



LUND
UNIVERSITY

CIRCLE

CENTRE FOR
INNOVATION RESEARCH

2024



Annual report

CIRCLE – CENTRE FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH | LUND UNIVERSITY



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Letter from the director

2024 marked the 20th anniversary of CIRCLE, celebrating two decades of significant contributions to innovation studies, practice, and policy. I have collected many pleasant memories and look forward to many more opportunities in the coming year.

Twenty years of innovation research in Lund – of which I have shared twelve (time flies) – have been remarkable. Since its establishment in 2004, CIRCLE has been a key hub and pioneer in promoting a systemic perspective on innovation. The Lund Declaration in 2009 was a milestone, reorienting innovation and research policy towards the grand challenges of our time. Since then, the focus of innovation studies and policy has shifted towards contributing to larger system change for sustainable futures. Through our collaborations with policymakers in Sweden and internationally, we have stayed attuned to the ground realities and contributed to building a knowledge base that makes a difference.

Moreover, the continued commitment to innovation as the core of CIRCLE remains highly relevant. This resonates with the Draghi report on the future of European competitiveness, which states that “first – and most importantly – Europe must profoundly refocus its collective efforts on closing the innovation gap with the US and China,

especially in advanced technologies.” CIRCLE continues to generate knowledge about the drivers and barriers of innovation in advanced technologies. Additionally, CIRCLE has expanded its scope from technological to social innovation, addressing not only competitiveness but also people’s needs and human well-being. CIRCLE also continues to provide highly context-specific knowledge, appreciating that the meaning, processes, drivers, and barriers of innovation differ across time, space, territories, and industries.

Our 20-year anniversary celebration was an inspiring event that highlighted our journey and the promises and expectations placed upon us. Clearly, CIRCLE is expected to deliver scientific and societal impact through interdisciplinary research and engagement with practitioners and policymakers. Reflecting on the past and looking forward, I realize that I have enjoyed every minute of being part of and engaged in CIRCLE. At the core, I see shared values, networks, and stories that connect the past, present, and future. These give me pleasure, inspiration, and energy for future ventures. I thank our members and collaborators for sharing and engaging in our community.

– Markus Grillitsch
Director of CIRCLE



This is CIRCLE

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION RESEARCH

CIRCLE is the Centre for Innovation Research at Lund University. The meaning of the term innovation has changed over time and is now broadly linked to sustainable development goals including climate change, social sustainability and food security. This calls for a capacious perspective of innovation including technological and social innovations, as well as for an understanding of how innovations impact societies, communities and households.

THREE OBJECTIVES FOR CIRCLE

- Develop as an internationally renowned research centre in innovation studies with the capabilities to attract successful researchers and PhD Candidates.
- Provide excellent opportunities for dynamic and multi-disciplinary research activities.
- Disseminate research results and engage with decision makers and stakeholders.

CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETAL CHALLENGES

Innovation is a key driver of economic and societal change, for the good and for the bad. By developing a better understanding and knowledge co-creation with practitioners about innovation, CIRCLE aims to contribute to tackling societal challenges.

Our research aims to bring insights on how to address the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. A variety of projects address several of the different SDGs and CIRCLE as a whole works in particular with goals 3 – Good health and well-being, 8 – Decent work and economic growth, 9 – Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 10 – Reduced inequality and 13 – Climate action.

On a European level CIRCLE's research aims to be part of delivering the European green deal.

OUR VISION

We strive to be a world-leading interdisciplinary research environment delivering scientific and societal impact.

OUR MISSION

CIRCLE's mission is to understand and explain how innovation can contribute to a good society and tackle societal challenges such as economic crises, climate change or the increased globalization of economic activities. This aim requires advanced insights into:

- how knowledge is created and diffused in organizations, networks, regions, countries, and globally
- how knowledge is turned into innovations
- which conditions promote or hinder the creation and diffusion of innovation
- what intended and unintended societal consequences innovation has.



Organisation

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team consists of the director, deputy director and the three faculty coordinators

Director: Markus Grillitsch, *Professor in Economic Geography, Social Sciences*

Deputy Director: Magnus Nilsson, *Associate Professor in Business Administration, Lund University School of Economics and Management*

Faculty Coordinators:

- Lund University School of Economics and Management: **Pauline Mattsson**, *Associate Professor in Research Policy*
- Faculty of Social Sciences: **Josephine Rekers**, *Associate Professor in Human Geography*
- Faculty of Engineering: **Torben Schubert**, *Associate Professor in Innovation Management*



Markus Grillitsch



Magnus Nilsson



Torben Schubert



Josephine Rekers



Pauline Mattsson

BOARD

Agnes Andersson, *Dean Faculty of Social Sciences*

Cecilia Garcia Chavez, *Student representative*

Joakim Gullstrand (Chairperson), *Dean Lund University School of Economics and Management*

Richard Gullstrand, *Head of Regional Development Region Skåne*

Fredrik Nilsson, *Deputy Head of Department Design Sciences*

Annika Olsson, *Dean Faculty of Engineering*

Diamanto Politis, *Director of Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship*

Annika Ralfs, *Student representative*

Co-opted members and rapporteurs:

Markus Grillitsch, *Director CIRCLE*

Magnus Nilsson, *Deputy Director CIRCLE*

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Anna Bergek, *Professor at Environmental Systems Analysis/Technology Management and Economics, Chalmers, Sweden*

Susana Borrás, *Professor at the Department of Organization at Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Denmark.*

Jakob Edler, *Professor and Executive Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI, Germany, and Professor of Innovation Policy and Strategy at the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIIoR), UK*

Markku Sotarauta, *Professor, Faculty of Management and Business, Tampere University, Finland*

Roger Sørheim, *Professor, Department of Industrial Economics and Technology Management, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway*

FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATION

CIRCLE is physically based on campus at Lund University with flexible office spaces that are open to all members.

Administrative staff:

Sengül Redzep, *Financial administrator,*

Annette Gustafs, *Finance officer*

Pernilla Daws, *Communications officer*

Membership in numbers

Membership in CIRCLE is open to academics with an interest in innovation research. CIRCLE aims to be diverse and inclusive, and this is reflected in the different research area interests, faculty affiliations and degree of academic experience as well as nationality.

There are two types of membership at CIRCLE, described in detail on the CIRCLE website. Lund University employees can become *full* members whereas researchers with

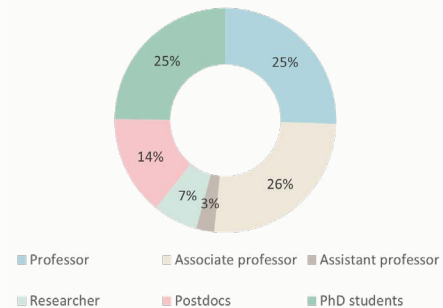
an interest in innovation studies from other universities are welcome to apply for an *affiliated* membership.

