

“Sustainability in Our Times Conference”

Track: *Sustainable Entrepreneurship/Small Business!*

Track description

Despite increasing global awareness of economic, social, and environmental challenges, threats continue to persist. The literature on sustainable entrepreneurship, defined as “the discovery, creation, and exploitation of opportunities to create future goods and services that sustain the natural and/or communal environment and provide development gain for others” (Patzelt & Shepherd, 2011: 632), has been growing over the last couple of decades (Munoz and Cohen, 2018). Sustainable entrepreneurship requires entrepreneurs and their ventures to operate at the nexus of ecological stewardship, social value creation, and economic viability (Cohen & Winn, 2007; Dean & McMullen, 2007). As much as it is shaped by external environment and context, it is also related to internal values, practices and beliefs (Momtaz and Parra, 2025). This track invites scholarly contributions that advance theoretical, empirical, and methodological understanding of sustainable entrepreneurship by examining how different factors (both internal and external) shape and are shaped by it. We welcome studies focusing on micro and/or macro levels.

Submissions may address a range of potential topics and research questions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- How do institutional and regulatory contexts enable or hinder sustainable entrepreneurship?
- What are the key drivers in transforming sustainable entrepreneurship as an urgent and practical necessity?
- How could digitalization enable or hinder sustainable entrepreneurship?
- How do entrepreneurs and SMEs engaged in sustainable entrepreneurship differentiate themselves?
- In what ways do sustainability-oriented entrepreneurs and SMEs contribute to regional or sectoral sustainability transitions?
- How do resource constraints influence the formation of sustainability-oriented opportunities in small firms?

References:

- Cohen, B., & Winn, M. I. (2007). Market imperfections, opportunity and sustainable entrepreneurship. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 22(1), 29-49.
- Dean, T. J., & McMullen, J. S. (2007). Toward a theory of sustainable entrepreneurship: Reducing environmental degradation through entrepreneurial action. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 22(1), 50-76.
- Momtaz, P. P., & Parra, I. M. (2025). Is sustainable entrepreneurship profitable? ESG disclosure and the financial performance of SMEs. *Small Business Economics*, 64(4), 1535-1564.
- Muñoz, P., & Cohen, B. (2018). Sustainable entrepreneurship research: Taking stock and looking ahead. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 27, 300–322.
- Patzelt, H., & Shepherd, D. A. (2011). Recognizing opportunities for sustainable development. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 35(4), 631-652.

Track chairs

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Bisrat is Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at NEOMA Business School.

His research focuses on entrepreneurship, in particular on entrepreneurial teams, academic spinoffs, and entrepreneurship in the informal economy. His research has been published in academic journals such as *Journal of World Business*, *Technovation*, *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, and *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research*. He is currently an associate editor of *Business Ethics*, *the Environment and Responsibility*. He also serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for different journals and academic conferences.

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Dhara Associate Professor in Human Resource Management whose research focuses on employment, entrepreneurship, and social inclusion. She has published widely in reputable international journals, with her work emphasising co-designed, community-engaged solutions to complex social challenges. Having delivered nine major interdisciplinary research and consultancy projects valued at around A\$2 million, she collaborates extensively with government, industry, and academic partners across Australia and internationally. Dhara serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Enterprising Communities*, represents Australia in the European Academy of Management, and contributes to the Australia India Business Council. Her work has been recognised through multiple awards for research excellence and leadership.