development. Hence, placing well-being more clearly within the sustainability framework could be highly beneficial to sustainability.

Concurrently, the literature on well-being is almost entirely dissociated from the contributions of nature or the relationships with ecological and planetary systems (Roberts et al., 2015), and the importance of social dimensions is an emergent conclusion. Therefore, the rationale of contextual systems inherent to sustainability research (incorporating views of times, society, and biosphere) could significantly enrich well-being research, fostering a more holistic perspective on well-being and an increased awareness of the limits of individual well-being pursuits (Kjell, 2011).

In brief, though well-being has major implications for sustainable development and vice versa, the body of literature that effectively integrates sustainability and well-being remains in an embryonic stage.

The above considerations aim to act as catalysts for an interdisciplinary debate within the field of management. Enriching the conception of flourishing well-being in sustainability and the contribution of nature to well-being can produce impactful scientific research, as O’Mahony (2022) points out. Equally important is the analysis of the links between sustainability and well-being, encompassing synergies and trade-offs at the organizational level, in value chains, and in interactions with stakeholders across various industries.

The Sinergie-SIMA 2024 Management Conference welcomed contributions based on different theories, methodological approaches, and units of analysis with the potential to empower a transformation for flourishing individuals, society, and the natural world alike. More precisely, the Conference was a great occasion to discuss the research efforts of our research community within tracks related to the:

- Conference theme (Management of sustainability and well-being for individuals and society),
- SIMA thematic groups (Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology Management, Intelligenza manageriale nel management, International Business, Marketing, Purpose-driven Businesses, Retailing & Service Management, Small & Family Business, Strategic Communication, Strategy & Governance, Supply Chain Management, Logistics & Operations, Sustainability, and Tourism & Culture Management),
- special tracks (Examining the social and environmental relevance of sustainable digital business models: Impact on business practices and consumers, Growing resilient Italian SMEs, and Perspectives on grand challenges in international business and implications for companies),
- Management Case Studies.

The Conference call for papers gave the opportunity to submit either short and long papers. Overall, the editorial staff received 277 submissions of which 215 short papers and 62 long papers.

For the *short and long papers*, the evaluation followed the peer review process, with a double-blind review performed by, respectively, one or two referees - university lecturers and experts about the topic - selected among SIMA and the community of Sinergie members.

In detail, the referees applied the following criteria to evaluate the submissions:

- clarity of the research aims,
- accuracy of the methodological approach,
- contribution in terms of originality/innovativeness,
- theoretical and practical contribution,
- clarity of communication,
- significance of the bibliographical basis.

The *peer review* process resulted in full acceptance or rejection of the submissions. In the case of disagreement among reviewers' evaluations, the decision was taken by the Chairs of the SIMA thematic groups or conference track. Each work was then sent back to the Authors together with the referees' reports. The suggestions received by the referees were used by the Authors during the presentation of their research works at the Conference.

The evaluation process ended with the acceptance of 211 short papers and 58 long papers. This volume proposes the papers whose Authors have authorized their publication.

All the long papers published in this volume were presented and discussed during the Conference and published online on the web portal of Sinergie-SIMA Management Conference (<https://www.sijmsima.it/>).

While thanking all the Authors, Chairs, and participants, we hope that this volume will contribute to advance knowledge about the management of sustainability and well-being for individuals and society.

The Conference Chairs

*Guido Cristini, Beatrice Luceri, Arabella Mocciano Li Destri, and Marta Ugolini*

# SUMMARY

## Track 1 - Entrepreneurship

- Circular Economy in Startup and SMEs for Sustainable Ecosystems: a Bibliometric Analysis*  
MARILENA BREDICE, ANNA VITTORIA FORMISANO, MICHELE MODINA PAG. 3
- Stitching Sustainability with Capital: Unravelling the Potential of Equity Crowdfunding for Sustainable Fashion Firms*  
CARLOTTA BOTTARO, GIUSEPPE LANFRANCHI, CHIARA MARINELLI “ 23
- Pathways to Success: Analyzing the Impact of Innovation, Team Creativity, and Intellectual Property on Equity Crowdfunding in Italy*  
CARLOTTA BOTTARO, RAFFAELE STAGLIANÒ, FABRIZIO CESARONI “ 41
- The role of private equity in financial distress situations: A bibliometric literature review*  
MICHELE LERTORA, CRISTINA DE SILVA, BELINDA LAURA DEL GAUDIO, ANNA GERVASONI “ 55
- Exploring the Third Mission of Universities: a Scientometric Approach using Bibliometric*  
SALVATORE ESPOSITO DE FALCO, NICOLA CUCARI, FERNANDO CAMASTRA, FRANCESCO LAVIOLA “ 71

## Track 2 - Innovation & Technology Management

- Innovation and Creativity from Remote: Do Women Innovate Differently from Men, and Why?*  
CHIARA MARINELLI, GRAZIA GARLATTI COSTA, GUIDO BORTOLUZZI “ 95
- Small Steps, Big Impact: Understanding University and Micro, Small and Medium Firms Collaborations for Future Growth.*  
RITA MURA, SABRINA DI FLAURO, LUCIANO FRATOCCHI “ 113
- I microfondamenti delle Dynamic Capabilities Phygital: il caso Webidoo Store*  
LUDOVICA MOI, GIANLUCA PUSCEDDU, FRANCESCA CABIDDU “ 139
- Exploring the convergence between alliance management capabilities and relational view: sustainability-oriented collaboration in emerging green energy markets*  
VITTORIO MARIA GARIBBO, ELEONORA ANNUNZIATA, FRANCESCO RIZZI, MARCO FREY “ 157
- Transition from Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0: the role of intermediary organizations*  
REBECCA CASTAGNOLI, MONICA CUGNO, SILVIA MARONCELLI “ 177

