



Indian Institute of Management Raipur



Call for Papers

International Conference on Regenerative Ecosystems (Hybrid Mode)

Date – 1st & 2nd December 2023

Pre- Conference workshop – 30th November 2023

Conference Convenors

Prof. Rajeev. A

Prof. J. Daniel Inbaraj

About Conference

The Context

The existing literature on sustainability may broadly be seen from the three dominant frameworks, viz., Circular Economy, Social & Solidarity Economy, and Ecological Economics.

Circular Economy Framework: While there has been discussion of the circular economy for over two decades, there has been a growing interest in the application of the concepts and principles of *Circular Economy in industrial clusters*. Interestingly some of the factors that we have identified in our previous studies such as support systems, systems enablers, and decentralization of technologies for *regenerative economies* have also been reflected in the recent literature.

The EU has an elaborate policy on Circular Economy. *Mass and Energy Transfer Balances* in secondary and tertiary activities have been at the heart of studies in a circular economy. *Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Compass* also largely adopts mass and energy balance techniques to help corporations transition to sustainability. SDG Compass is one of the least challenging tasks for large linear specialized value chain production-based corporations to align its value chain to meet a few of the indicators of the SDGs. The United Nations Statistical Commission provides a workable list of SDG indicators that corporations can use to benchmark their achievements on SDGs. There is a growing understanding and experience of the limitations of these approaches toward achieving sustainability.

Social & Solidarity Economy Framework: The Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) evolved as a counter to the capital and technology-intensive features of the mainstream economy and focused on community participation and ownership in enterprises/cooperatives. Social Entrepreneurship as part of this field of study focused on the purpose of the enterprise being the people and not the external financial investors.

Ecological Economics Framework: There have been increasing arguments on the limitation of the traditional TCA approaches of Oliver Williamson, Ronald Coase, and others. Douglas North and Ghosal are a couple of them to investigate. Recognizing the limits to Transaction Cost Analysis (TCA) in mainstream economics, there is a growing interest in ecological economics. Ecological economics is built on the increasing understanding that economics is embedded in the broader ecosystem that supports all human activity and hence economic analysis needs to be renewed to this new holistic understanding of the need for balance between artificiality in humans and nature.

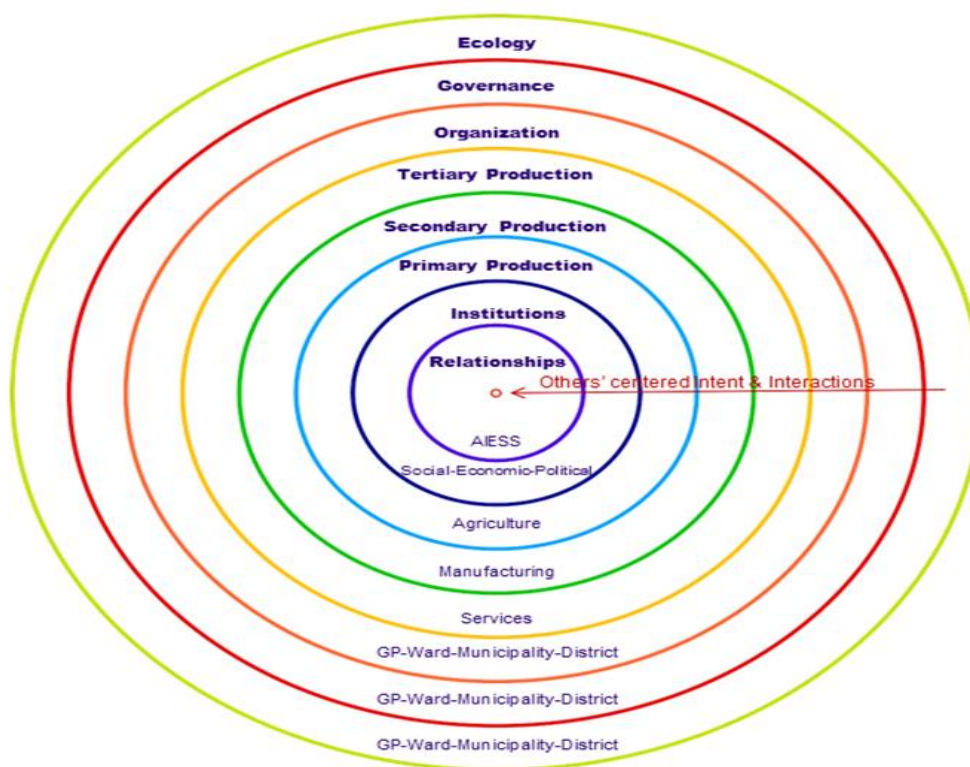
First, Circular Economy focuses largely on the circularity of material movements through reuse, recycling, and reduction techniques. Second, Solidarity Economy focuses on building trust, fraternity, and sharing among the members of a community to build solidarity. Third, Ecological Economics attempts to revamp the current economic logic from an ecological time span and seek a balance between humans and nature. While the first is focused on Economics, the second is focused on Social, and the third is focused on Ecology.

