

IFKAD
International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics

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IFKAD 2027

22nd International Forum on Knowedge Asset Dynamics

University of Basilicata, Matera, Italy

The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era

CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS - IFKAD 2027
www.ifkad.org

Special Track n.: 39

Inclusive Ecosystems in the AI Era: Equity, Diversity and the Human–Digital Integration

Description

Ecosystems, whether organizational or territorial, are configurations of actors, resources and infrastructures through which knowledge, services and opportunities circulate (Jacobides et al., 2018). Their value depends not only on what they contain, but on who can reach and use it. Access, understood as the fit between what an ecosystem offers and the capabilities of those seeking it (Levesque et al., 2013), is a critical dimension of the ecology of knowledge, as it shapes who can participate in knowledge creation, exchange and use.

Access is increasingly multidimensional. Spatial inequalities still shape who can reach services and opportunities (Sulis & Proietti, 2024). Digital channels can overcome distance, but may exclude those lacking the technological, cognitive or organizational capabilities to use them (Bruno et al., 2023). AI adds a further layer, as agents increasingly filter and recommend on behalf of people and firms (Jarrahi et al., 2023), while AI adoption is unevenly distributed (Humlum & Vestergaard, 2025) and new divides linked to algorithmic awareness and data are emerging (Lythreatis et al., 2022). These channels complement, substitute or reinforce one another, so gains in one may conceal exclusion in another. This happens when service providers rationalize physical networks in favor of digital channels, shifting part of the effort of access onto users (Baldassarre et al., 2025).

For organizations, access to knowledge also involves dividing competences between people and AI. Firms must decide which tasks and expertise remain in human hands and which to delegate to systems they often do not own (Raisch & Krakowski, 2021; Jarrahi et al., 2023). Delegating too much may weaken critical thinking and the ability to assess AI outputs, while delegating too little may forgo productivity gains and the diffusion of expertise.

This raises questions of equity and diversity. Citizens, firms and territories may reach different subsets of an ecosystem's resources, not in proportion to their needs. Equity therefore concerns the distribution of access as much as its overall level. The diversity an ecosystem contains may not coincide with the diversity its participants can mobilize. When access concentrates on fewer actors, channels or contexts, the variety of perspectives feeding knowledge creation may shrink, favoring the "so-called" monocultures of knowing (Messeri & Crockett, 2024).

Building on the IFKAD 2027 theme, "The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era", the track invites contributions on how access to knowledge, services and opportunities can be understood, measured, designed and governed. We welcome studies in public and private settings on trade-offs between efficiency, equity in the access, diversity and on the human–digital balance of competences in firms. Contributions may be conceptual or empirical and draw on any methodological tradition, from case studies and qualitative inquiry to modelling and data-driven analysis. The aim is to offer managers and policymakers tools for more equitable ecosystems.

Indicative Topics

- Conceptual perspectives on equity and inclusion: who benefits and who is left out in organizational, inter-organizational and territorial ecosystems
- Interplay between physical, digital and AI-mediated channels for reaching knowledge, services and opportunities
- Spatial inequalities and the geography of services and infrastructures
- Digital divides and emerging AI divides: skills, uses, outcomes, algorithmic awareness and data inequalities
- AI as intermediary: search, recommendation and filtering of information and resources

- Human–AI division of competences: what to delegate, what to keep, and how to balance automation and augmentation
- Tacit knowledge, critical thinking and the risk of deskilling in AI-augmented organizations
- SMEs, startups and less-resourced organizations in the AI transition
- Dependence on platforms and technology providers, and its consequences for autonomy and knowledge control
- Diversity of knowledge sources, actors and perspectives, and the risk of knowledge monocultures
- Reconfiguration of service delivery models and its effects on users, workers and territories
- Trade-offs between efficiency, equity, diversity and resilience in design and management decisions
- Measuring and evaluating inequalities: indicators, frameworks and data sources
- Governance, policy and regulatory approaches for fair and inclusive ecosystems
- Evidence from public and private settings, such as healthcare, education, finance, mobility, public administration, innovation and knowledge ecosystems

Keywords

Ecosystems; Equity; Diversity; Accessibility; Digital divide; Human–AI collaboration

Organizers

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Eduardo Pipicelli – University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Follow this link to see the Special Track details on IFKAD website ››

Guidelines and Requirements

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an EXTENDED ABSTRACT (in MS Word format) of min 500 and max 1000 words, not later than **22 JANUARY 2027**. All submission must be done via dedicated form on our website. The abstract should address theoretical background, research objective, methodology, and results in terms of expected contribution to Knowledge Management theory and practice.
Authors are required to follow the guidelines and templates available on IFKAD website: www.ifkad.org

Important Dates

22 January 2027 – Extended Abstract Submission Deadline
19 February 2027 – Acceptance Notification to Authors
16 April 2027 – Early-Bird Registration & Payment Deadline
23 April 2027 – Full Paper Submission Deadline
28 May 2027 – Regular and PhD Students Registration & Payment Deadline
12 June 2027 – Conference Program Release
28-30 June 2027 – Conference sessions *(to be considered as 3 full working days)*

Please note that all above indicated dates are **CUT-OFF** deadlines. There will not be an extention to any of these.

Further Information

For any information related to the conference and/or any special track, please see the event website at www.ifkad.org or contact the conference manager at **info@ifkad.org**