

JOURNAL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

ORGANIZING AND STRATEGIZING IN AND FOR EXTREME CONTEXTS: TEMPORALITY, EMBODIMENT, MATERIALITY

Submission Deadline: 1 September 2022

This document summarizes the questions during the paper development workshop for the special issue on "Organizing and Strategizing in Extreme contexts: Temporality, Embodiment, and Materiality". Please note that it is challenging to give definite answers on exact boundaries, e.g., what constitutes an extreme context or if a particular project fits the special issue. Therefore, as we emphasized, we try to be inclusive and keep an open mind.

See also the video presentation for the PDW: <https://youtu.be/q2PfDc4e9pg>

Consult the full call for papers for some details. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/pb-assets/assets/14676486/SI-OSEC%20Call%20for%20Papers%20Aug%2021-1631023574537.pdf>

Useful information could also be found on www.organizingextremecontexts.org

Finally, please feel free to reach out if you have any queries (markus.hallgren[at]umu.se).

We are looking forward to your contributions!

/Markus, Linda, Daniel, Kathleen, Eero, and Elena

PROCESS

Do you plan to start reviewing the papers as they come (and are submissions already open?), or will you wait till September?

The submission window will open 2 weeks before the deadline and we will start the review process after the deadline.

Is the deadline negotiable?

Unless something very dramatic happens, we will keep to the deadline (1st September 2022)

How many papers will you include?

We do not have a set upper limit for the number of papers. It all depends on the quality, the process is not a competitive one for this special issue.

Can we submit our papers for an informal review?

We do not accept papers for informal review since we feel this might create unfair advantages. That said, we will do our best to answer specific queries about e.g. fit (Again, it is hard to provide a definite answer before seeing the final paper. We are doing our best to be inclusive).

CONTENT

Do you expect theory-building on the concept of extreme contexts?

We are predominantly looking for papers where the main theorizing advances the three sub-themes and management and organization studies by applying and considering a case of an extreme context. The theory building on the sub-themes are thus more important than theory building on extreme contexts per se. Our aim with the special issue is first and foremost to advance management and organization studies. Based on experiences of organizing different conference tracks etc. we advise potential contributors to be careful about their theorizing, and avoid romanticizing the setting even if the setting is interesting and exciting in and by itself.

Would you consider theoretical, methodological or philosophical papers related to extreme contexts?

We are open to any paper (and method; ethnographic, fiction, surveys, databases, etc., etc.) if it is related to the theme(s) of the special issue.

Would my project fit with the special issue?

There were some questions on whether specific projects and settings would fit the special issue. It isn't easy to give definite answers, but we are doing our best to be inclusive. Papers on, e.g., COVID-19, military operations, war zones, healthcare, and numerous other settings (e.g. IT-systems) are thus potentially welcome - but we cannot make any promises in advance. Again, we also welcome e.g., methodological papers on e.g. fiction or the researcher's experiences as long as it is relevant to the themes of the SI. However, please be advised that we are interested in a particular kind of extreme context. We see extreme contexts as settings "where one or more extreme events are occurring or are likely to occur that may exceed the organization's capacity to prevent and result in an extensive and intolerable magnitude of physical, psychological, or material consequences to - or in close physical or psychosocial proximity to - organization members" (Hannah et al., 2009: 898). We foresee potential contributions to consider the sub-themes (temporality, embodiment and materiality) and settings or topics related to this definition (or provide solid arguments for alternatives). See Hällgren et al. (2018) to distinguish between extreme and non-extreme contexts.

How about papers on extreme contexts but outside of temporality, embodiment and materiality?

We encourage potential contributors to address one or several of these sub-themes as we hope that will allow the sub-theme to advance the theorizing on those themes in management and organization studies.

In terms of contribution, would you prefer a primary focus on extreme contexts related to the sub-themes or a focus on the bigger debate around a sub-theme?

We prefer a primary focus on the sub-themes but related to the extreme contexts. Consider the extreme context as the case where you explore one or several sub-themes of temporality, embodiment and materiality.

Do we need to address all the sub-themes (temporality, embodiment and materiality), or is one enough?

You are free to choose to address one or any combination of them.

Grand challenges vs extreme contexts

Grand challenges are not necessarily the same thing as extreme contexts. However, grand challenges may lead to a setting becoming an extreme context; for instance, climate change may lead to a natural disaster which could be the focus of a paper for this special issue.

Do you have any suggestions for exemplary papers?

There are a lot of good papers out there, and we are reluctant to point to a particular one. We advise potential contributors to consult the Journal of Management Studies for the specific style of papers and ongoing conversations (which you also find in other journals). If you are new to extreme contexts and would like to have some examples of this kind of research, we advise you to consult the call for papers in this special issue and, for instance, the reviews by Williams et al. (2017), and Hällgren et al. (2018). The latter deals with extreme contexts, their definition, and examples thereof.

REFERENCES

Hällgren, M., Rouleau, L., & de Rond, M. (2018). A Matter of Life or Death: How Extreme Context Research Matters for Management and Organization Studies. *Academy of Management Annals*, **12**(1), 111-153.

Williams, T. A., Gruber, D. A., Sutcliffe, K. M., Shepherd, D. A., & Zhao, E. Y. (2017). Organizational Response to Adversity: Fusing Crisis Management and Resilience Research Streams. *Academy of Management Annals*, **11**(2), 733-769.