

## Call for Papers

### **Journal of Management & Organization (JMO) Special Issue *Wicked Problems and Sustainable Development Goals***

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### **ANZAM 2019 Conference Theme Stream: ‘*Wicked Solutions to Wicked Problems: The Challenges Facing Management Research and Practice.*’**

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### **Call for Papers for ANZAM Conference Theme Stream**

Papers are invited that explore, address and reflect on the complex, interlinked and hard-to-solve challenges – so-called ‘wicked problems’ – that the management discipline, and our global society, faces in the 21st century. This includes complex, multidisciplinary challenges in management practice, research and education, as well as the much wider ‘grand challenges,’ whose scope are best articulated in the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are equally interested in empirical papers, methodological papers and papers that conceptualise, debate or even offer multidisciplinary, innovative and “wicked” (*as in awesome, or excellent!*) solutions to such complex challenges and SDGs. Papers may be inter-disciplinary but must have a management focus or management implications.

Papers with a clear focus on SDGs and SDG-relevant topics, which are submitted to this stream, will be considered for submission to a special issue of the Journal of Management & Organization (JMO). Please see further details below.

Wicked problems are complex problems dependent on so many interlinked factors that it is often hard to grasp what exactly the problem is, or to understand how to tackle it. Wicked problems demand the input of multiple academic disciplines with relevant practical expertise; but interdisciplinary research alone is not sufficient to deal with wicked problems. In order to make a dent in solving many of our wicked problems, researchers need to step out of the lab, move beyond their computer, and work side-by-side with industry, local communities, decision-makers and legislators (Kumlein and Coughlan, 2018).

Wicked problems are often associated with ‘grand challenges’ (George et al, 2016) those global, societal or environmental problems whose scope are best articulated in the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Sachs et al, 2018). However, these ‘grand challenges’ also have national- or community-based targets and actions that can contribute to global solutions, so there is scope for effective action at several levels.

Papers that can demonstrate a clear focus on SDGs and SDG-relevant topics, which are submitted to the Conference Theme Stream, will be considered for submission to the JMO Special Issue. Methodological papers and papers that conceptualise, debate or even offer multidisciplinary, innovative and “wicked” (*as in awesome, or excellent!*) solutions to such challenges and SDGs are equally welcome. Papers may be inter-disciplinary but must have a management focus or management implications.

### **Submission Details:**

The first step involves authors to submit a paper (Refereed Delivered or Refereed Interactive) to the Conference Theme Stream (*Wicked Solutions to Wicked Problems: The Challenges Facing Management Research and Practice*) of the 2019 ANZAM Conference (submission deadline: 24 June 2019). Please see [www.anzamconference.org](http://www.anzamconference.org) for formatting requirements and link to the submission page; when submitting their paper, **authors must ensure to ‘opt out’ of publishing their full paper in the Conference proceedings.**

Following a process of double blind review for the Conference, authors will be informed of the decision by 30 August 2019. At least one author of each accepted paper must register to attend the ANZAM Conference and present their paper at the Conference (deadline for registration: 11 October 2019). Accepted papers for the Conference Theme Stream will then be considered for the JMO Special Issue.

Depending upon the number of selected papers from the Conference Theme Stream, the Special Issue Editors may make a separate invitation for submissions following the Conference reviewer decision. The planned date for submission of completed papers to the JMO Special Issue is 30 December 2019; papers will then be subject to an additional review process. Details, deadlines and instructions will be provided to invited authors following the Conference review decision.

### **References**

Kumlein, A de A. and Coughlan, P. Wicked Problems and How to Solve Them, *The Conversation*, October 18, 2018 (<http://theconversation.com/wicked-problems-and-how-to-solve-them-100047>)

George, G., Howard-Grenville, J., Joshi, A. and Tihanyi, L. (2016) Understanding and Tackling Societal Grand Challenges Through Management Research, *Academy of Management Journal*, 2016, Vol. 59, No. 6, 1880–1895.

Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2018): SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) (<http://sdgindex.org/reports/2018/>)