



Sinergie SIMA

Management Conference



UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Sinergie-SIMA 2026 Conference

**TRANSFORMING MANAGEMENT IN THE ERA OF POST-
GLOBALIZATION AND AGENTIC ECONOMY**

May 28th and 29th, 2026
University of Pavia - Italy

<https://www.sijmsima.it>

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MANAGEMENT

Sinergie-SIMA 2026 Management Conference
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Foreword from the Conference Chairs

Dear Friends,

The management discipline is in transition: we are arranging the Sinergie-SIMA 2026 Management Conference to offer a vibrant platform for discussing how our field is playing a central role in transforming organizations and society, as well as to reflect on the extent to which management itself must evolve. The Conference will take place in Pavia, a historic university town with a medieval soul, the ideal environment for fostering knowledge exchange and networking. The conference format has been carefully designed to leverage the potential of our research and innovation ecosystem, while ensuring a high-quality experience for all participants. The program will feature plenary sessions with renowned keynote speakers and cross-views from academia and practitioners, alongside parallel sessions and special tracks promoted by SIMA's Thematic Groups. For the first time, the Conference will also host an exhibition of research centers. We believe this edition will provide an extraordinary opportunity to reflect collectively on the challenges and opportunities emerging in an era of accelerated technological and managerial change.

We look forward to welcoming you to Pavia for the 2026 Sinergie-SIMA Management Conference.

Stefano Denicolai and Antonella Zucchella
University of Pavia

Beatrice Luceri
SIMA and University of Parma

Marta Ugolini
Sinergie and University of Verona

THE SINERGIE-SIMA MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: OVERVIEW

Sinergie and SIMA share a common mission: advancing Italian scholarship in international management research. Since 2016, these organizations have collaborated to host an annual conference that combines Sinergie's three decades of experience with SIMA's extensive academic network. This established scientific meeting creates a collaborative environment where management scholars present and discuss their research.

The conference runs May 28-29, 2026, with pre-conference activities on May 27. Plenary sessions feature renowned academics and industry professionals as keynote speakers, discussants, and interviewees addressing the main conference theme.

Parallel sessions showcase long and short papers selected through rigorous peer review. Participants present their research and engage in constructive discussions with session chairs and fellow attendees.

While English is the official language, Italian submissions are welcome.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LONG AND SHORT PAPERS

THEME AND OBJECTIVES

TRANSFORMING MANAGEMENT IN THE ERA OF POST-GLOBALIZATION AND AGENTIC ECONOMY

While evolution is constant for firms and society, the nature of contemporary change is unprecedented in its scope, speed, and systemic impact (Petricevic & Teece, 2019). We face a confluence of interconnected grand challenges – global pandemics, AI disruption, evolving and fractured global value chains (Zucchella & Strange, 2017), and mounting geopolitical instability – that demand more than incremental adaptation or traditional responses. In this era of polycrisis and hyper-uncertainty, conventional management paradigms are proving insufficient for the complexity we face. The imperative is not merely to adjust, but to actively transform firms, ecosystems, and society at their fundamental core (Volpentesta et al., 2023).

Among the most significant forces driving this transformation is agentic artificial intelligence, whose autonomous capabilities are reshaping global competition and value creation mechanisms (Huang, 2025). This technology fuels a new form of globalization rooted in decentralized intelligence, real-time data flows, and adaptive architectures, demanding a critical re-examination of mainstream management theory.

Our theme, Transforming Management, embraces a dual meaning. It addresses both the role of management in guiding organizational transformation and, more provocatively, the urgent need to transform the practice and theory of management itself.

Against this backdrop, this conference invites scholars and practitioners to investigate how organizations can redesign their purpose, strategies, and structures to navigate this new reality, focusing on three primary directions:

A. **Reframing Corporate Purpose in the “de-globalization era”.** In the wake of disruption of global values and international geopolitical fragmentation (Charpin & Cousineau, 2025), sustainability goals are becoming increasingly reflective. We invite contributions that

interrogate the evolution of corporate purpose in fractured geopolitical contexts and examine how firms reconfigure their identity and legitimacy in light of shifting stakeholder expectations and planetary pressures. To make a step forward, more studies are needed to understand hybrid models that integrate profit with purpose, resilience, and responsibility, triggering radical, profound, and irreversible effects.