There are CIRCLE researchers of many different nationalities represented at universities in 20 countries around the world. Approximately half of the members are senior academics and the other half are early career researchers. We welcomed 22 new members in 2024, whereof 12 are PhD students and four are professors.

Members by category at CIRCLE

The diversity and inclusiveness of CIRCLE is clearly seen in the representation of various levels of academic experience.

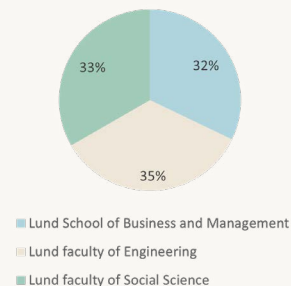
Share of CIRCLE members by category 2024.



Lund University representation at CIRCLE

Three faculties at Lund University are represented at CIRCLE in fairly equal parts with approximately 1/3 at each faculty.

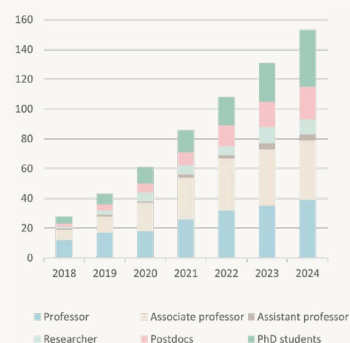
Share of CIRCLE members at Lund University 2024.



Membership development in numbers

The number of members (full and affiliated) increased by 17% in 2024 compared to the year before.

Number of CIRCLE members by category 2024.



Community

CIRCLE strives to be a diverse and inclusive community, open to a wide variety of academics united by a shared interest in innovation research.

Within our research themes, members work together to broaden and deepen the particular field through interdisciplinary approaches. Read more about the research themes on page 14.

In addition to theme-based collaboration, there are other ways to engage and participate in the CIRCLE community, including through the activities listed below.

INTERNAL MEETINGS

All of CIRCLE's affiliated and full members are invited to an internal meeting each month. Information is shared and progress reported for the research themes and the activities arranged by CIRCLE, ensuring cohesive and coordinated efforts within the community.

RESEARCH TALKS

CIRCLE's research talks continued to be a cornerstone of our community engagement in 2024.

Held every Wednesday, these informal meetings provided a platform for both senior and junior researchers to discuss ongoing and planned research and act as each other's sounding boards. The hybrid format, introduced during the pandemic, remained in place, allowing participants from around the globe to join and contribute to the discussions.

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Throughout 2024, CIRCLE's research themes organised seminars and invited speakers to share their expertise on various topics. Highlights from the year included:

- **Peter Knorringa**, Professor of Private Sector & Development at Erasmus University Rotterdam on 'Frugal innovation in sustainability thinking: from niche to mainstream?'
- **Anna Bergek**, Professor of Innovation Systems and Technology Policy at Chalmers University of Technology on 'Translating research into policy practice: experiences from transformative innovation policy.'
- **Daniel Hjorth**, Professor at Lund University School of Management, on 'The Organizational Conditions for Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Innovation.'

POLICY SEMINARS

The 'New Perspectives on Innovation Policy' theme hosts a seminar series focusing on building bridges and fostering dialogue between researchers and practitioners. 2024 featured several seminars:

- 'Learning and reflexivity in transformative innovation policy: the case of Impact Innovation in Sweden' with **Katrien van Poeck**, Ghent University, **Leif Östman**, Uppsala University, **Magnus Arnell** and **Magnus Johansson**, RISE and Water Wise Societies.
- 'Learning and reflexivity in transformative innovation policy' with **Katrien van Poeck**, Ghent University and **Leif Östman**, Uppsala University.
- 'Mission-oriented innovation policy for sustainability: A critical reflection' with **Julien Kirchherr**, McKinsey & Company and Roskilde University, **Matts-Åke Belin**, the World Health Organisation.
- 'The evolving research agenda in sustainability and circularity' with **Julien Kirchherr**, McKinsey & Company and Roskilde University.
- 'Mission Agencies – a New Approach to Governing Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy?' with **Ralf Lindner**, Fraunhofer ISI.

EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS' AFTERWORK

The afterwork events organised by and aimed at early career researchers continued throughout the year. These informal gatherings provide a relaxed setting for networking and sharing experiences. They have contributed to the supportive and inclusive community for emerging scholars at CIRCLE. §

RETREAT

In September the members gathered for a two-day retreat in Lund. The agenda included future research calls, the value CIRCLE can offer its members, and relationship-building mingling as well as the celebration of CIRCLE's 20th anniversary. (Read more on page 10)

INNOVATION RESEARCH DAY

On April 17, CIRCLE held its first Innovation Research Day in collaboration with the Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship and Urban Arena.

The event brought together researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to discuss new innovation research initiatives and explore avenues for partnerships that transcend traditional academic boundaries. (Read more on page 8)

Innovation Research Day

A meeting of minds and missions organised by CIRCLE in collaboration with Sten K. Johnson Centre for Entrepreneurship and Urban Arena.

The event brought together researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds to discuss new innovation research initiatives and explore avenues for partnerships that transcend traditional academic boundaries.

“We hope you get inspired and find potential collaborators for the future,” said CIRCLE’s director, Markus Grillitsch, as he welcomed attendees. He kicked off the event alongside Diamanto Politis, director of the Sten K. Johnson Centre, and Andrew Karvonen, coordinator of Urban Arena. Their joint introduction set a collaborative tone, emphasizing the importance of cross-disciplinary efforts in addressing today’s complex challenges.

Researchers then took to the floor to share the innovation questions they are currently contemplating and engaging with. These presentations shed light on various aspects

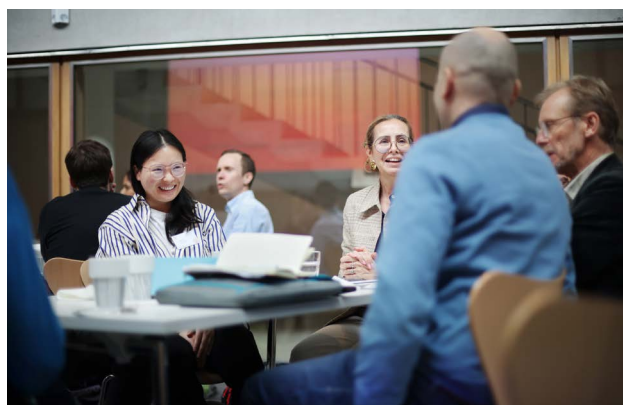
and contexts of innovation, sparking lively conversations about how the different perspectives could be integrated to pave the way toward sustainable futures.

Topics included:

- revisiting entrepreneurial ownership and education
- restructuring the economy through complementary currencies and value chain transformations
- the role of learning, risk-taking, and cross-sectoral collaborations in facilitating urban innovations and sustainability transitions.

The day ended on a reflective and forward-looking note. Gathered around networking round tables, researchers discussed their interests and areas of complementarity, planting the seeds for future collaborations.





