**CALL FOR PAPERS: Special Issue: Foresighting, Imagining, and Crafting Desirable Futures**

***Research-Technology Management* is seeking submissions for a special issue on initiatives that are accelerating innovation.**

**Guest Editors:**

––**Lead Editor:** Prof. Claudio Dell’Era, Politecnico di Milano – Italy

––Prof. Stefano Magistretti, Politecnico di Milano – Italy

––Prof. Evy Sakellariou, Kingston University – UK

––Prof. Riccardo Vecchiato, Kingston University – UK

––Prof. Sinéad Roden, Trinity College Dublin – Ireland

This special issue is in collaboration with the [**2024 Innovation and Product Development Management Conference**](https://www.tcd.ie/business/events-calendar/events/ipdmc-2024-conference.php) held in June 2024 in Dublin, Ireland. Conference attendees and other authors are welcome to submit manuscripts that align with the special issue to *RTM.*

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| **To** [**IPDMC**](https://www.tcd.ie/business/events-calendar/events/ipdmc-2024-conference.php) | **Directly to** [**RTM**](https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/urtm20)**\*** |
| **Full Paper Submission Deadline:** September 30, 2024**Peer Review:** September 15–November 30, 2024**Publication Issue:** Nov–Dec 2025 | **Submission Deadline:** September 30, 2024**Peer Review:** September 15–November 30, 2024**Publication Issue:** Nov–Dec 2025 |
| \* *RTM* also welcomes special issue submissions from authors not involved with IPDMC. |

Given the increasing volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity (VUCA) of the economy and society, scholars and practitioners delving into innovative approaches for steering the future from a human-centered standpoint. As the challenges of innovation grow more intricate, organizations need to develop their future-oriented thinking and foresight skills. This goes beyond merely predicting customers’ changing needs—it entails proactively developing strategies to attain favorable outcomes for both individuals and society. Researchers advocate for the construction of theories grounded in “acts of disciplined imagination” to envision not only likely and possible, but also desirable futures.

Many organizations embed future thinking to support their innovation operations and improve their long-term performance. The term “foresight” encompasses a wide range of practices that managers can use to enhance their ability to detect new events and trends early, to explore their future evolution and effects, and to design the most effective response options. Recent research reports the need for a design-driven and practice-based view over the construction of the future. Researchers propose the idea of scholars as “embedded-embodied actors” who participate in crafting more desirable futures, rather than adopting a normative perspective. Design thinking methods are “future informed” and user innovation studies advocate for the creation of user needs that are future oriented. Digital technologies like AI can enhance the foresighting, imagining, and crafting of desirable futures.

This Call for Papers aims to foster a richer understanding of the various approaches aimed at foresighting, imagining, and crafting desirable futures at the individual, team, organizational, and/or system level. We aim to bring together scholars and practitioners from across different disciplines and industries to expand research and practice. We are actively seeking papers on the following topics:

* Imagination and creativity in a VUCA environment, which challenge traditional thinking and convention;
* Paradoxes around innovation in a VUCA environment to foresight, imagine, and craft desirable futures;
* Organizational capabilities organizations need to create desirable futures;
* Processes and practices that organizations can implement to craft desirable futures;
* Technologies and approaches that can foster foresight, imagination, and crafting of desirable futures;
* Actors (public, private) involved in the foresight, imagination, and crafting of desirable futures and their interactions;
* Selection and involvement of ordinary and lead users in the foresight, imagination, and crafting of desirable futures.

Given the versatility and interdisciplinarity of these topics, we welcome studies that follow different methodological approaches. We also encourage innovative, provocative, and critical submissions, including case studies, qualitative and quantitative studies, Managers@Work (an investigation of an ongoing project where one author works with the study company), and concepts or frameworks that have been tested in practice.

*RTM* articles are concise and practice oriented. Submissions should demonstrate companies’ experiences, what’s changing, adaptations, and managerial lessons learned/practical implications. Ideal submissions offer concrete examples and data to support their topic. Successful submissions will offer readers practical information they can put to work immediately.

We prefer submissions at around 4,000–4,500 words. We will occasionally publish truly groundbreaking pieces as long as 5,000 words. Articles should be submitted via our Editorial Manager system at http://www.editorialmanager.com/rtm/. For submission requirements and author’s guidelines, visit www.tandfonline.com/urtm. Email questions to *RTM’s* managing editor, Tammy McCausland, at tmccausland@nam.org.

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