B. **Agentic Economy, Strategic and Business Model Reinvention.** Exponential technologies like agentic AI are creating new enterprises and disrupting industries unlike mainstream AI (Wagner, 2020; Martinelli 2024; Ratten, Jones & Braga, 2024). This forces business models to reinvent around concepts like servitization and platformization (Chatterjee et al., 2023). We are witnessing the emergence of dynamic, co-evolving business models that continuously adapt to the capabilities of intelligent systems. We invite research exploring how organizational boundaries (Augustine & King, 2024), global value chains (Chatterjee et al., 2024; De Marchi & Gereffi, 2023; Fischer et al., 2024, Magnani et al., 2019; Sacco, et al., 2025, Verbeke, 2020), and ecosystems (Secundo et al., 2025) are being reshaped by autonomous technologies and algorithmic decision-making. We are now witnessing innovative business strategies that constantly co-evolve with technology, creating an inseparable and ongoing process of change (Grego et al., 2024; Hagen et al., 2024). We encourage contributions spanning theoretical, empirical, design-based, interdisciplinary and critical perspectives, addressing the different impacts of various forms of AI, namely traditional, generative, and agentic AI.

C. **Healing Ailing Firms.** Firms today exhibit several symptoms of modern organizational illness: toxic work environments that erode well-being, a haemorrhage of talent, strategic

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amnesia clouding decision-making, and a pathological attachment to legacy models that impede treatment and recovery. Scholars need to explore how regeneration strategies can restore organizational health and wealth - fostering resilience (Conz & Magnani, 2020; Grego et al., 2025), agility (Hagen et al., 2024) and well-being - and aligning business practices

with the health of both society and the planet (Wang, 2023). This is a precondition for transformation and innovation to take root. Research on healing-centered leadership, post-traumatic organizational growth, and organizational design for well-being is especially welcome.

References

Augustine, G., & King, B. G. (2024). From movements to managers: Crossing organizational boundaries in the field of sustainability. *Work and Occupations*, 51, 207.

Charpin, R., & Cousineau, M. (2025). Friendshoring: how geopolitical tensions affect foreign sourcing, supply base complexity, and sub-tier supplier sharing. *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, 45(5), 1006-1031.

Chatterjee, S., Chaudhuri, R., & Vrontis, D. (2023). Business hybrid offerings by manufacturing SMEs: impact of servitization on internationalization of manufacturing SMEs. *International Marketing Review*, 40(4), 585-611.

Chatterjee, S., Chaudhuri, R.; Vrontis, D.; Dana L.P., Kabbara, D. (2024). Developing resilience of MNEs: from global value chain (GVC) capability and performance perspectives, *Journal of Business Research*, 172.

Conz, E., & Magnani, G. (2020). A dynamic perspective on the resilience of firms: A systematic literature review and a framework for future research. *European Management Journal*, 38(3), 400-412.

De Marchi, V., Gereffi, G. (2023). Using the global value chain framework to analyse and tackle global environmental crises. *Journal of Industrial and Business Economics*, 50(1), 149-159.

Fischer B., Meissner,D.; Boschma, R.; Vonortas N.: (2024). Global value chains and regional systems of innovation: towards a critical juncture? *Technological Forecasting Social Change*, 123245

Grego, M., Bartosiak, M., Palese, B., Piccoli, G., & Denicolai, S. (2025). Disentangling the 'digital': A critical review of information technology capabilities, information technology-enabled capabilities and digital capabilities in business research. *International Journal of Management Reviews*, 27(2), 238-260.

Grego, M., Magnani, G. and Denicolai, S., 2024. Transform to adapt or resilient by design? How organizations can foster resilience through business model transformation. *Journal of Business Research*, 171, p.114359.

Hagen, B., Ghauri, P. N. & Macovei, V. (2024) The balancing act: Organizational agility in fast-growing international ventures, *Industrial Marketing Management*, 123, 119-132

Huang, K. (2025). *Agentic AI: Theories and Practices*. Springer.

Magnani, G., Zucchella, A., & Strange, R. (2019). The dynamics of outsourcing relationships in global value chains: Perspectives from MNEs and their suppliers. *Journal of Business Research*, 103, 581-595.