Retreat and 20th anniversary celebration

The upcoming needs of innovation research were on the agenda when CIRCLE celebrated its 20th anniversary and held its annual conference for members and invited guests. Lund University's management was present and participated in the discussions.

The conference agenda included future research calls, the value CIRCLE can offer its members and relationship-building mingling. The discussions were engaging. Conversations about the future of research were interspersed with discussions about how researchers themselves benefit from being part of the innovation cluster.

One of the conference participants was Lund University's Vice-Chancellor Erik Renström who said:

– CIRCLE is a source of new and wise ideas – a research centre that contributes knowledge to decision makers who have the opportunity to change society.

A research centre with a sound organisation and structure will not stagnate, but rather continue to develop, said Erik Renström.

– Part of this development is the utilisation of research, but how do we combine our knowledge so that it is more useful to the public?

Per Mickwitz, Lund University's ProVice-Chancellor for research, sustainability and campus development, agreed with Erik Renström that the centre's development must not stop and that a strong brand must be nurtured.

– CIRCLE is an internationally successful environment for innovation researchers and a source of inspiration for other research networks. This strong brand must be managed, but also continuously developed.

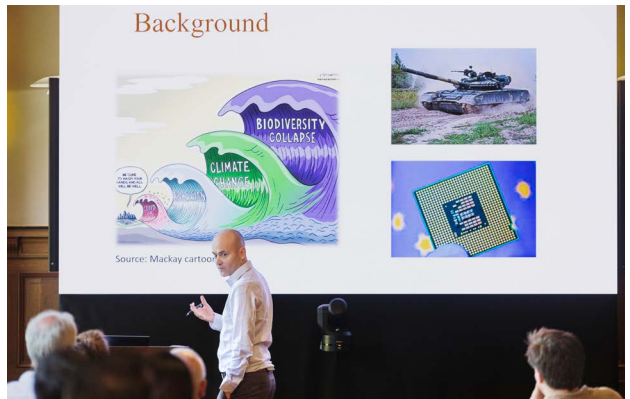
In conjunction with the conference, CIRCLE is taking the opportunity to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

Former directors Åsa Lindholm Dahlstrand, Ron Boschma, Björn Asheim and Charles Edquist took a stroll down memory lane looking at past research and trends in innovation.

Markus Grillitsch, Professor in Economic Geography and Director of CIRCLE, summed up the conference with these words:

– We are here to celebrate the 20th anniversary of CIRCLE. We are taking stock as well as looking forward to contributing with relevant knowledge on the role of innovation and innovation policy – for the necessary changes towards a green, inclusive and resilient society.







Internationalisation



COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS

At CIRCLE there is an interest and explicit ambition to collaborate across borders. The centre encourages and provides opportunities for collaborations across faculties, universities, countries and also between PhD students, early career researchers and senior researchers.

31% of the members. Some other European countries are also well represented, such as Germany, Italy and the UK. From other parts of the world we have members from for example: Costa Rica, Bolivia, the USA, India, China and Australia.

RESEARCH

CIRCLE members have during the year collaborated in projects and on publications with researchers from 360 organisations in 36 countries across the globe.

International cooperation can be seen in particular within Europe and with North and South America, but also in many other places.

MEMBERS

CIRCLE members are a diverse group of people who are dispersed across 20 different countries around the world – from Sweden to Brazil, Italy and Japan.

The representation of nationalities in CIRCLE is even greater with members originating from 34 different countries. Sweden has the highest representation with



Research

The research initiatives at CIRCLE aim at exploring unused potential in promoting international, cross-disciplinary research and thereby partake in Lund University's contribution to tackling society's challenges.

Research at CIRCLE is currently organized in nine interconnected thematic areas grouped in three main fields. Each theme hosts different research projects and most researchers at CIRCLE are involved in several research themes.

Short introductions to the research themes follow below and you can read more about CIRCLE's research on the website: <https://www.circle.lu.se/research/>

INNOVATION POLICY AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Functional public procurement for innovation, welfare and the environment

Public procurement can drive innovation through functional specifications where the buyer describes the problem to be solved – instead of describing a product to purchase. This research theme brings attention to how functional public procurement is a powerful innovation policy instrument that can influence, not only the speed, but also the direction of innovation processes.

New perspectives on innovation policy

Innovation policy makers of today are facing a range of challenges to solve, extending far beyond the usual paradigm of economic growth. This calls for more innovation within innovation policy itself. The research theme aims to study the changing landscape for policy making and

develop new approaches to guide the 21st century innovation policy.

Public Sector Innovation

Facing major societal challenges and limited resources, governments are under pressure to promote innovation while also devising ways to innovate their own processes of governance. This research theme brings together practitioners and researchers who are engaging with innovation in, through, and of, the public sector.

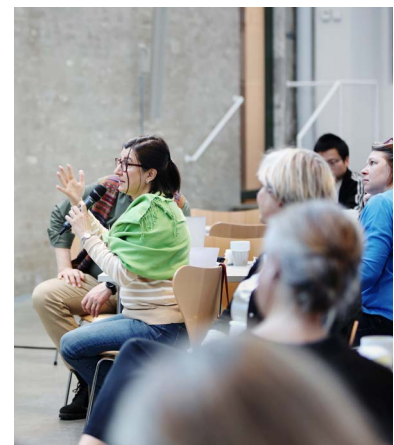
ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIMENTATION, INNOVATION, AND ORGANISATION

Corporate venturing and innovation

The theme studies how firms organize and benefit from corporate venturing activities that build upon either internal or external ideas to advance innovation to sustain competitive advantages. We take a systemic view to understand the interactive relationship between corporate venturing and the local innovative and entrepreneurial environment, which matters for the overall competitiveness of a region or a country.

Entrepreneurial Experimentation

Entrepreneurial experimentation is a system function in technological innovation systems that includes the creation, selection and scaling-up processes of new technologies and innovations within the system. This theme studies how in an experimentally organised economy, individuals, organisations and institutions interact in exploring, discovering and exploiting opportunities and new ideas.



International businesses, technology and innovation

Research in this theme focuses on the global dimension of innovation processes, including global research collaboration, global sourcing of knowledge and offshoring of R&D and innovation, as well as their impact in terms of innovation, wellbeing and growth. The aim of this research area is to understand how firms organize jointly their innovation and internationalisation activities and how global activities influence the local features of innovation dynamics.

GEOGRAPHIES OF INNOVATION AND MULTI-SCALAR PERSPECTIVES

Geography of Innovation and Societal Transformation

At the centre of this theme is the question of how and why innovation and technology change vary in time and space, and what consequences this has for societal development with a particular focus on disparities between regions, and the transformation towards a green economy. This entails the unpacking of different types of knowledge,

technology, and innovation and studying the spatial outcome and distribution over time.