The above international conference aims to bring together the existing sustainability frameworks from **design factors of interconnected sub-systems and overall systems science perspective** in the context of specific ecosystems, viz., (a) **Natural Ecosystem**, (b) **Indigenous Ecosystem**, (c) **Rural Ecosystem**, (d) **Urban Ecosystem**, and (e) **Industrial Ecosystem**.

Multi-disciplinary Themes in an Ecosystem Context

The conference invites research papers on the following multi-disciplinary interconnected themes viz., **Relationships, Institutions, Primary Production, Secondary Production, Tertiary Production, Organization, Governance, and Ecology** in the context of specific ecosystems and their regenerative capacities *and* cases, stories, or demonstration of regenerative ecosystems in **natural, indigenous, rural, urban, and industrial settings** with two or more of the above themes. The interconnections and interdependence of the above eight themes in the context of an Ecosystem may be visualized below.

Interlocked Dimensions in an Ecosystem



All Interacting Evolving Systems Science (AIESS) Perspective

Source: Amar KJR Nayak, October 28, 2016

While the above dimensions are generally perceived as linear to each other, these dimensions and most importantly, the factors relating to each of these dimensions (at the micro-level) seem to be interconnected and interdependent. The eight dimensions are accordingly shown in concentric circles as interlocked dimensions in an ecosystem.

Relationships: The key factors of study and interventions on Relationships can include a *sense of interdependence, the notion of well-being, a mental construct, morals and values, and faith and belief*. The five factors of the relationship dimension address relationships at different levels. Faith and belief are at the core of an individual. Morals and values are an outcome of relationships at a family level, mental construct is an outcome of our education, training, and experience. A sense of interdependence is an outcome of the relationship with neighbors and in one's small community. The notion of well-being is the overall societal orientation towards what is perceived as capital and wealth.

The nature and state of relationships often shape the sustainability of our endeavour in building institutions, production systems, organizational designs, community governance, and ecology where we live in. The nature

and depth of Relationships seem to have been at the core of human engagements and our endeavour toward sustainability. Could these relationships be aligned with the ecological principles for inter-generational sustainability?

Institutions: This includes both formal institutions and informal institutions. Accordingly, institutions are the norms, rules, and conventions that regulate the functioning of an ecosystem. Deciphering the issue and factors of an institution has been one of the most challenging tasks. Increasingly there has been the realization that without appropriate institutions, sustainability can only be a distant dream. The key factors of this dimension can include *norms and conventions, rules and regulations, principles of justice, interaction intensity, and institutional loading*.

Primary Production: Agriculture, the primary production activity is greatly being impacted by climate change and has been increasingly becoming unsustainable across the world. This can include a study of dynamic interactive process analyses among the key factors of production, viz., water, soil, seed-plant-animal genes, farm diversity, and farm ecology.

Secondary Production: Manufacturing and Processing Industry is the most path dependent and has been the challenging area for transition. The dynamic interactive process analyses of the key factors of this sector can include raw materials, coordination systems, product technology, diversity of human actors, and physical infrastructure. SDG Compass of the UNO is one of the relevant frameworks for analysis of this sector.

Tertiary Production: The service sector, the dominant sector of the global economy covers this. The dynamic interactive process analyses can include the following key factors in value creation, viz., machinery & raw material, coordination system, process technology, diversity of cultures, and local networks. Transitions in this sector especially in banking and financial services, the hospitality industry, and local transport have been most prominently observed.

Organization: Organisations have been the key engines of economic growth in human enterprise systems. However, today's organisational designs especially in the secondary and tertiary sectors seem to greatly facilitate private financial capital creation as compared to social wealth creation in a society. Organizations both *Producer Organisations (POs)* and *Industrial Organisations (IO)* can be the theme for study and analysis. Questions such as whether these organizations need to be designed such that they can evolve to be community enterprise systems and not private enterprises.

The key design factors of organizations in general can include *size, scope, technology, ownership, and management*. Size refers to the number of members and geographical extent. Scope refers to the number and type of activities that an organization can engage in. Technology refers to the process and product technology suitable for an organization. Ownership refers to the shareholding structure in the organization and Management refers to the management structure, and type of managerial skills appropriate for an organization.

Governance: Governance has been an encompassing dimension in subsystems and systems of our society. It has therefore been an important component of the sustainability of our community systems. The focus of study and analysis can be to identify factors and principles of governance that can facilitate sustainable community systems at the lowest level of governance that is at the *Ward or Gram Panchayat* level as well as are technically consistent for sustainability at higher levels of governance, viz., district, state, national, and global level. The key factors of study under governance can include *frequency of interactions, decision-making method, problem-solving approach, resource dependency, and governance architecture and responsibilities*.

Ecology: Ecology represents a basic comprehensive unit (habitat-ecosystem) of our planet that is driven by the fundamental principles of nature. Ecology includes all living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) objects in each habitat. The natural principles of interconnection, interdependence, and caring for the weakest are the principal axioms of a thriving ecosystem. For sustainability, the design and systems analysis of the other concentric and embedded layers of any ecosystem is determined by the above natural principles. The key factors of this dimension can include *Changes* (atmospheric), *Renewability* (of resources), *Balance* (of species), *Compatibility* (of human and natural systems), and *Openness* (in ecosystems).

