

IFKAD
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University of Basilicata, Matera, Italy

The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era

CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS - IFKAD 2027
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Special Track n.: 45

Organizational Aesthetics in the Ecology of Knowledge: Sensing, Feeling and Knowing in the AI Era

Description

Knowledge does not exist in isolation; it lives within an ecology. An ecological perspective moves beyond seeing knowledge as a discrete resource and instead considers it as something that emerges, circulates, and evolves through relationships among actors, practices, artefacts, technologies, organizations, and environments. Akera (2007) uses the ecology of knowledge to capture the contingency, indeterminacy and heterogeneous complexity of knowledge production, while Goonatilake (2006) portrays knowledge as an evolving "knowledge jungle" in which multiple knowledge lineages interact and transform in relation to changing environments.

If knowledge is an ecology, what kinds of knowledge inhabit it?

This track focuses on aesthetic knowing as a fundamental yet often overlooked component of organizational knowledge ecologies. Organizational knowledge is commonly approached through cognitive, linguistic, informational and, increasingly, computational forms. Yet people also know organizations through their bodies, senses, emotions, intuition, imagination and lived experiences. Strati (1995) conceptualizes aesthetics as a distinctive form of knowledge of organizational life, while Ewenstein and Whyte (2007) show that aesthetic knowledge is embodied and situated, encompassing symbolic and experiential dimensions.

We therefore propose that aesthetic knowing contributes to the biodiversity of the knowledge ecology. Thinking, sensing, feeling, and doing represent interconnected ways through which organizational actors understand, interpret, and transform their organizational worlds. Aesthetic knowledge is thus not peripheral to organizational knowing but contributes to maintaining its plurality.

This perspective becomes particularly relevant in the AI era. Schiuma et al. (2026) argue that organizational knowledge and innovation require the integration of rational and emotional thinking: while AI predominantly augments analytical and computational capabilities, aesthetic technologies can strengthen emotional, experiential, and sensory dimensions of human cognition. Their Convergent Knowledge Innovation Model highlights the value of a dialogic integration between AI and aesthetic technologies rather than their substitution.

The arts provide a particularly powerful expression of this complementarity. Carlucci and Schiuma (2018) conceptualize the arts as a management resource and source of organizational development, capable of engaging emotions, energy, and creativity. As learning platforms and aesthetic technologies, arts-based practices can stimulate new ways of seeing and feeling organizational issues, expand perspectives and connect rationality with intuition and emotion.

Rather than opposing human and artificial knowledge, the track therefore invites scholars to investigate their interdependencies, complementarities, tensions and co-evolution, asking:

What role does aesthetic knowing play in sustaining the biodiversity of organizational knowledge ecologies, and how can sensory, embodied, emotional and experiential ways of knowing coexist and evolve alongside increasingly powerful forms of AI-mediated knowing?

Indicative Topics

- Aesthetic knowing in AI-mediated organizational knowledge ecologies
- The impact of AI on aesthetic, embodied, sensory, and experiential knowledge in organizations
- Complementarities and tensions between aesthetic knowing and artificial knowing
- The role of organizational aesthetics in balancing human and computational forms of knowing
- Organizational aesthetics in physical, digital and hybrid workplaces
- Organizational spaces, workplaces and atmospheres as contexts for aesthetic knowing
- Organizational aesthetics, identity, culture and sensemaking
- Aesthetic knowledge in organizational learning and knowledge-sharing processes
- Organizational aesthetics as a source of creativity and innovation
- Aesthetic technologies for modern organizations in the AI era

Keywords

Organizational aesthetics, Aesthetic Knowing, Aesthetic Technologies, Aesthetic Experience, Knowledge Diversity; Artificial Intelligence

Organizers

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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**