

**Call for papers for the CERN IdeaSquare Journal of Experimental Innovation  
(CIJ) Special Issue on**

**‘Innovations in career and life design’**

**Submission deadline: 19 August 2024**

*Special Issue Editors*

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In the scientific spirit of CERN, this Call for Papers is focused on the biggest experiment in humanity: LIFE DESIGN. It is about transformations and innovations related to the deepest questions of what it means to design your life in your private as well as professional context for flourishing, meaning, happiness, and well-being. We seek inspiring articles that spark new ideas, go against what is commonly understood, and inspire us to ask more questions and create new experiments to advance practice-oriented and experimentation-driven innovation in the field of life design.

Future dynamics, characterized by rapid technological advancements, globalization, and evolving societal norms, are shaping our lives and demanding adaptability, self-leadership, and lifelong learning (Landberg & Wolf, 2022). Traditional career paths and life trajectories have become less predictable; consequently, a flexible framework for people to continuously reassess and redefine their goals and strategies, ensuring resilience and relevance in a rapidly changing world, is essential to long-term happiness and well-being (Wolf & Maisch, 2023a).

Life design has been hailed as a new paradigm in career construction that empowers individuals to actively shape their lives through thoughtful, creative, and meaningful career development (Savickas 2009; 2012). With its roots in Career Construction Theory (CCT) (Savickas, 1997), life design signifies a shift toward more person-centric and self-directed career planning, emphasizing intrinsic motivation and contextual adaptability (Savickas et al., 2012). The field of career and life design has grown to incorporate elements of design thinking, entrepreneurship, and positive psychology as well (Burnett & Evans 2016, Cagarman, 2022; Gedeon, 2021; Gedeon & Kernbach, 2024; Maisch & Wolf, 2022; Wolf & Maisch, 2023b).

Life Design Counselling (LDC) integrates career counselling and psychotherapy using Systematic Treatment Selection (STS) and employs assessment tools, concepts, and interventions from both career planning and positive psychology theoretical orientations and world views (Cardoso, 2016; Savickas, 2015). Positive psychology elements of life design use Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), mindfulness, self-talk, self-reflection, and introspection to challenge

and change one's internal resources, beliefs, attitudes, automatic thoughts, intentions, and behaviours to increase positive emotions, decrease negative emotions, and enhance psychological well-being, satisfaction with life, meaning and self-actualization (Boniwell, 2012).

While LDC is practiced in a dyadic setting with an expert and non-expert (e.g. therapist and patient), new life design approaches and innovations rooted in design thinking and entrepreneurship are characterized by a less hierarchical, peer-to-peer collaborative team setting in which the participants help each other with their design challenges. This educational approach to career and life design typically involves workshops that use team-based design thinking, blending project-based learning, identity narrative, self-determination, and positive psychology interventions for individuals to introspect, develop visions, ideate life scenarios and test life prototypes (Maisch et. al., 2024).

Emerging evidence demonstrates life design's effectiveness in enhancing a wide variety of positive life outcomes, including self-esteem, career decision-making, adaptability, resilience, self-efficacy, and life satisfaction (Camussi et al., 2023; Poech & Wolf, 2024; Wolf & Landberg, 2022; Pordelan et al., 2021; Williams et al., 2022). Entrepreneurial education, experiential learning, and student-centric pedagogies have been shown to positively empower students with essential competencies and attitudinal learning outcomes related to happiness and well-being, including alertness, curiosity, empathy, proactivity, resilience, adaptability, optimism, internal locus of control, self-efficacy, self-esteem and core self-evaluation (Gedeon, 2022). Theoretical frameworks underpinning these empirical results include Bandura's social cognitive theory (Bandura, 2001), Ajzen's theory of planned behaviour (Ajzen, 1991), and theories of motivation (Acquah et. al. 2021). Additional related frameworks and theories include effectuation theory (Sarasvathy 2009), business model canvas (Osterwalder & Pigneur, 2012), business model you (Clark et al., 2009), speculative design (Dunne & Raby, 2013) and design science research (Hevner, 2007).

There is still much work to be done regarding theory-building, model development, experimentation, and discovery of innovations in career and life design. How can we understand and improve the impact of career and life design programs on participants' life outcomes such as happiness, satisfaction with life, subjective well-being, engagement (flow), relationships, meaning, autonomy, mastery, purpose, self-esteem, self-efficacy, internal locus of control, optimism, hope, resiliency, growth mindset and empathy in addition to potential career and life outcomes including work-life balance, family, health, job satisfaction, stress, financial security, entrepreneurial mindset and positive impact in society (Wolf & Landberg, 2023)?

Given the inter-disciplinarity of the subject, we encourage short, thought-provoking papers from diverse perspectives and disciplines including CBT, CCT, STS, LDC, design thinking, positive psychology, entrepreneurship, future of work, counselling psychology, creativity and innovation, educational science, instructional design, behavioural economics, and others.