Matrix for Paper & Case Development

Scholars and Practitioners can consider the following matrix of ecosystems and themes to develop their research papers and cases. Analysis of any given ecosystem could include one or more of the thematic areas and the associated factors that facilitate either a regenerative ecosystem or a degenerative ecosystem.

Ecosystems & Multiple Themes	Natural Ecosystem	Indigenous Ecosystem	Rural Ecosystem	Urban Ecosystem	Industrial Ecosystem
Relationships					
Institutions					
Primary Production					
Secondary Production					
Tertiary Services					
Organization					
Governance					
Ecology					

The above framework for interconnections and interdependence among themes and matrix for research papers and case submissions is only suggestive. An indicated list of design factors or topics is also provided under the Tracks section. Scholars and practitioners are welcome to newer ways of visualizing Regenerative Ecosystems that are resilient to climate changes, market volatility, and undue external loadings of governments on respective ecosystems.

Tracks

This conference invites all researchers, practitioners, and experts to submit an original paper(s) in the given tracks but not limited to

Relationships

- Sense of interdependence
- Notion of well-being
- Mental construct
- Morals and values
- Faith and belief

Institutions

- Norms and conventions
- Rules and regulations
- Principles of justice
- Interaction intensity
- External institutional loading

Primary Production

- Water
- Soil
- Seed-plant animal genes
- Farm diversity
- Farm forestry

Secondary Production

- Raw material
- Coordination system
- Product technology
- Physical infrastructure

Tertiary sector

- Machinery and raw materials
- Coordination system
- Process technology
- Diversity of cultures
- Local networks

Organizations

- Size
- Scope of activities
- Ownership
- Diversity of human actors
- Management hierarchy
- Culture/strategy/practices/micro foundations
- Language

Governance

- Frequency of interaction
- Decision-making method
- Problem-solving approach
- Resource dependency
- Governance architecture

Ecology

- Natural resources
- Human systems
- Climate changes
- Diversity of species
- State of ecosystems
- Ecological economics
- Biotic diversity
- Biotic proportions
- Interactive spaces
- Energy flow
- Mass flow

Submission Guidelines

We invite all experts, practitioners, and scholars worldwide from this domain to submit their original research, reviews, methodology, and case studies related to the tracks mentioned above for presentation at the conference. Interested author(s) are encouraged to submit an extended abstract of 3000 maximum word limit (including the synopsis and exclusive of references). The extended abstract should be in APA 6th referencing style format.

All paper(s) submitted must be in English only and must include the title (in bold), full name(s) of all the authors(s), and affiliation with the details of at least one author for correspondence.

Example: Dr. Peter, Professor of Organizational Behavior, Indian Institute of Management Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India.

Corresponding email address: peter@iimrpr.ac.in

Publication Partners

Full list of publication partners to be announced soon. Following participation, discussion, and feedback at the conference, authors can revise and resubmit the full manuscript for publication in edited books as book chapters. Authors will be free to opt out of the publications in conference proceedings/ edited books after the conference presentation.

Registration Details

Registration (only online) will start on **16th October 2023** on the conference website.

For registration, please visit the website: - <https://icre.iimraipur.edu.in/wp-web>

Link for submission of extended abstract: <https://forms.gle/yzfXCpHWBGFqVBfY7>

Details of Registration Fee*		
Category	Indian (INR)	Foreigner (USD)
Academicians/ Industry Professionals	5900 (Inclusive of GST)	250
Research Scholars	4130 (Inclusive of GST)	150
PG Students / Participants without a paper	2360 (Inclusive of GST)	100

*Fee remains the same irrespective of the mode of presentation.

Important Dates

Extended abstract submission starts.	1 st August 2023
Extended abstract submission deadline	30 th September 2023
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	15 th October 2023
Registration Opens	16 th October 2023
Registration Deadline	20 th November 2023
Pre-conference Workshop	30 th November 2023
Conference Date	1 st & 2 nd December 2023

Advisory Committee

Prof. Ram Kumar Kakani	Director, Indian Institute of Management, Raipur
Prof. Amar KJR Nayak	Professor of Strategic Management & Chairperson, Centre for All Interacting Evolving System Science, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar

Organizing Committee Members

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About IIM Raipur

Indian Institute of Management (IIM) has been set up by the Government of India, Ministry of Education in 2010 at Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is one of the fastest growing states of India with its rich mineral, forest, natural and local resources. IIM Raipur campus is spread over 200 acres of land in Atal Nagar. The campus is a state-of-the-art campus presenting a blissful mix of modern architecture, culture & heritage of Chhattisgarh.

The Institute believes in preparing ethical leaders who are not only committed to business, commerce, and industry but are also socially conscious of their contribution to nation-building and bringing laurels to the country globally. The institute is abuzz with activities carried out by the student clubs which are now expanding their scope of activity and bringing luminaries from the corporate.





IIM RAIPUR

Conference Date – 1st & 2nd December 2023

**Pre-conference workshop – 30th November
2023**

Conference Venue

Indian Institute of Management Raipur

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