Innovation in the Global South

Innovation is now tightly linked to sustainable development goals including climate change, social sustainability, and food security. The research context of the Global South demands and offers additional perspectives to the study of innovation. Experiences in the Global South make it clear that innovation goes beyond transferring technical solutions, and requires understandings of how innovations impact societies, communities and households.

Sustainability transition

This theme explores the role of innovation in addressing the grand challenges of our time and finding solutions to problems associated with ageing societies, pandemics, public health, security, global warming, and increasingly difficult access to sources of energy, water, and food. This effort typically involves a variety of technological and social innovations, behavioural and institutional change, and a diversity of societal actors.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE INNOVATION IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH THEME

Innovation is a key enabler for climate change mitigation and adaptation, while also supporting broader economic and societal development goals. This research theme investigates the complex social, institutional, and political dynamics that shape and impact innovation processes in Global South contexts.

These diverse settings – for instance large informal sector, resource constraints and complex institutional dynamics – offer alternative and often unexpected perspectives to the study of innovation. Experiences in the Global South make it clear that innovation goes beyond technical solutions alone as they are insufficient; organisational, cultural, and social factors play a significant role in innovation adoption and diffusion.

The theme works on generating new empirical and conceptual knowledge and adopting new methodological approaches for the study of the consequences and functions of innovation in Global South Economies. Importantly, the notion of the Global South is not confined to geographic boundaries. It also speaks to places that are socially and economically margin-

alised within industrialised or so-called Global North contexts.

The theme offers alternative approaches to innovation and in doing so, it enriches the broader discourse on innovation and sustainable development. It also brings in insights that re-position the Global South perspectives as central to more inclusive, contextually grounded, and socially responsive innovation pathways globally.

– Stuti Halder, Postdoctoral fellow and research theme coordinator



Projects, funding and output

PROJECTS

CIRCLE members were in 2024 involved in over 90 different research projects delving into a wide range of topics such as innovation and sustainability in the industry, entrepreneurship and society, innovation and geographic equality, human health and wellbeing, innovation processes and policy making.



A selection of ongoing projects

- **Circular Value & Supply Chains, Regional Development, and Multi-Level Policy Dynamics** focuses on the goal of Agenda 2030: shifting from global value chains to circular ones.
- **Conceptualising Cross-Border Regions** in the European Union's Legal Order: From Covidfencing to Constitutionalisation.
- The **Energy Resilient Cities**-project creates understanding of how local energy systems can become more resilient.
- Project **Multi-level learning journeys for green and just regional transformations** aims to leverage regional innovation policy to promote green and just transformation in a multi-level governance context.
- **Preventing inequalities in health** through better policy decisions of preventative and health promoting interventions.

A longer list of active projects in 2024 is found in Appendix 2.

Some projects finalised in 2024

- Acquisitions for experimentation: the impact of acquisitions of deep tech ventures on the capability creation and transformation of incumbent technology firms
- Att stärka kapaciteten för systeminnovation och omställning hos svenska biståndsorganisationer
- Att översätta innovation till praktisk handling – organiserings och anpassning i utvecklingen av MaaS
- Bedöma och utvärdera transformativ potential och transformativa utfall av TIP
- De-Polarizing Land Use Conflicts in Sweden. A Multi-level Governance Perspective
- Financing industrial decarbonisation: Managing risks and uncertainties to promote green investments in energy intensive industry
- Governing resilience and transformation – GReaTr
- Hållbar rekonditionering – en avgörande faktor för cirkulär ehandel
- Institutional capacity building for relevant management and economics research of high quality towards sustainable socio-economic transformation of Rwanda.
- Klimatneutrala Malmö 2030
- Making Universities Matter
- Massive Urban Missions (MUM): Advancing and Delivering Climate Neutral Cities
- Metod för integrering av innovations- och hållbarhetsmål i TRVs affärer – En förstudie
- Research to enable a circular building sector
- Resistance and effect – on smart grids for the many people
- Sustainable development in Small Island Developing States
- Sustainable Plastics and Transition Pathways – STEPS, Phase 2
- The world of Pantopia: an exploration of ecologically sound futures – BECC AG
- Transdisciplinary co-production in forest policy research – ForPol
- Urban Social Innovation: A Framework for Welfare in Transition



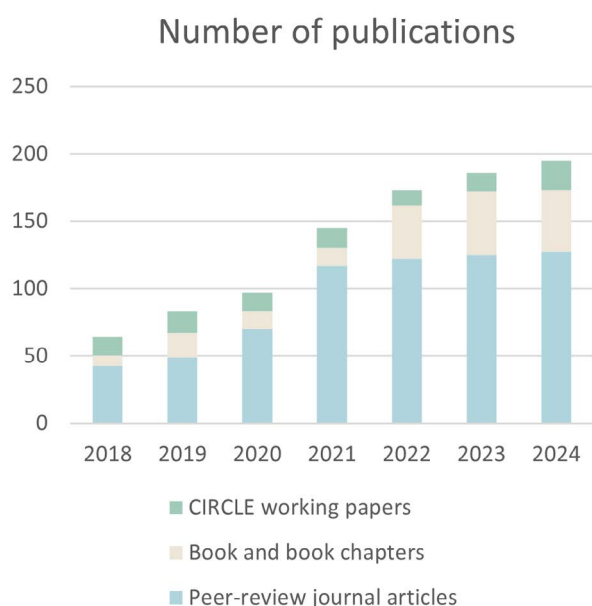
PUBLICATIONS

In 2024, the number of recorded publications authored by CIRCLE members was 195 in total, divided between peer reviewed journal articles, working papers, books, book chapters and editorial book assignments.

During the year our members have collaborated in projects and on publications with researchers from 360 different organisations in 36 countries across the globe.

Research has been published in a variety of leading peer-reviewed journals and over 20% of the articles were published in the top 5% most-cited publications. Some examples of journals are: Organization, Progress in Human Geography, Regional studies, Technovation, Research Policy, Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice, Technological Forecasting and Social Change.

Publications by CIRCLE members are listed in Appendix 1.



“The CIRCLE community thrives on a shared commitment to research excellence. Scholars come together to pursue ambitious inter-disciplinary collaborations and by fostering a culture of intellectual curiosity and mutual support, CIRCLE holds the potential of creating substantial scientific impact.”