This Special Issue is welcoming paper submissions from scholars and practitioners from various disciplines to exchange different perspectives, build a differentiated research agenda, and foster the dialogue in academia and practice about the potential, effects, instructional methods, and impact of life design in the context of a career, future of work, protirement, happiness and well-being at the individual level, organizational/corporate level and society at large. In the spirit of

CERN, we encourage innovations in how to experiment, measure, and acquire insights into the nature of our lived experiences.

Among topics that might be of interest for this Special Issue of CIJ, we welcome manuscripts from areas including but not limited to:

- History and evolution of the topic area and research streams of life design.
- Theoretical and conceptual frameworks, models, constructs, scales, lexicon, taxonomy or classification of career and life design, happiness, and well-being.
- Relations between life design in the context of CBT, CCT, STS, LDC, design thinking, entrepreneurship, positive psychology, self-leadership, behavioural economics, and other research streams.
- Cases of successful implementation of life design formats and interventions.
- Life Design process, toolkits, and best practices.
- Design elements to foster specific aspects within life design.
- Empirical evidence on the influence and impact of life design.
- Innovations in how to experiment, measure, and gain insights into the effectiveness of career and life design interventions, programs, and educational methods.
- General trends and descriptions of life design, including metaliterature reviews.

### **About the Journal of Experimental Innovation (CIJ)**

The CERN IdeaSquare Journal of Experimental Innovation (CIJ) aims to communicate thought-provoking, contemporary, and latest findings in experimentation-driven innovation research. CIJ is an interdisciplinary, open online journal that publishes empirical and theoretical research to push the boundaries of various topics around in-situ experimental innovation.

CIJ encourages research that is between and even beyond disciplinary lines and welcomes research advancing innovation process methodologies, tools, educational approaches, knowledge exchange, management, and policy. CIJ intends to be intellectually challenging in the name of true scientific curiosity and to cultivate evidence-based, novel insights to advance understanding of how new knowledge and basic research turn into use for society through innovation.

In this special issue, the contributions should be aligned with the values and tradition of the Journal stated in their Manifest:

**BOLD:** CIJ is an outlet for unconventional, early-stage, thought-provoking experimentation-driven research. We aim to foster new innovation methodologies, tools, educational approaches, and experiments to push the boundaries of creativity to drive societal innovation.

**INTEGRATIVE:** CIJ is an interdisciplinary journal orchestrated by interdisciplinary teams and guided by the principles of open science and open innovation.

**OPEN:** CIJ provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. CIJ

encourages (but does not require) the disclosure of data associated with the manuscripts to support and facilitate scientific work to build on existing knowledge.

**CONNECTING:** CIJ is interested in understanding the impact that knowledge can produce within science and society. Taking in learnings from real experiences to inform future theory and practice alike.

**EXPERIMENTAL:** At CIJ, we are intrigued by where good ideas come from and how we can systemize those processes. Authors are invited to take different angles to their research, presenting solutions, innovations, design models, and methods involving individuals, teams, or organizational experiences.

**USEFUL:** CIJ encourages replication studies and remains a resource center for researchers and scientists who wish to further develop previously collected data and learnings. At CIJ, authors are urged to consider the applicability and relevance of their outputs for future research.

**MISFIT:** CIJ is a place where high-risk high-gain research is welcome and encouraged. Research that doesn't fit in any existing discipline either because it is between—or simply beyond—disciplines. Everything that challenges the status quo and could inspire future generations in the true spirit of scientific curiosity.

## Submission procedure

The submitted manuscripts should follow the CIJ guidelines and use the CIJ template (they can be found at <https://e-publishing.cern.ch/index.php/CIJ/about/submissions#authorGuidelines> ) containing the manuscript outline and submission information.

When ready to submit please choose the dedicated section entitled 'Submission to the Special Issue 'Innovations in Career and Life Design'

## Timetable

1 April 2024	Call issued			
19 August 2024	Deadline	for		submission
16 September 2024	Reviews	returned	to	authors
10 October 2020	Revised	papers		submitted
End of December 2024	Special issue published			

**Meet**

**the**

**Guest**

**Editors**

16 May 2024	Meet the Editors at 3E conference, Amsterdam Contact: Prof. Dr. Steve Gedeon <a href="mailto:sgedeon@torontomu.ca">sgedeon@torontomu.ca</a>
06 June 2024	Meet the Editors at BCERC conference, Munich Contact: Dr. Karina Cagarman <a href="mailto:karina.cagarman@tu-berlin.de">karina.cagarman@tu-berlin.de</a>
27 June 2024	Meet the Editors at EURAM conference, Bath Contact: Prof. Dr. Matteo Vignoli <a href="mailto:m.vignoli@unibo.it">m.vignoli@unibo.it</a> Prof. Dr. Sebastian Kernbach <a href="mailto:sebastian.kernbach@unisg.ch">sebastian.kernbach@unisg.ch</a>

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