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# Research and Innovation Forum 2024

 Springer

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# Research and Innovation Forum 2024

 Springer

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# Preface

The twin transition: leveraging breakthrough technologies and sustainability for innovation, quality education and policy making

Marking a track of recognition by academia and industry, the 6th Research and Innovation Forum (Rii Forum) and the family of academic events associated with it invite you to Ravello, Italy, to share academically sound and practice-driven insights into how to leverage breakthrough technologies and sustainability for innovation, quality education, and policy making today. Rii Forum is an annual conference that brings together researchers, academics, and practitioners in conceptually sound inter- and multi-disciplinary, empirically driven debate on key issues influencing the dynamics of social interaction today. Technology, innovation, and education, as well as issues and topics located at their intersection, define the key dimensions of all discussions held during the Rii Forum. The focus of the Rii Forum 2024, which includes breakthrough technologies and sustainability, is driven by the recognition that concerted action is needed at the local, regional, and global levels if the imperatives of human-centric, resilient, and sustainable growth and development are to be attained.

The major theme of the Rii Forum 2024 is “The twin transition: leveraging breakthrough technologies and sustainability for innovation, quality education, and policy making”. In increasingly fragile social, political, and economic contexts, where sources of risks and threats to safety and security mount, and concerns about well-being, inclusion, and equal opportunities remain as valid as ever, and where digital technology is a central consideration, it is paramount that the academic community and practitioners engage in debate on how to preempt nascent risks, how to exploit emerging opportunities, and how to ensure that forward-looking strategies aimed at attaining sustainability (environmental, social, economic, business-related) are devised locally, regionally, and globally. The objective of the Rii Forum 2024 is to encourage conceptually sound and evidence-based conversation on these complex topics.

The Rii Forum 2024 seeks to encourage debate on ways of leveraging breakthrough digital technologies and sustainability for the sake of boosting innovation, enhancing quality education, and increasing the efficiency of policy making at the local, regional, and global levels. This includes the role of community and organizations (public, private, voluntary). It also includes approaches and strategies implemented in domains such as education, public policy, economic policy, security and defense, management, and, for instance, the medicine and healthcare cluster. An equally important aspect of the discussion on digital technology in connection with sustainability is the question of its local, regional, international, and global implications, for instance for the Global North—Global South divide as well as for the South-South relations. While ‘digital transformation’ is a powerful term to account for the impact of ICT on several of these domains, there is much more to it. The Rii Forum 2024 seeks to identify and explore this yet unclaimed area of research. To this end, five major topic areas (tracks) are placed in the spotlight of the Rii Forum 2024.

TRACK 1: The AI Revolution and its Implications for Business and Society

TRACK 2: Digital Transformation in Education: From Course Content, Through Instruction, to Managerial

TRACK 3: Smart Society: Cities, Urbanism, Platforms, Participation, Democracy, Sustainability, Resilience

TRACK 4: Innovation Management for Human-Centric and Sustainable Digital Transition

TRACK 5: Regulation, Investment, and Accounting for the Twin Technology and Sustainability Transitions

Cognizant of the realities of the day, Research and Innovation Forum is held on-site and on-line. The on-line sessions were held on Monday, April 8, 2024, and Tuesday, April 9, 2024, to enable all participants to join the debate. The on-site edition was held on April 10–12, 2024, in Ravello, Italy. The conference venue was the picturesque Villa Rufolo. The Rii Forum 2024 attracted delegates from nearly all continents, including North and South America, Asia, the Arab Peninsula, Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. Presentations were organized in tracks (as per the major topics listed above) and corresponding panels. These were complemented by the Rii Forum Keynote Address on April 10 and April 11, 2024, the Rii Forum-Enzima 12 Plenary Debate, the Rii Forum “Meet-the-Editors” session, and the Rii Forum Ph.D. Workshop.

