
Editorial

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We are pleased to share this special issue of the *International Journal of Sustainable Society* with the theme *sustainability, mobility, and opportunity*. This special issue emerged from the Fifth International Conference on Emerging Research Paradigms in Business and Social Science (ERPBS 2020), hosted by Middlesex University Dubai, January 14th to 16th, 2020. Over the past ten years, this biannual conference has provided a platform for researchers and practitioners to communicate their findings and engage in meaningful discourse with professionals in different fields.

The ERPBS 2020 conference provided a forum for impactful and use-inspired research that aligned with the three core themes of the Dubai World Expo 2020: Sustainability, Mobility, and Opportunity. The ERPBS 2020 Conference was attended by over 180 delegates from around the world. More than 100 presentations across nine different tracks were complemented by a programme of keynote speakers, panel discussions, and special session workshops. Six papers are included in this special issue addressing key issues related to sustainability, public policy and governance, education, and economic volatility and resilience.

Hesketh and Williams contribute six guiding principles for evaluating public policy on gender equality. These principles emerged from analysis and evaluation of the role of historical and cultural factors in both advancing and hindering public policy initiatives towards gender equality and empowerment. Their paper provides a thoughtful review of commonly employed composite indicators, highlighting the risks of over-reliance on indicators that cannot fully capture the historical and cultural contexts. Their analysis is further advanced through a comparative case study analysis of the United Arab Emirates and Rwanda.

King and Paris also explore some of the challenges in monitoring and evaluating pledges towards the SDGs. They argue that the sincerity of these pledges is fundamental to the long-term progress towards the SDGs, particularly considering the social, political, and economic contexts surrounding the pledges. As an early first step, the paper proposes a simple rubric to help evaluate the sincerity of long-term sustainability pledges.

Bhat and Inamdar's contribution to this special issue examines the role of diasporic organisations in negotiating a 'fairer' presence for immigrants within host societies. Informed through qualitative interviews, they explore the self-perceptions of Indian Diasporic Organizations in the UK of their role, one that is both distinct and committed to the cause of the people they represent and caught between forces of integration and maintenance of collective identities.

Mc Donagh questions 'what is a right to education?' in his paper by examining the nature and scope of a right to education by comparing international and domestic education rights provisions in multiple countries. Mc Donagh argues that the right to education is a fundamental human right. Education rights provisions alone will not be sufficient to achieve educational, social, and economic sustainability without the necessary political, judicial, society, and financial support to enable those rights.

Acknowledging the UAE's efforts to diversify the country's economy, Kishore and Aslam's empirical study explores the resilience of the UAE to the decline of oil prices between 2015 and 2019 through a case of the insurance sector. Their study found that while there has been volatility in oil prices, key indicators of the insurance sector suggest that it has been mostly resilient. Their findings suggest that the ongoing efforts of the UAE to diversify away from an oil-dependent economy have been effective.

In a comparative study, Rehan and Janjusevic examined the relationship between oil price volatility and stock market indices. Their study built upon existing theory to explore the synchronicity between oil and stock markets.

The papers in this special issue cover a broad range of pertinent contemporary issues offering unique insights that align with the special issue theme: sustainability, opportunity, and mobility. Thank you to the editorial team of the *International Journal of Sustainable Society* for their continued support. This special issue is the third special issue emerging from the ERPBSS conferences, and we greatly appreciate the support of the journal for providing a platform for disseminating these insights. We are grateful to the ERPBSS-2020 conference organisers and participants, the reviewers, and of course, the authors of the contributions to this issue.