Martinelli, E. (2024). An agent-based approach to the limits of economic planning. *AI & Society*, 1-13.

Petricevic, O., & Teece, D. J. (2019). The structural reshaping of globalization: Implications for strategic sectors, profiting from innovation, and the multinational enterprise. *Journal of International Business Studies*, 50(9), 1487-1512

Ratten, V., Jones, P., & Braga, V. (2024). Artificial intelligence in international business. *Thunderbird International Business Review*, 66(2), 127-133

Sacco, F., Magnani, G., Previtali, P. (2025). Beyond the "eye of the storm": A processual and multi-layered approach to global value chain resilience. *International Business Review*, 102460.

Secundo G, Spilotro C, Gast J, Corvello V (2025). The transformative power of artificial intelligence within innovation ecosystems: a review and a conceptual framework. *Review of Managerial Science*, 19, 2697–2728

Strange, R., & Zucchella, A. (2017). Industry 4.0, global value chains and international business. *Multinational Business Review*, 25(3), 174-184.

Tan, L. J., & Huang, K. (2025). The AI Agent Economy. In *Agentic AI: Theories and Practices* (99-134).: Springer.

Volpentesta, T., Spahiu, E., & De Giovanni, P. (2023). A survey on incumbent digital transformation: a paradoxical perspective and research agenda. *European Journal of Innovation Management*, 26(7), 478-501.

Verbeke, A. (2020). Will the COVID-19 pandemic really change the governance of global value chains? *British Journal of Management*, 31(3), 444.

Wagner, D. N. (2020). Strategically managing the artificially intelligent firm. *Strategy & Leadership*, 48(3), 19-25.

Wang, S. L. (2023). Digital technology-enabled governance for sustainability in global value chains: A framework and future research agenda. *Journal of Industrial and Business Economics*, 50(1), 175-192.

The Conference welcomes both theoretical and empirical contributions, although contributions are expected to provide implications for theory and practice.

TRACKS

The discussion on various topics is organized in the following tracks:

Conference theme

Transforming management in the era of post-globalization and agentic economy

Track chairs: Birgit Hagen and Giovanna Magnani, University of Pavia

Both scholars and practitioners are invited to submit long and short papers to explore new avenues for transformation in the management field. Some potential research questions include, but are by no means limited to:

- How does the agentic economy – at the intersection of organizational and institutional forms of agency, agentic AI, and broader socio-economic transformations – reconfigure the nature and dynamics of strategic decision-making within firms?
- What new practices and capabilities enable radical and continuous transformations within organization in today's landscape?
- How is the discipline of management itself evolving in response to the grand challenges we are currently facing (e.g., sustainability transitions, artificial intelligence, international geopolitical crises, longevity, etc.)?
- How might emerging technologies and transformative forces reshape global competitive dynamics, international business, and global value chains? How does international and geopolitical fragmentation influence the disruption and reconfiguration of global value chains in the post-globalization era?
- What role does corporate purpose play in enhancing firms and ecosystems' resilience and continuous renewal in a post-globalization environment?
- How do ecosystems of agents – human, organizations, AI agents, ... - develop collective agility and resilience in the post-globalization era?
- How and to what extent does agility recalibrate the extent of post-globalization, pace of change and uncertainty?
- How do regenerative strategies enhance a firm's resilience and agility?

SIMA Thematic Groups

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Artificial Intelligence in Management• Entrepreneurship• Innovation & Technology Management• International Business• Marketing• Purpose-driven Businesses• Retailing & Service Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small & Family Business• Strategic Communication• Strategy & Governance• Supply Chain Management, Logistics & Operations• Sustainability• Tourism & Culture Management
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By clicking on each track will be possible to view the topics proposed.

Management Case Studies

Case studies written and presented by academics in collaboration with firm managers. Selected cases may be invited to become part of the SIMA and SIM Case series published with Pearson.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS



Originality: All submissions must be original, unpublished work. Papers previously published or submitted elsewhere will not be considered. Authors must certify their work's originality at submission.



Track Selection: Before submitting, review the conference theme, SIMA thematic groups, and case study tracks on our website. Select the most appropriate track for your paper. We reserve the right to reassign papers to more suitable tracks if needed.