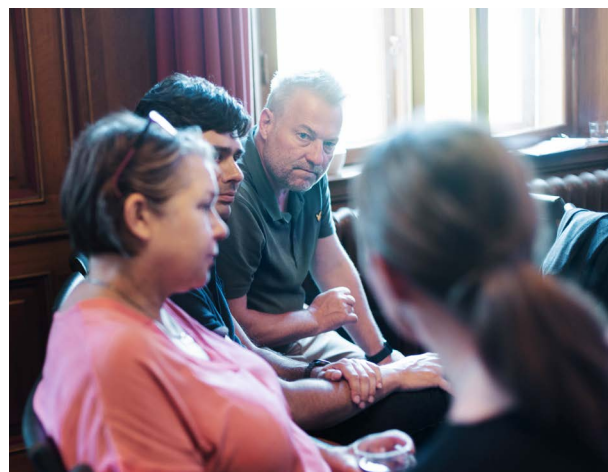
– Markus Grillitsch, CIRCLE Director



FUNDING

CIRCLE members are active in different countries and fields and funding of our projects come from a wide range of organisations and private actors, such as:

The EU, FORMAS, Forte, Handelsbanken, Jan Wallander and Tom Hedelius foundation, The Kamprad Family Foundation for Entrepreneurship, Kraftringen energi AB, Research & Charity, Länsförsäkringar Alliance Research Foundation, MISTRA, NordForsk, Riksbanken, Swedish Energy Agency, Vetenskapsrådet (Swedish Research Council), Vinnova, V. Kann Rasmussen foundation (VKRF), Volkswagen Foundation and The Wallenberg foundations



Research outreach

The knowledge generated by our members' research activities is disseminated through, for example, working papers, peer-reviewed articles and popular science articles; through members' participation in networks, conferences, seminars and round table discussions as well as through policy briefs, social media posts and the CIRCLE website.

WORKING PAPERS

The CIRCLE working paper series in innovation studies, edited by Torben Schubert, is an open instrument for early dissemination of theoretical and empirical research.

In 2024, 22 working papers were published and some of the most viewed were:

- Circular transitions in global production networks? A multi-scalar approach to anticipating socio-economic and socio-environmental effects of 'x-shoring' by Jonathan Friedrich, Linda Stihl and Markus Grillitsch
- Tracking pathways towards a bioeconomy: a sequence analysis of regional patent portfolios by Sebastian Losacker, Nicolas Befort, Lukas Kriesch and Stephane Lhuillery
- Innovation policy as an instrument for driving transformation – lessons from practice by Sofia Avdeitchikova and Sylvia Schwaag Serger

The full series is available through the website:

<https://www.circle.lu.se/publications/working-papers/>

POPULAR SCIENCE OUTPUT

A variety of articles are written by the members for publication in newspapers, blogs, specialised magazines and as reports for different organisations. Some examples:

Identifying the Missing Hero: Service User Participation in Housing First.

Knutagård, Marcus; Kristiansen, Arne.

In: Social Dialogue, No. 29, 20.12.2024, p. 56-59.

International science is having a messy breakup.

Kim, Hyejin; Schwaag Serger, Sylvia; Mobrand, Erik et al.

In: Research Professional News, 07.03.2024.

COP 16: Opportunity for balancing conflicting land uses and boosting biodiversity solutions.

Kugbega, Selorm Kobla.

In SIANI, Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative. 2024.

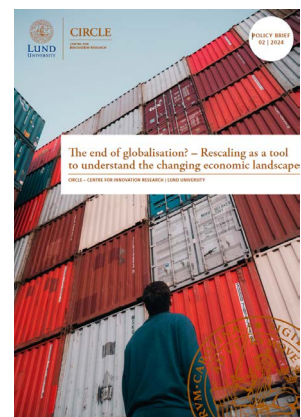
POLICY BRIEFS

CIRCLE's policy briefs aim at presenting research findings in an easy-to-read format highlighting a road forward based on the findings. During the year, two innovation policy briefs were released:

- How new universities can spur innovation and development in non-core regions by Debananda (Deb) Misra
- The end of globalisation? – Rescaling as a tool to understand the changing economic landscape by Markus Grillitsch

You find the policy briefs for reading and downloading on the website:

<https://www.circle.lu.se/publications/policy-briefs/>



WEBSITE

Many of the visitors to the CIRCLE website come from Sweden but a vast variety of countries are represented among the website visitors being a strong indicator for the international visibility of CIRCLE.

In the news feed on CIRCLE's website, visitors find the latest news within the research centre. Some examples from 2024:

- [New CIRCLE Project Explores Circular Value and Supply Chains](#)
- [CIRCLE and Region Skåne Forge Strategic Partnership](#)
- [Business model innovation and design thinking in Bolivia – licentiates in Transformative innovation](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

The CIRCLE **LinkedIn** account has become the principal social media outlet and our followers raised by 70% in 2024.

LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/circle-lund-university/>

Societal Engagement – focus Region Skåne

CIRCLE AND REGION SKÅNE FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

In March 2024, CIRCLE and Region Skåne signed a collaboration agreement to advance knowledge and expertise in innovation, regional development, and sustainability.

A partnership for growth

This formalised strategic partnership, rooted in over a decade of ad-hoc collaborations, promises to boost competence development, amplify research relevance, and elevate both parties' contributions to regional development efforts.

Underpinning this collaboration are two primary areas of activity:

- Measuring, Monitoring, and Analysing Economic Development.
- Learning, Knowledge Sharing, and Joint Ventures.

Designated coordinators Pauline Mattsson from CIRCLE and Marie-Louise Lövgren from Region Skåne spearhead the planning and organisation of diverse initiatives in these areas, ensuring the realisation of the partnership's ambitious objectives. CIRCLE's director, Markus Grillitsch, and deputy director, Magnus Nilsson, provide strategic guidance.

An active first year

Discussions between CIRCLE researchers and Region Skåne are focused on input to business strategy, learning and knowledge sharing seminars

Since the agreement was signed, many impactful activities have taken place. From Region Skåne's visit to CIRCLE, where collaborative opportunities were explored, to the Knowledge Exchange Forum that provided a platform for CIRCLE researchers to showcase their studies at Region Skåne. The collaboration is off to an encouraging start.

“Collaborating with Region Skåne allows us to bridge academic insight with real-world challenges – it’s a rare chance to co-create knowledge that doesn’t just describe change, but drives it.”

– Pauline Mattsson,
CIRCLE coordinator of the partnership



Societal Engagement – focus SIRI

SIRI – A NEW PLATFORM FOR TRANSFORMATIVE INNOVATION POLICY

As a step towards shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future, the Swedish Platform for System Innovation Research in Interaction (SIRI) has been launched. This initiative is designed to foster collaboration across disciplines and sectors, uniting researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in the pursuit of transformative innovation. A Platform for Systemic Change

Innovation policy is no longer solely focused on economic growth and competitiveness as today's innovation agendas are increasingly tasked with addressing complex societal challenges – from climate change to social equity. SIRI offers a national platform that supports the design and implementation of transformative innovation policies.

At its core, SIRI is a transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral hub. It facilitates networking, community building, and joint initiatives that enable the co-creation and exchange of knowledge and best practices. The platform's mission is clear: to develop, mobilise, and pool capabilities and resources that advance the understanding and governance of systems transformation in Sweden.

Activities That Inspire and Equip

SIRI's programming is both ambitious and practical. Among its flagship offerings is the course Transformative Innovation Policy (TIP) in Practice, which equips participants with the tools and insights needed to navigate and influence complex innovation ecosystems.

