

Sustainably Digital

Short Description of the Proposed Track

We call for papers that study various information systems from the perspective of sustainability: sustainably digital supply-chains, smart homes, vehicle systems, etc. ECIS 2018 calls for research that emphasizes various facets of socio-technical change. This track is dedicated to research that takes an integrative perspective on information systems and human activity to create a more sustainable world.

The challenges are abundant, but so are solutions that will help humankind to pursue a sustainable development—one that “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Our Common Future -report, UN, 1987). As such, sustainability is investigated from diverse perspectives, typically focusing on environmental, economic, and social aspects (Elkington 1997).

Information systems are an increasingly essential building block of many approaches to achieve the United Nation’s millennium goals (Elliot 2011; Melville 2010). First, information systems can help individuals, organizations, and society at large to choose more sustainable alternatives that reduce negative externalities on society and environment (e.g., pollution, energy usage, traffic), and thus contribute to environmental sustainability. Second, information systems have always aimed to contribute to economic sustainability, for instance, through management information systems, transaction processing systems, or data management systems. Third, information systems can form the global gateway to sustainability through sensor and actuator networks, business information systems, or data management, amongst others. Importantly, the three dimensions are closely intertwined, and the topic of sustainability is now addressed from a view of a single bounded ecosystem.

The aim of this theme track is to advance the ongoing, yet emergent, discussion on the role and relevance of information systems in the context of sustainability. It intends to provide thought leaders with a forum that accounts for the breadth of sustainability research in the information systems discipline in terms of environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Potential topics range from the design of systems and digital services for sustainability to the application of existing theories on change at the individual, group, organizational, and societal levels, as well as the development of new theory. We particularly look for rigorous research that shows that IS can have a “real impact” on the pressing issues of sustainability.

A *tentative list of topics* of interest includes (but not limited to) the following:

- Green IS and Green IT in organisations
- Sustainable IS-based Business Models (e.g., smart mobility, sharing economy)
- Ecological, social, and economic impacts of information technology
- IS-based Social Entrepreneurship

- IS enabled sustainability education and training
- Crowdsourcing and environmental collaboration
- Convergence between Green IS theory and practice

This track is supported by the AIS SIGGreen.

References

Elkington, J. (1997) *Cannibals with Forks: The triple bottom line of 21st century business*, Oxford: Capstone.

Elliot, S. (2011) "Transdisciplinary perspectives on environmental sustainability: A resource base and framework for IT-enabled business transformation", *MIS Quarterly*, 35(1), pp. 197-236.

Melville, N.P. (2010) "Information systems innovation for environmental sustainability", *MIS Quarterly*, 34(1), pp. 1-21.

Publishing Opportunities in Leading Journals

The Information Society will invite high-quality papers for review.

Track Co-Chairs

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	Short Biography	Johann Kranz is an Associate Professor of Internet Business and Internet Services at the University of Munich. His primary research interests include Green Information Systems, IT-service innovations, Strategic IT Management, and E-Commerce. His research has been published in major journals including <i>Information Systems Journal</i> , <i>Journal of Service Research</i> , <i>Business & Information Systems Engineering</i> , <i>Energy Policy</i> , and <i>Electronic Markets</i> . His main research interest is in how digital technologies' potentials can be leveraged to increase sustainability and resource-efficiency in economy and society. To this end, his current research focuses on IS-mediated organizational sustainability transformations, IT-enabled sustainable business models, smart grids, and the internet of things.
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	Short Biography	Savanid Vatanasakdakul is a senior lecturer at Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia. She holds a PhD in Information Systems from the University of New South Wales, where she received a prestigious Australian Postgraduate Scholarship Award (APA). Her research interests include strategic fit and alignment in information technology transfer to Asia, and implications of national culture, digital divide and governance aspects in technology utilisation among organisations. She has been appointed as the editorial board member of the Journal of Global Information Technology Management, and secretary and founding committee member of SIGGreen at the Association of Information Systems. She has worked as an IT consultant for Deloitte Touch© Tohmatsu prior to entering academia.
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	Short Biography	Helena Karsten is an associate professor in Information Systems at the Åbo Akademi University in Finland. She holds permanent visiting positions at the University of Jyväskylä and at the Aalto School of Economics and Business Administration. Her research interests include change processes, the interweaving of work and computers, the use of IT to support collaboration, and social theories informing theorizing in IS. She has published, among others, in MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Journal, and European Journal in Information Systems. She is the vice-chair of IFIP WG8.2 ICT and Organizational Change. She is a member of AIS, a member of AIS SIGGreen, and of several other scientific societies. She was co-chair for the track Sustainably Digital in ECIS 2014, ECIS 2015 and ECIS 2016. She was co-chair for the conference theme track “IS for a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive World” at ECIS 2017. She is a Senior Editor with the Information Technology & People and an Associate Editor for The Information Society.

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“BEYOND DIGITIZATION - FACETS OF SOCIO-TECHNICAL CHANGE”, 23RD -28TH, JUNE, 2018, IN UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH, UK, FOR THE 26TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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