Review Process

As part of our collaborative scientific community, authors may be asked to review:

- One long paper (February-March 2026)
- One short paper (March 2026)

Corresponding authors will also evaluate the quality of the review process feedback.

Important: Authors who fail to participate in reviewing or don't follow review guidelines will be ineligible for conference awards.



Submission Limits

Per Participant:

- Maximum 3 papers as author/co-author
- Maximum 2 presentations (or 3 if presenting alone)

Per Paper:

- Maximum 5 authors



Presentation Requirement

At least one author/co-author must present their paper during the conference parallel sessions.

Failure to present will result in exclusion from conference proceedings and award consideration.

LONG PAPERS SUBMISSION

Format: Use the conference template at <https://www.sijmsima.it/submission/>

Length: Maximum 10,000 words

Required Elements:

- Title
- Author qualifications, discipline, email, and phone number (for administrative use only)
- Contributor statement (for co-authored papers)
- Acknowledgements
- Research references
- Structured abstract (max 5,000 characters including spaces) with: research framing, purpose, methodology, results, limitations, managerial implications, and originality
- Keywords
- References

Technical Requirements:

- Submit in Microsoft Word or compatible format
- Avoid .bmp, .jpeg, .jpg, .png, .gif formats for images
- Provide tables and graphs in original formats (e.g., .xls)
- Use footnotes only for comments or additional details, not for bibliography
- Avoid title or author changes after submission

SHORT PAPERS SUBMISSION

Format: Use the conference template at <https://www.sijmsima.it/submission/>

Length: 3,500-5,000 words

Types:

- Completed research reports
- Ongoing or near-completed research (must clearly indicate "work-in-progress" status and include conceptual development, objectives, and methodological frameworks)

Technical Requirements: Follow long paper formatting rules

SUBMISSION LINK

<https://sinergiesima.confnow.eu/>

PEER REVIEW PROCESS

LONG PAPERS

Long papers undergo a double-blind peer review process conducted by experts in your selected thematic area. Papers may receive full acceptance, conditional acceptance with required modifications, or rejection.

When a paper receives conditional acceptance, authors can submit a revised manuscript that incorporates the reviewers' suggestions or they can choose to proceed with their original version without making any changes.

Accepted long papers are eligible for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings and will be evaluated for conference awards. Additionally, they may be considered for publication in the Sinergie Italian Journal of Management.

SHORT PAPERS

Short papers are subject to a single-blind peer review process by experts in your selected thematic area. After review, papers are either accepted or rejected.

Accepted short papers are eligible for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings and will be evaluated for special mention recognition.

DEADLINES

LONG PAPERS

10 NOVEMBER 2025

Long papers submission opening

15 FEBRUARY 2026

Long papers submission closure

15 APRIL 2026

Notification of double blind
peer-review result

(non-European participants can request advanced
notification of the peer-review result)

30 APRIL 2026

Early bird registration to the Sinergie-SIMA 2026 Management Conference

SHORT PAPERS

10 NOVEMBER 2025

Short papers submission opening

15 MARCH 2026

Short papers submission closure

15 APRIL 2026

Notice of single blind
peer-review result

(non-European participants can request advanced
notification of the peer-review result)



The **PAPER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP (PDW)** will take place on May 27th, 2026. More details will be communicated soon.

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Conference Proceedings

Unless authors choose to opt out during submission, accepted long papers will be published online in the Conference Proceedings with ISBN and DOI codes.

Short papers presented in designated sessions will appear in a separate online volume, also with an ISBN.

All proceedings will be published open access on the Sinergie-SIMA Management Conference website.

At least one author must present the paper during the conference's parallel sessions. Papers not presented will be excluded from the proceedings.

Publication in Sinergie Italian Journal of Management

A select number of papers may be invited after the Conference for inclusion in a 2026 special issue of Sinergie Italian Journal of Management.

Further publication opportunities

Some papers presented at the Conference may be eligible for submission to additional academic journals.

Business case studies may qualify for publication on Pearson's web platform.