The platform also conducts macro trend analyses, tracking national and international policy developments and syn-

thesizing key issues relevant to Sweden's transformation agenda. These insights will be shared and discussed in SIRI events, ensuring that the community remains informed and forward-looking.

Another highlight is the annual Swedish Schumpeter Lectures, where globally renowned scholars present cutting-edge research on entrepreneurship's role in shaping economies and societies. These lectures are complemented by discussions with leading Swedish experts from academia, industry, and politics.

A Community for Learning and Action

SIRI is more than a platform – it is a community. It creates spaces for collaboration and learning, where stakeholders can ignite critical conversations, inspire meaningful action, and shape transformative solutions. Its activities are designed to foster deep engagement and shared purpose.

Key engagement opportunities include:

Research Seminars – Showcasing cutting-edge research on systems transformation.

- Workshops – Interactive sessions for deep learning and collaboration.
- Policy Dialogues – Bridging the gap between research and decision-making.
- Annual Symposia – A space to reflect, connect, and advance transformative agendas.

Toward a Sustainable Future

As Sweden continues to navigate the complexities of societal transformation, SIRI stands as a facilitator of collaborative innovation. By bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, it empowers stakeholders to co-create pathways toward a more sustainable, equitable, and resilient future.



Education

CIRCLE has continued providing master's and PhD level education in collaboration with different faculties at Lund University as well as other universities.

Our members participated in teaching at three faculties at Lund University: the Faculty of Engineering, the Social Science Faculty, and the School of Economics and Management. CIRCLE's ambition is to contribute to further strengthening cross-disciplinary teaching at Lund University – and beyond.

CIRCLE is a member of NORSI (Nordic Research School in Innovation and Entrepreneurship), a joint research school bringing together 33 partner institutions in the Nordics. Åsa Lindholm Dahlstrand represents CIRCLE at NORSI's general assembly and is a member of the executive committee and management team.

CIRCLE is also a member of Eu-SPRI (European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation). A

network of 20 European research institutions that focuses on the interaction between science, technology, and innovation policy. Mart Laatsit represents CIRCLE at the general assembly of Eu-SPRI, and Torben Schubert is a member of the executive committee.

Through both networks, PhD students and post-docs at Lund University can benefit from various courses, training, and mobility opportunities. In addition, CIRCLE members actively contribute to these programs as organisers and speakers.

Examples of PhD courses with CIRCLE involvement in 2024:

- PhD course in Innovation and Society at Lund University – Offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and CIRCLE
- NORSI PhD Course in Innovation Studies

SUPPORT FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

To further support early career researchers, CIRCLE held its second Early Career Innovation Research Day in 2024. About twenty participants from various departments and faculties at Lund University and neighbouring institutions gathered at CIRCLE to network, share their academic experiences, present posters, and discuss professional development.

The day featured mini-keynotes from experienced CIRCLE researchers, providing insights into the twists and turns of research careers. They inspired the early career researchers

by generously sharing their professional journeys, including highs and lows.

“This is a social day where we (re-)connect with peers, but also reflect over what it means to contribute to our scientific communities – in writing, reviewing, presenting and by being collegial.”

– Organiser Josephine Rekers





CIRCLE 20th Anniversary

It all began with spearheading research on a systemic perspective on innovation and entrepreneurship, and respective policy implications. Since then, the topic of innovation has penetrated research and society in many ways, which led to a broadening of perspectives and disciplines that are bundled at CIRCLE.

Today, we aim to understand and explain how innovation can contribute to a good society and tackle societal challenges, in the context of a changing economic and institutional landscape. To this end, we collaborate and engage with practitioners and policy makers on multiple levels from municipalities and regions to national and international organizations. Our strength in promoting interdisciplinary research allows us to provide relevant insights for societal challenges.

CIRCLE facilitates, coordinates, and initiates innovation research in its community consisting of over 150 members from three faculties at Lund University – the Faculty of Engineering, the Lund School of Economics and Management, and the Social Sciences Faculty, as well as affiliated researchers outside Lund, covering around 30 countries.

– Markus Grillitsch
Director of CIRCLE since 2020

PREVIOUS CIRCLE DIRECTORS

Over the past 20 years, CIRCLE has been led by people who all, through their visions and dedication, set the ground for what CIRCLE is today. They are still engaged in and enrich the community in different ways:

Charles Edquist, Björn Asheim, Ron Boschma, Jerker Moodysson, Åsa Lindholm Dahlstrand.



Appendix 1 – Publications 2024

A selection of publications by CIRCLE members:

CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALS

A business model pattern arrives ... and then? A translation perspective on business model innovation in established firms.

Ahlgren Ode, Kajsa; Louche, Céline.

In: Strategic Organization, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2024, p. 431-463.

Access to automated comparative feedback reports in primary care – A study of intensity of use and relationship with clinical performance among Swedish primary care practices.

Anell, Anders; Arvidsson, Eva; Dackehag, Margareta; Ellegård, Lina Maria; Glenngård Anna.

In: BMC Health Services Research, Vol. 24, No. 1, 33, 2024.

Agents of change in old-industrial and non-metropolitan regions of Europe.

Kinossian, Nadir; Grillitsch, Markus; Nagy, Erika.

In: European Planning Studies, Vol. 32, No. 11, 2024, p. 2283-2292.

Aging enacted in practice: How unloved objects thrive in the shadows of care.

Fischer, Bjoern; Östlund, Britt; Peine, Alexander.

In: Journal of Aging Studies, Vol. 71, 101266, 12.2024.

A global patent dataset of bioeconomy-related inventions.

Kriesch, Lukas; Losacker, Sebastian.

In: Scientific Data, Vol. 11, No. 1, 1308, 12.2024.

“All that glitters is not gold!”: The (Unexplored) Determinants of Equity Crowdfunding.

Civardi, Camilla; Moro, Andrea; Winborg, Joakim.

In: Small Business Economics, Vol. 63, No. 1, 2024, p. 299–324.

A multi-level resource circularity index based in the European Union's circular economy monitoring framework.

de Souza, Vitor Miranda; Fröhling, Magnus; Pigosso, Daniela C.A.

In: Waste and Biomass Valorization, Vol. 15, No. 2, 02.2024, p. 615-636.

“and Yet It Moves”: National Entrepreneurial Culture and Entrepreneurship-Friendly Policies: Evidence from OECD Countries.

Poczek, Jasna; Fassio, Claudio; Kraus, Sascha.

In: Entrepreneurship Research Journal, Vol. 14, No. 3, 2024, p. 1021-1061.

A perspective-taking university course for cancer survivors, loved ones and healthcare professionals.

Sandén, Ulrika; Nilsson, Fredrik; Thulesius, Hans; Hägglund, Maria; Scandurra, Isabella; Harrysson, Lars.

In: Social Sciences & Humanities Open, Vol. 2024, No. 9, 100769, 2024.

