Management and Business History Track

Track Chair:

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This track encourages the growing number of management and business historians who work in business schools and social science departments to engage in constructive debate with a wide range of management scholars. The 2027 conference theme is '*Leading Sustainable Futures".* In a world of rapid change and growing complexity, management and business research has a vital role to play in shaping the future of organisations, economies, and societies. Leading Sustainable Futures invites scholars to explore emerging challenges and opportunities across the broad spectrum of management and business research, encouraging fresh thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and new perspectives on how we can build more resilient, responsible, and prosperous futures.

In this Track, we specialize in historically motivated research that deepens the understanding of how organisations, industries, and managerial practices have evolved in ways that speak directly to contemporary concerns about impact, innovation, and inclusion. Historical analysis offers a unique point to examine how diverse actors—firms, managers, workers, communities, and institutions—have collaborated, competed, adapted, or resisted change across time. By analysing past moments of transformation, crisis, and opportunity, we invite contributions that explain how individuals and organisations have worked together to generate social or economic value, foster inclusive practices, or pursue innovative solutions. Such historically grounded work not only enriches current debates in management but also enables scholars to test, challenge, and refine theory by drawing on evidence from contexts where long-term consequences are already visible.

We welcome papers, symposia or workshop proposals either using new and innovative methodologies or applying archival methodology to a new disciplinary context. We are also interested in context specific papers using more traditional historical methodologies, but which take innovative approaches to relate their findings to wider social science concerns including the diversity of experience in present day businesses, regions and communities. While the main conference theme ought to feature in submissions, we encourage cross-disciplinary papers and workshop submissions that link different Tracks.

As a group we are inherently multi-disciplinary and believe in the application of theory to historical analysis, and there is no single epistemology for approaching this. We aim to encourage theoretically orientated social science history with a clear relationship to present day debates in the management discipline. Contributions should focus on the economic or social history of business, historical case studies for theory

building, theoretical contributions on the relevance of history to management studies, the uses of history, and history as a method for management studies. Please note though that while we are open-minded, work without a major historical dimension as its principal focus will not be accepted.

This article is a useful initial point of reference paper contributions:

Decker, S., Lubinski, C., MacKenzie, N. G., & Felton, N. (2024). Taking stock and moving forward: What makes a contribution in business history?. *Business History*, *66*(8), 1923-1938.

Some theoretical and empirical examples of the genre of work that we seek to welcome include:

Binda, V. & Spadavecchia, A. (Eds.) (2023). Quantitative business history. *Revista de Historia Industrial–Industrial History Review*, 88, 11-18.

Buchnea, E., & Wong, N. D. (2026). Network-Enabled Responses to Deglobalization: Examining How Firms Strategize During Eras of Global Disruption. Journal of Management Studies.

Burton, N., Sinnicks, M., Hedley, C., Discua Cruz, A., Wong, N. D., & Smith, A. (2025). Firms as Quasi-Traditions: The Moral Backbone of Social Legacy. *Academy of Management Perspectives*.

Cantwell, J., & Spadavecchia, A. (2023). Which actors drove national patterns of technological specialization into the science-based age? The British experience, 1918–1932. *Industrial and Corporate Change*, *32*(3), 622-646.

Decker, S., Foster, W. M., & Giovannoni, E. (Eds.). (2023). *Handbook of historical methods for management*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Decker, S., Giovannoni, E., & Plakoyiannaki, E. (2024). A microhistory of architecture historical imagination and the Bauhaus. *Management & Organizational History*, 1-25.

Frost, A. K., Verhoef, G., & Durepos, G. (2026). In the absence of archives: Epistemic repair and the remaking of business history. *Business History*, 1-19.

Hargadon, A. B., & Wadhwani, R. D. (2023). Theorizing with microhistory. *Academy of Management Review*, *48*(4), 681-696.

Hollow, M. (2024). Rethinking the role of planning and materiality in the Americanization of management education: The case of London Business School. *Business History*, *66*(6), 1471-1495.

Hollow, M. (2022). A Wesleyan work ethic? Entrepreneurship and Weber's protestant work ethic in the case of Isaac Holden, c. 1807–1897. *Business history*, *64*(7), 1346-1368.

Jones, I. G., Wong, N. D., Herrero, M., & Smith, A. (2024). Bourdieusian capital conversion during crises of socio-political legitimacy: Sponsorship of the arts by Barclays Bank, 1972 to 1987. *Business History*, *66*(6), 1552-1579.

Jou-Badal, X. (2026). The recipe to sweet success: competitive advantages for a Spanish chocolatier, 1874–1910. *Journal of Management History*, *32*(1), 212-237.

Price, M., Wong, N., Harvey, C., & Maclean, M. (2023). Strategic sensemaking by social entrepreneurs: creating strategies for social innovation. *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*, *29*(11), 292-311.

Scott, P., & Spadavecchia, A. (2023). Patents, industry control, and the rise of the giant American corporation. *Research Policy*, *52*(1), 104651.

Spadavecchia, A. (2026). Knowledge will always get through: Inventors, international networks, and flows of technological knowledge between Britain and the United States in the interwar deglobalization period. *Journal of Management Studies*.

Wong, N. D., Smith, A., Discua Cruz, A., Burton, N., & Charalambous, E. (2025). How do firms manage ethically-contested organisational paradoxes? Insights from two historical case studies of modern slavery. *Business History*, *67*(2), 629-657.