## Track 5 - Management of sustainability and well-being for individuals and society

- The stakeholders of social projects: a systematic literature review and bibliometric analysis*  
ROSARIA FERLITO, DANIELE VIRGILLITO “ 191
- Sostenibilità e performance nel settore vitivinicolo*  
MICHELA PREVOSTO, CLEMENTINA BRUNO, FABRIZIO ERBETTA “ 211
- Exploring fans' social identities, emotional attachment and subjective identity: A social identity approach to Italian football consumer-brand identity*  
GIORGIO PORTALURI, DANIELE CANINI, FRANCESCA VICENTINI, RITA MURA “ 225
- The interplay between perceived quality, sustainability attitudes, and consumers' modal choice in local transportation*  
VALERIA FARALLA, GRAZIANO ABRATE, GIOVANNI FRAQUELLI “ 243

## Track 6 - Marketing

### *How Metaverse Creates Value for Luxury Brands*

MARCO FRANCESCO MAZZU, RUMEN POZHARLIEV, IRENE DELLA SALA PAG. 267

### *Impact of inclusive marketing and adaptive fashion on Gen Z's customer journey: an explorative study in the digital realm of the luxury industry*

MYRIAM CARATU', CLAUDIA PALMIZIO " 289

### *Branding "Mountain Products" to develop equity and consumer willingness to pay*

ELISA MARTINELLI, FRANCESCA DE CANIO, ELENA SARTI " 307

## Track 7 - Purpose-driven Businesses

### *Tracing the evolution of corporate purpose: an exploratory wine industry case study*

SALVATORE ESPOSITO DE FALCO, RAFFAELLA MONTERA, NICOLA CUCARI, RAFFAELLA MONTERA " 311

## Track 8 - Retailing & Service Management

### *Building customer experience strategy in phygital retail: an analysis within the fashion industry*

SOFIA MOGNO, MASSIMILIANO NUCCIO, ELENA BELLIO " 329

## Track 9 - Small & Family Business

### *Exploring the productivity puzzle in family and non-family businesses through stability and crisis times*

FABRIZIO ERBETTA, CLEMENTINA BRUNO, ANNA MENOZZI " 349

## Track 11 - Strategy & Governance

### *Gestione della diversità e cambiamento culturale: come valutare in tempo reale l'effetto dei processi di trasformazione in corso?*

ANNA BRESCIANINI, MARIASOLE BANNÒ, CAMILLA FEDERICI " 347

### *The influence of «ethical disillusionment» on «corruption tolerance»: some insights from structural equation modeling*

ERNESTO D'AVANZO, ELIO BORGONOVÌ " 361

### *Enhancing Insolvency Prediction Accuracy: a Random Forest-based Algorithmic Approach*

DAVIDE LIBERATO LO CONTE, GIUSEPPE SANCETTA, RAFFAELE D'AMORE " 373

## Track 13 - Sustainability

### *I diversi approcci della corporate governance alla sostenibilità e i loro effetti sulle performance ESG*

TOMMASO FORNASARI, MARCO TRAVERSI, MARIASOLE BANNÒ " 391

### *ESG performance: Does it pay back in terms of corporate brand value?*

MICHELA MINGIONE, FRANCESCO LAVIOLA, ELAHEH ANJOMROUZ, CARMEN DI GUIDA, SALVATORE ESPOSITO DE FALCO " 405

### *SUS?A: A framework for assessing Investment Readiness Level in Start-ups. Literature review and model description.*

MARCO REMONDINO, VERONICA MARIANNELLI, ANTONIO PERFETTI " 425

### *Beyond the boardroom: the role of women directors in driving eco-innovation considering situational contingencies*

LETIZIA LO PREIATO, EMILIA FILIPPI, MARIASOLE BANNÒ " 445

### *Beyond sustainability: a systematic literature review on climate change through the lens of stakeholder orientation*

ROSAMARTINA SCHENA, ANGELO RUSSO, DOMENICO DE FANO " 461

## **Track 14 - Tourism & Culture Management**

### ***Cultural Tourism and Climate Change: Italian UNESCO Sites Between Vulnerability and Resilience***

MARTHA FRIEL, IRENE PINTO

PAG. 481

## **Track 16 - Growing resilient Italian SMEs - Special Track**

### ***Factors influencing the adoption and implementation of emerging digital technologies.***

#### ***An exploratory analysis of wine SMEs***

ALESSANDRA COSTA, ANGELO PRESENZA, TINDARA ABBATE, FABRIZIO CESARONI

“ 493

### ***Resilience of enterprises: A systematic literature review in a Dynamic Capabilities (DCs) perspective***

ANTONINO CASTROGIOVANNI, ELISA MARTINELLI

“ 509

## **Track 17 - Perspectives on grand challenges in international business and implications for companies - Special Track**

### ***International Brand Activism: A Strategic Approach for Multinational Enterprises to Address Grand Challenges***

FRANCESCA AVALLONE, ANTONELLA CAMMAROTA, MARIO D'ARCO, VITTORIA MARINO, RICCARDO RESCINITI

“ 531

## **Track General management**

### ***Esplorare l'eco-innovazione: l'impatto della diversità nei consigli di amministrazione***

CHIARA LEGGERINI, ANDREA FRANZONI, MARIASOLE BANNÒ

“ 551

### ***Assessing product sustainability: A comprehensive framework***

AZEMERAW TADESSE MENGISTU, MARCOS DIESTE, ROBERTO PANIZZOLO, STEFANO BIAZZO

“ 563

### ***Renewable Energy Communities in Lombardy: The Influence of Local Public Bodies and the Mediating Role of Trust***

MARIA EMILIA GARBELLI

“ 573