



Special Issue Call for Papers

The transition to the Circular Economy: a challenge for Businesses, Governments and Society

Guest Editors

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Timeline

Deadline: March 31st, 2024

1st Round Revisions Due: June 30th, 2024

2nd Round Revisions Due: August 30th, 2024

Final Decision/Acceptance: October 31st, 2024

Introduction

The transition from the linear production model to the circular economy one requires the redesign of business models aiming at an increase in resources usage and their value capture (Chiappetta Jabbour et al., 2019a) and an improvement in supply chain performance (Sehnem et al., 2019a). The transition further requires fostering collaboration and innovation and engaging consumers and society (Suchek et al., 2021). Among many benefits, Circular Economy helps to save resources, monetize and create value across supply chains (Agrawal et al., 2022) and helps companies to improve differentiation through a more resilient, resource-efficient, and sustainable economic system. Therefore, Circular transformation can help achieve robust and sustainable expansion in a resource-constrained world but also requires promoting new standards and certifications, developing circular-focused capabilities within companies, suppliers, and consumers, and supporting new policy frameworks (WEF, 2023). As a result, innovation becomes a strategic element that supports this transition.



The application of Industry 4.0 technologies has been pointed out as an enabler to the transition (Lopes de Sousa Jabbour et al., 2018a), as it allows sustainable innovation by improving inter-functional collaboration and better integration – internally and externally (Ghobakhloo et al., 2021), and by facilitating the gathering and sharing information on real-time helping to make more accurate decisions regarding natural resources consumption and control, waste generation and management and consumers' use and disposal preferences (Lopes de Sousa Jabbour et al., 2018b). Therefore, to accelerate the transformation, digital solutions – such as IoT and AI – may help improve manufacturing and product usage analysis, besides enhancing remanufacturing capabilities (Agrawal et al., 2022). However, even though digital technologies allow the development of new sustainable business models, it is still necessary to gain legitimation (Biloslavo et al., 2020).

In this context, the Circular Economy has been associated with a business-for-good notion that affects organizations and society in a conscious, responsible, and more sustainable way. This is because business models of the circular economy are capable of equitable access to the consumption of goods and services through sharing and digitalized business models.

Moreover, the circular economy is aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The circular economy can help to meet objectives 3 (health and well-being for people), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 12 (Production and Responsible Consumption) and 17 (Partnership for the objectives) and have an interface with several others. So, to allow innovation development, a collective effort is needed (Batista et al., 2019). Public and private organizations work together in such a society to create a sustainable future (Schmitt & Seclen Luna, 2022).

Circular solutions may be based on different perspectives, such as learning, sharing vision, reflexive governance, regulation, and negotiation in networks (Dagliene et al., 2021). Therefore, despite the research on the circular economy realm has evolved, there are some calls for further investigations (Sehnem et al., 2019), such as the human side and soft skills involved with the transition towards a circular economy mindset inside organizations (Chiappetta Jabbour et al., 2019b). In addition, there is still room for developing further research that addresses how the circular economy business models can improve the social sustainability performance of firms beyond the typical connections, such as the creation of jobs and new businesses (Lopes de Sousa Jabbour et al., 2022) and more interdisciplinary research (Sehnem et al., 2019).

In this way, we invite and welcome submissions to contribute to the theoretical development of this research area. Empirical works covering good practices, tools, management models, dynamics of



transition to the circular economy, public policies, and stakeholders' collective efforts, among others, are welcome; reflections, criticisms and analyses related to the theme.

Aims and Scope of the Special Issue

This Special Issue aims to contribute to the management literature with theoretically strong, methodologically robust, and innovative research that has the potential to significantly advance the investigation of the Transition to The Circular Economy. The Scope of the Special Issue will also cover the micro, meso and macro level of analysis and theoretical and policy investigations about the challenges for businesses, Government, and society in the transition to the Circular Economy. This call invites, namely, but not restricted to, contributions from management and business economics research. The Editorial team welcomes quality scholarly research that can either be conceptual, theoretical, or empirical (quantitatively and/or qualitatively approached). For this *RAE* Special Issue, we accept original research from interested scholars seeking to explore any of the following research strands:

- Circular economy business models applied in different sectors.
- Innovation as a support for the transition of businesses to the circular economy.
- Industry 4.0 as a driver of the circular economy, and the role of Industry 4.0 innovation to support the social and business impact of the transition to the circular economy.
- Digital transformation and its potential contribution to the success of the circular economy.
- The social and business impact generated by the circular economy.
- Theorization of the transition to the circular economy
- Human side and soft skills capacity building to pursue a circular economy transition.
- Circular Economy and Stakeholder Engagement: Businesses, Government, and society partnerships and collective efforts in transitioning to the Circular Economy.
- Implications of the circular economy transition on supply chain management practices (including sustainable sourcing, reverse logistics, closed-loop systems, and collaboration among supply chain partners to enable circularity).
- Circular economy transition and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We encourage researchers to submit their original work that aligns with the abovementioned themes. Submissions should offer new insights, advance theoretical frameworks, and present robust empirical



evidence to enhance understanding the challenges and opportunities associated with the transition to the Circular Economy.

About the Journal

RAE was launched in 1961 and is one of the most prestigious journals published in Latin America. The journal is currently ranked as level 1 in AJG ABS and indexed by several indexers and databases such as Elsevier's Scopus, SciELO, IBSS, HAPI, Spell, and JCR/Clarivate (WoS). Accepted articles are published in English and Portuguese or Spanish to reach a wide global audience. ***RAE* is an open-access journal and does not charge publication fees.**

Submission of papers

Papers submitted must not have been published, accepted for publication, or presently be under consideration for publication elsewhere. To be eligible for review, the manuscript must follow the *RAE*'s guidelines (<https://bit.ly/rae-articles-format>). The submission must be made through the ScholarOne system at <http://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/rae-scielo>. For more information, write to: raeredacao@fgv.br

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