A political economy theory of fossil fuel subsidy reforms in OECD countries.

Droste, Nils; Chatterton, Benjamin; Skovgaard, Jakob.

In: Nature Communications, Vol. 15, No. 1, 5452, 12.2024.

Artificial Intelligence for Climate Change: A Patent Analysis in the Manufacturing Sector.

Podrecca, Matteo; Culot, Giovanna; Tavassoli, Sam; Orzes, Guido.

In: IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Vol. 71, 2024, p. 15005-15024.

Art, science and the politics of knowledge by Hannah Star Rogers.

Karvonen, Andrew.

In: LSE Review of Books, 04.01.2024.

At the intersection of economic history and contemporary regional development: insights from a Swedish ‘bruksort’.

Pugh, Rhiannon; Veelen, Bregje Van; Lundmark, Mats; Marques, Pedro.

In: European Planning Studies, Vol. 32, No. 11, 2024, p. 2422-2439.

Barking up the wrong tree? A guide to forest owner typology methods.

Ekström, Hanna; Danley, Brian; Clough, Yann; Droste, Nils.

In: Forest Policy and Economics, Vol. 163, 103208, 06.2024.

Beating the Casino: Conceptualizing an Anchoring-based Third Route to Regional Development.

Gong, Huiwen; Yu, Zhen; Binz, Christian; Truffer, Bernhard.

In: Economic Geography, Vol. 100, No. 2, 2024, p. 107-137.

Benchmarking performance through efficiency analysis trees: Improvement strategies for colombian higher education institutions.

Zofio, Jose Luis; Aparicio, Juan; Barbero, Javier; Zabala-Iturriagoitia, Jon Mikel.

In: Socio-Economic Planning Sciences, Vol. 92, 101845, 04.2024.

Better off by risk adjustment? Socioeconomic disparities in care utilization in Sweden following a payment reform.

Anell, Anders; Dackehag, Margareta; Dietrichson, Jens; Ellegård, Lina Maria; Kjellsson, Gustav.

In: Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 08.05.2024.

Big data, machine learning and uncertainty in foresight studies.

Muraro, Vinicius; Salles-Filho, Sergio Luiz Monteiro.

In: Foresight, Vol. 26, No. 3, 2024, p. 436-452.

Bouncing forward better – micro-foundations of combinatorial innovation.

Grillitsch, Markus; Asheim, Björn T.; Solheim, Marte C.W.

In: Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, 2024.

Bridging the methodological divide: Inspirations from semantic network analysis for (evolutionary) economic geography.

Truffer, Bernhard; Binz, Christian; Miörner, Johan; Yap, Xiao-Shan.

In: Progress in Economic Geography, Vol. 3, No. 1, 100033, 11.12.2024.

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Arandia Arzabe, Franco; Bengtsson, Lars; Olivares Ugarte, Jazmin Estefania.

In: Journal of Risk and Financial Management, Vol. 17, No. 8, 334, 08.2024.

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Kroll, Henning; Schubert, Torben.

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Ihne-Schubert, Sandra Michaela; Goetze, Oliver; Gers-tendörfer, Felix; Sahiti, Florian; Schade, Ina; Papagianni, Aikaterini; Morbach, Caroline; Frantz, Stefan; Einsele, Hermann; Knop, Stefan; Sommer, Claudia; Müllhaupt, Beat; Schubert, Torben; Störk, Stefan; Geier, Andreas.

In: Journal of Clinical Medicine, Vol. 13, No. 5, 1440, 2024.

CCI policymaking in Sweden: The challenge of integration.

Lindqvist, Katja.

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Central characteristics and critical success factors of design thinking for product development in industrial SMEs: a bibliometric analysis.

Olivares Ugarte, Jazmin Estefania; Bengtsson, Lars.

In: Businesses, Vol. 4, No. 4, 02.12.2024, p. 843-864.

China's digital and green (twin) transition: insights from national and regional innovation policies.

Brueck, Chris; Losacker, Sebastian; Liefner, Ingo.

In: Regional Studies, 2024.

Claiming Relevance for Social Science and the Humanities: Relevance Expressions Across Methodological Divides.

Hellström, Tomas; Jacob, Merle.

In: Minerva, 2024.

C-level managers and born-digitals' scaling: The case of Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs).

Gartner, Johannes; Moro, Andrea.

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Closing the loop without reinventing the wheel: public procurement for innovation promoting a circular economy.

Grimbert, Stephanie Francis; Zabala-Iturriagoitia, Jon Mikel.

In: Science and Public Policy, Vol. 51, No. 3, 06.2024, p. 491-508.

Competing or complementary? Socio-technical imaginaries of a bio-based construction sector.

Fischer, Lennart; Losacker, Sebastian.

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Conceptualization of Supplier Involvement in Product Development Based on a Systematic Review of 47 Definitions.

Flanckegård, Filip; Johansson, Glenn; Granlund, Anna; Johansson, Peter E.

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Tilsted, Joachim Peter; Bauer, Fredric.

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Abu Hatab, Assem; Krautscheid, Lena; Elsayied, Mohamed; Amuakwa-Mensah, Franklin.

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Grimbert, Stephanie Francis; Zabala-Iturriagoitia, Jon Mikel; Pesme, Jacques Olivier.

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Design of product-service systems in SMEs: a review of current research and suggestions for future directions.

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Die räumliche Dimension des EU-Emissionshandels (EU ETS): Messung des regionalen Transformationsdrucks in Deutschland.

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Hristova, Svetlana; Stewart, Simon; Inglis, David; Mathieu, Chris.

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Economic sanctions and domestic diversion.

Shingal, Anirudh.

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Enabling battery circularity: Unlocking circular business model archetypes and collaboration forms in the electric vehicle battery ecosystem.

Chirumalla, Koteswar; Kulkov, Ignat; Parida, Vinit; Dahlquist, Erik; Johansson, Glenn; Stefan, Ioana.

In: Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Vol. 199, 123044, 02.2024.

Enabling patient-physician continuity in Swedish primary care: the importance of a named GP.

Ellegård, Lina Maria Maria; Anell, Anders; Kjellsson, Gustav.

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Engaging for Sustainable Development and Transformation – Exploring the Concept of Transformative Academic Institutions.

Canto-Farachala, Patricia; Smith, Madeline; Wise, Emily; Johnson, Michael P.

In: Triple Helix, Vol. 11, No. 1, 2024, p. 75-106.

Enhancing climate resilience in buildings using Collective Intelligence: A pilot study on a Norwegian elderly care center.

Hosseini, Mohammad; Erba, Silvia; Hajialigol, Parisa et al.

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Examining the implications of knowledge boundaries for a large-scale agile transformation initiative of a manufacturing company.

Orejuela, Silvia; Johansson, Glenn; Motte, Damien.
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Expanding European fossil-based plastic production in a time of socio-ecological crisis: A neo-Gramscian perspective.