Details about further publication opportunities will be available soon on the Conference website.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

All long and short papers are eligible for awards, regardless of whether they are included in the Conference Proceedings. All the participants of the Conference can present long or short papers, regardless of the role held in the organization of the Conference itself. In the case of an author involved in one of the Conference Committees, both SIMA and Sinergie ensure a transparent and fair evaluation by implementing an ad-hoc blind peer review process.

AWARD	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	PROCESS
Sinergie Italian Journal of Management Best Reviewer	Awarded to reviewer for the quality, consistency, and timeliness of their reviews for the Journal	The Journal's Editorial Board evaluates papers published in the Journal in the previous year
Conference Best Papers (Top 3 Overall)	All accepted long papers across the conference	The Scientific Committee reviews peer evaluations and ranks submissions
Conference Selected Papers (From 8 to 10)	All accepted short papers across the conference	Each Track Chair nominates one paper for recognition*
Conference Short Papers' Mentions (15 Awards)	All reviewers across the conference	Each corresponding author evaluates the quality of the review process feedback, and the Coordinator of the Scientific Committee ranks them
Outstanding Conference Reviewers (Top Overall)	All participants to the "Inside the Academic Editorial process" course	A dedicated jury composed of both scholars and practitioners evaluates eligible submissions
Best Practice Oriented Long Paper Award 	All accepted long papers across the conference with strong practical relevance	

* In case of incompatibility situations for the assignment of the mention to the short papers, the final decision will be left to one or two members of the Scientific Committee of the Conference chosen for research competence in relation to the thematic track itself.

CALL FOR RESEARCH CENTERS



For the first time, the Sinergie-SIMA Management Conference will host a dedicated **exhibition of research centers**, particularly those related to business and management research.

Participating research centers will have the opportunity to showcase their activities, projects, and scientific outputs in a special area of the conference program. This initiative aims to highlight excellence within the academic community and foster connections between universities, businesses, and institutions.

In addition to Sinergie-SIMA Conference participants, this research exhibition will also be open to institutions, managers, professionals, and entrepreneurs.

Research centers and their representatives are not required to pay any additional fee beyond the standard conference registration. To take part in this initiative, at least one representative of the research center must be a member of SIMA.

By applying to this initiative, the Research Center undertakes to:

- a) set up a small and simple booth (fair / exhibition style) within an area of approximately 3×3 meters, equipped with a desk and a few chairs;
- b) ensure continuous staffing of the booth throughout the two days of the main program of the Sinergie-SIMA 2026 by at least one person knowledgeable about the Research Center, capable of engaging with visitors and answering questions.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by **10 January 2026** via e-mail to **sima2026@unipv.it**, attaching a brief profile of the Research Centre that includes at least: I) Name and description of main activities; II) a link to the Center's website; III) the hosting university (or universities); IV) the name of the head/director; V) the year of establishment.

Applicants who have expressed interest will receive further details; final confirmation of participation must be provided no later than **28 February 2026**.

In the event of an excessive number of applications, a selection procedure may be undertaken.

Further application details will be available on the conference website.

GENDER BALANCE AND INCLUSION

The Sinergie-SIMA Management Conference is committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. We aim to reflect these values across all aspects of the event – from keynote speakers and roundtables to the makeup of the Organizing and Scientific Committees.

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

Stefano Denicolai

University of Pavia

Beatrice Luceri

President of SIMA - University of Parma

Antonella Zucchella

University of Pavia

Marta Ugolini

Editor-in-chief of Sinergie Italian Journal of Management - University of Verona



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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(formerly Sinergie rivista di studi e ricerche) is a peer-reviewed scholarly publication (ISSN 0393-5108) focusing on the main trends in management studies.

Founded in 1983, it is a free open access journal (www.sijm.it).

Sinergie Italian Journal of Management is indexed in Scopus and EBSCO.

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Società Italiana di Management (or SIMA) is the Scientific Society of Italian Professors of Management. It was established in 2013 and currently has around 500 members. SIMA aims to contribute to the development and dissemination of excellent management knowledge in the academic, economics and social field. It works to promote management studies research in academic and scientific institutions (www.societamanagement.it) to address societal needs.

**FONDAZIONE
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Sinergie Italian Journal of Management is published quarterly by Fondazione CUEIM, whose objective is creation and dissemination of the managerial culture in the society.