On April 10, 2024, the Rii Forum 2024 keynote address was delivered by Prof. Sascha Kraus. Prof. Sascha Kraus is Full Professor of Management at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Sascha Kraus’ main research areas are strategy, internationalization, as well as entrepreneurship and innovation. His research has been published in the most prestigious journals including *Academy of Management Perspectives*, *Global Strategy Journal*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, *Journal of World Business*, *The Leadership Quarterly* or *Long Range Planning*.

On April 11, 2024, the Rii Forum 2024 keynote address was delivered by Prof. Krzysztof Kozłowski. Prof. Kozłowski is Vice Rector for Teaching and Student Affairs at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics and Head of the Institute of International Studies (SGH). His research focuses on political theory, methodology of sciences and game theory. He is also interested in the ‘grey zone’ of politics, organized crime and terrorism. The author of several works, addressing topics specific to Central and East Asia, platform economy, higher education management, Professor Kozłowski is one of key experts in the field of higher education institutions’ management.

A staple part of Research and Innovation Forum, the Rii Forum Roundtable Discussion serves as a venue to discuss cross-cutting issues and topics of vital importance for politics, economics, management and policymaking. The focus of the 2024 Rii Forum Roundtable Discussion, organized jointly by Rii Forum and ENZIMA12, was directed at artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications for approaches to skills’ acquisition and emulation, professional development, education, and other. The title of discussion was “EdTech Perspectives: Balancing Skill Enhancement and Professional Transformations in the AI Era”.

The Rii Forum “Meet-the-Editors” session was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024. The invitation to join the session was accepted by Prof. Giustina Secundo Ph.D., Associate Editor of the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research (IJEER); by Prof. Vincenzo Corvello, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief of European Journal of Innovation Management (EJIM); by Prof. Orlando Troisi, Ph.D., serving as Guest-Editor of the international journal *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy (TGPPP)*, as well as by Dr. Mara Grimaldi, serving as Guest Editor in the journal *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*. The objective of the sessions was to engage in a conversation on the practical dimensions of the publishing process, including the does and the don’ts. The session was moderated by Prof. Anna Visvizi.

The two Rii Forum 2024 Ph.D. workshop was held on Friday, April 12, 2024. Titled “Turning research ideas into outcomes: sharing reflections and insights from and for Ph.D. journey”, the objective of the workshop was to provide Ph.D. candidates with skills and very practical insights useful and usable in view of developing their research projects and accomplishing them. The workshop participants had the opportunity to understand how to match their research ideas with appropriate research techniques/methods, how to support their research with data and data analysis, and how to effectively present results. The workshop is coordinated by Dr. Mara Grimaldi, Research Fellow in Business Management, University of Salerno.

Over the years, a few traditions have consolidated in Rii Forum. One of them is the Rii Forum Gala Dinner. Held in a carefully selected venue, it gives the delegates the opportunity to celebrate, as a community, their research, their achievements, and their commitment to excellence. During the Rii Forum Gala Dinner, the Rii Forum Awards Ceremony takes place. Several categories of awards have been established at Rii Forum. Award decisions are based on reviewers’ feedback and evaluations, complemented by on-site and on-line monitoring and evaluation by Members of the

Rii Forum Steering Committee. The Rii Forum 2024 Awards were awarded during the Rii Forum 2024 Gala Dinner, which took place in the wonderful restaurant of the Graal Hotel in Ravello.

The Rii Forum prides itself on serving as a venue (i) where science and policy making meet; (ii) where sustainable networking takes place; (iii) where publication opportunities (usual disclaimers apply) are created; and (iv) where each and every piece of research is respected. Over the past five years, five volumes of Rii Forum proceedings have been published in collaboration with Springer, several edited book projects have been accomplished, several papers have been published in prestigious journals, and a great number of academic careers have been advanced.