Holmberg, Karl; Tilsted, Joachim Peter; Bauer, Fredric; Stripple, Johannes.
In: Energy Research & Social Science, Vol. 118, 103759, 16.09.2024.

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Thomson, Craig S.; Karrbom-Gustafsson, Tina; Karvonen, Andrew.
In: Construction Management and Economics, Vol. 42, No. 2, 30.01.2024, p. 109-115.

Exploring innovation and collaboration in the leather processing industry through the case study of the KIWANGO Leather Cluster.

China, Cecilia R.; Mgumia, Athman; Trojer, Lena; Nungu, Amos.
In: Discover Applied Sciences, Vol. 6, 456, 2024.

Exploring the circular last mile: reusable packaging in home delivery of food and groceries using a design science approach.

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In: International Review of Retail, Distribution and Consumer Research, 2024.

Forest policy in Nordic countries: Expert opinions on future needs, uncertainties, and recommendations.

Nebasifu, Ayonghe A.; Pietarinen, Niina; Fridén, Alexia; Ekström, Hanna; Harrinkari; Teemu; D'AmatoDalia; Droste, Nils.
In: Trees, Forests and People, Vol. 16, 100582, 06.2024.

Forschungs-, Technologie- und Innovationspolitik muss die Entstehung kritischer Massen fördern.

Schubert, Torben; Kroll, Henning; Blind, Knut; Frietsch, Rainer.
In: Wirtschaftsdienst, Vol. 104, No. 4, 01.04.2024, p. 241-245.

Forskningspolitik i en ödesmättad tid.

Trojer, Lena; Gulbrandsen, Elisabeth.
In: Forskningspolitik, No. 3/2024, 11.10.2024, p. 34-37.

Gaze-based attention network analysis in a virtual reality classroom.

Stark, Philipp; Hasenbein, Lisa; Kasneci, Enkelejda; Göllner, Richard.
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Kugbega, Selorm Kobla.
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Jack, Tullia; Bååth, Jonas; Heinonen, Jukka Taneli; Gram-Hanssen, Kirsten.
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Imagined futures in sustainability transitions: Towards diverse future-making.

Friedrich, Jonathan; Hendriks, Abe.
In: Futures, Vol. 164, 103502, 2024.

Incremental prognostic utility of congestion markers in cardiac transthyretin amyloidosis.

Ihne-Schubert, Sandra Michaela; Morbach, Caroline; Cejka, Vladimir; Steinhardt, Maximilian Johannes; Paggianni, Aikaterini; Frantz, Stefan; Einsele, Hermann; Wehler, Thomas; Kortüm, Klaus Martin; Sommer, Claudia; Störk, Stefan; Schubert, Torben; Geier, Andreas.
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Individual Placement and Support for persons with alcohol and drug addiction in a Swedish context (IPS-ADAS): study protocol for a randomised controlled trial.

Bejerholm, Ulrika; Håkansson, Anders; Knutagård, Marcus; Hillborg, Helene.
In: Trials, Vol. 25, No. 1, 222, 12.2024.

Innovation in the periphery: refresh!

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Lodh, Abhishek; Haldar, Stuti.

In: Natural Hazards, Vol. 120, No. 12, 2024, p. 11399-11431.

Is Management and Organizational Studies divided into (micro-)tribes?

Wieczorek, Oliver; Hallonsten, Olof; Åström, Fredrik.

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Job Satisfaction and Investment Efficiency – Evidence from Crowdsourced Employer Reviews.

Arvidsson, Susanne; Eierle, Brigitte; Hartlieb, Sven.

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Morisson, Arnault; Gong, Huiwen.

In: European Planning Studies, Vol. 32, No. 3, 2024, p. 607-628.

Local culture and change agency in old industrial places: spinning forward and digging deeper.

Stihl, Linda.

In: European Planning Studies, Vol. 32, No. 3, 29.01.2024, p. 586-606.

Looking beyond “the tool itself”: towards a political systems understanding of e-participation.

Karlsson, Martin; Adenskog, Magnus.

In: JeDEM: EJournal of EDemocracy and Open Government, Vol. 16, No. 2, 13.11.2024, p. 28-48.

Making apps, owning data: Digital sovereignty and public authorities’ arrangements to “byte” back.

Paulsson, Alexander; Fred, Mats.

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Ekström, Hanna; Droste, Nils; Brady, Mark.

In: Environmental Modelling and Software, Vol. 175, 105998, 04.2024.

Motivations, changes and challenges of participating in food-related social innovations and their transformative potential: three cases from Berlin (Germany).

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In: Agriculture and Human Values, Vol. 41, No. 4, 2024, p. 1481-1502.

Needs of amyloidosis patients and their care providers: design & first results of the AMY-NEEDS research and care program.

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Ilse, Anna; Larsen, Trine Pernille; Mathieu, Christopher; Rolandsson, Bertil.

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Grillitsch, Markus; Rekers, Josephine V.; Asheim, Björn; Dahl Fitjar, Rune; Haus-Reve, Silje; Kolehmainen, Jari; Kurikka, Heli; Lundquist, Karl-Johan; Martynovich, Mikhail; Monteilhet, Skirmante; Nielsen, Hjalti; Nilsson, Magnus; Sopanen, Sami; Sotarauta, Markku; Stihl, Linda.

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Pugh, Rhiannon; Andersson, Ida.

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Perspective on Industrial Electrification and Utility Scale PV in the Arctic Region.

Asplund, Anton; Nilsson, Lars J.

In: International Journal of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management, Vol. 41, 06.2024, p. 34-44.

Productive resistance in public sector innovation – introducing social impact bonds in Swedish local government.

Fred, Mats; Mukhtar-Landgren, Dalia.

In: Public Management Review, Vol. 26, No. 3, 2024, p. 793-810.

Productivity performance, distance to frontier and AI innovation: Firm-level evidence from Europe.

Marioni, Larissa da Silva; Rincon-Aznar, Ana; Venturini, Francesco.

In: Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Vol. 228, 106762, 12.2024.

Promoting public sector innovation: who does what, when and how?

Fred, Mats; Mukhtar-Landgren, Dalia.

In: Public Policy and Administration, 27.08.2024.

Public opinion, racial bias and labour market outcomes in the USA.

Majlesi, Kaveh; Prina, Silvia; Sullivan, Paul.

In: Nature Human Behaviour, Vol. 8, No. 8, 08.2024, p. 1493-1505.

Quantifying and Rating the Energy Resilience Performance of Buildings Integrated with Renewables in the Nordics under Typical and Extreme Climatic Conditions.

Rehman, Hassam ur; Nik, Vahid M.; Ramesh, Rakesh; Ala-Juusela, Mia.

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Kloo, Y.; Nilsson, L. J.; Palm, E.

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Hansmeier, Hendrik; Losacker, Sebastian.

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Karvonen, Andrew.

In: Territory, Politics, Governance, Vol. 12, No. 6, 2024, p. 884-889.

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