As for papers, 140 extended paper proposals were submitted in response to the initial call for papers. Of these proposals, following the initial screening and subsequent review process, only 73 are included in the Rii Forum 2024 proceedings. In other words, all papers presented at Rii Forum 2024 and submitted to be considered for publication in this volume were subjected to several rounds of a double-blind peer review process. This included at least two reviews in each round of the review process, followed by a thorough meta-review. Reflecting the inter- and multi-disciplinary focus and scope of the Rii Forum 2024, the papers included in this volume are grouped into five broad thematic parts. These include:

- The AI Revolution and its Implications for Business and Society.
- Digital Transformation in Education: From Course Content, Through Instruction, to Managerial Implications.
- Smart Society: Cities, Urbanism, Platforms, Participation, Democracy, Sustainability, Resilience.
- Innovation Management for Human-Centric and Sustainable Digital Transition.
- Regulation, Investment, and Accounting for the Twin Technology and Sustainability Transitions.

We remain grateful to the Rii Forum Steering Committee and the Rii Forum Program Committee for their commitment, sound judgment and hard work in the process of organizing the Rii Forum 2024 and then successfully organizing the conference. We would like to say ‘thank you’ to all contributing authors, to friends and supporters. We remain indebted to the reviewers who worked around the clock to evaluate papers and revisions submitted to this book. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the entire Springer team and the Editors of Complexity for their continued support and guidance. It is our sincere hope that papers included in this book, and corresponding findings, ideas, and questions yet to be explored, will be of interest of the academic community.

At the heart of Rii Forum lies the recognition that fairness, kindness, integrity, excellence, and hard work, eventually translating in mutual trust, are the key ingredients that make us good researchers, good academics, not least good people. As we continue the journey, we hope that our readers will accept our invitation to join the 7th Rii Forum 2025, to be held in Barcelona (Spain) on April 24–25, 2025. Please, check the Rii Forum website (<https://rii-forum.org>) for details.

Anna Visvizi  
Orlando Troisi  
Vincenzo Corvello  
Chairs, Rii Forum 2024

# Acknowledgments

As the Rii Forum 2024 Chairs, we would like to extend our “thank you” to everyone who contributed to the conference’s success. Held already for the fifth time, the Rii Forum 2024 was an instance of exemplary teamwork, problem-solving, co-creation, knowledge sharing, learning, and adding to the broader debate on key issues that shape our world today. Technology and its diverse facets remained the key interpretive lens guiding the conversations at the conference, yet it was the social impact thereof that was of primary interest of the Rii Forum 2024 participants. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this process. We would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their hard work. Finally, we extend our gratitude to the Publisher, Springer Nature, and the entire team for granting us the opportunity to collaborate on this volume. We praise their professionalism. We appreciate the privilege of collaborating with them.

Anna Visvizi  
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Vincenzo Corvello  
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The Plamegate leak was seen as an attempt to discredit Plame's husband, Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who had criticized the Bush administration's handling of intelligence leading up to the Iraq War. This case raised significant legal and ethical questions about the outing of a covert CIA operative for political purposes. This leak revealed a lack of accountability and respect for classified information within the administration necessitating reforms to improve transparency and accountability in government, such as strengthening whistleblower protections and increasing oversight of intelligence agencies. The leak ultimately resulted in I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, being convicted on three counts of perjury and a fourth count of obstruction of justice in the federal investigation of the leak of a CIA agent's name [21]. President George W. Bush commuted Libby's sentence in 2007, followed by President Donald Trump issuing a full pardon in 2018. Bush's decision stemmed from the perceived severity of the punishment, whereas Trump's pardon highlighted his belief that Libby had been treated unfairly. The case highlighted the challenges of prosecuting high-ranking government officials and the potential for political interference in the legal process, raising additional questions about the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

The controversies surrounding the James Comey, Wen Ho Lee, and Plamegate leaks touch upon critical issues related to government transparency, accountability, and the rule of law. These cases highlight the delicate balance between national security interests and the public's right to know, and the challenges involved in managing classified information and sensitive investigations. The controversies surrounding these leaks also raising broader questions about the independence of the judiciary, the politicization of intelligence, and the impact of media sensationalism on public perception requiring careful consideration and thoughtful policy responses to ensure that similar controversies do not arise in the future. Future research addressing these issues will be crucial in further upholding the integrity of our institutions and preserving public trust in government.

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