

International Journal of Business Governance and Ethics (IJBGE)

Call for Special Issue Proposals

The *International Journal of Business Governance and Ethics (IJBGE)* invites proposals for special issues that advance scholarly and practical understanding of governance and ethics in contemporary business contexts. IJBGE provides an inclusive platform for interdisciplinary research and dialogue on the structures, processes, and values that shape responsible business conduct. The journal welcomes contributions from a wide range of perspectives and aims to engage academics, business leaders, policymakers, regulators, and civil society actors. Special issues are intended to highlight emerging, underexplored, or integrative themes that can generate meaningful academic debate and practical insight. Proposals should demonstrate both intellectual rigor and relevance to real-world governance and ethical challenges. The purpose of Special Issues is:

- Advance theoretical and conceptual understanding of governance and ethics
- Provide robust empirical insights into contemporary challenges
- Offer critical and reflective perspectives on business practices and assumptions
- Bridge academic research with policy and practice
- Stimulate dialogue across disciplines and stakeholder communities

Proposals should clearly articulate how the special issue will contribute to these objectives and why the topic is timely and significant.

1. Aims and Scope of Special Issues

Proposed special issues must align with the broad, interdisciplinary scope of IJBGE, encompassing theoretical, empirical, and critically reflective work on business governance and ethics. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Philosophical foundations and theoretical perspectives on governance and ethics
- Governance structures and mechanisms across different organisational contexts
- Roles, composition, and effectiveness of boards and governing bodies
- Executive selection, incentives, remuneration, and accountability
- Legal and regulatory frameworks shaping corporate governance
- Ethical values, leadership behaviours, and organisational culture
- Stakeholder governance, engagement, and accountability mechanisms
- Measurement, reporting, and evaluation of business actions and impacts
- Ethical assumptions and implications of business strategies and decisions
- Social and societal consequences of corporate power, wealth, and influence
- Tensions between employee, organisational, and community interests
- Relationships between business, government, and regulatory institutions
- Ownership structures, control, and responsibility in organisations

Proposals may address global, regional, or comparative contexts, but should demonstrate relevance beyond a narrow setting. Interdisciplinary approaches drawing from management, law, economics, sociology, political science, philosophy, and related fields are particularly encouraged.

2. Submission Windows

The journal accepts proposals for special issues during two designated submission windows in 2026:

First Submission Window: 1 June 2026 to 31 July 2026

Proposals for this window must be submitted **by email no later than 31 July 2026** to the contact addresses indicated below.

Second Submission Window: 1 November 2026 to 31 December 2026

Proposals for this window must be submitted **by email no later than 31 December 2026** to the contact addresses indicated below.

For each submission window, the journal will accept a minimum of two and a maximum of four special issue proposals, subject to the journal's evaluation criteria, editorial capacity, and strategic priorities. Accepted proposals will be included in a structured publication pipeline. Proposals accepted during the June to July 2026 window will typically be developed and published in 2027. Proposals accepted during the November to December 2026 window will be scheduled between late 2027 and 2028.

This timeline is intended to ensure adequate time for the international promotion of the call for papers, the submission of high-quality manuscripts, and a rigorous multi-stage peer review process.

3. Proposal Requirements

Proposals must include the following components:

1. Draft Call for Papers

A clearly structured draft calls for papers outlining **(max 3000 words)**:

- Provisional title of the special issue
- Background and motivation for the topic
- Key themes, research questions, or debates to be addressed
- Indicative list of subtopics or areas of interest

2. Guest Editor Details

- Short academic CVs of all proposed Guest Editors, including:
- Current institutional affiliations, Contact information
- Previous editorial or reviewing experience (if applicable)

3. Statement of Contribution (maximum two pages)

A concise but well-developed statement that:

- Reviews the current state of research in the proposed area
- Identifies key gaps, tensions, or emerging issues
- Explains the novelty and importance of the proposed special issue
- Outlines expected theoretical, empirical, and practical contributions
- Demonstrates potential to attract a diverse and international audience

4. Proposed Timeline

A detailed and realistic timeline covering:

- Announcement of the call for papers
- Submission deadline
- First round of reviews
- Revision stages
- Final acceptance and publication

5. Potential Contributors and Reviewers

A list of scholars who may be interested in submitting manuscripts or serving as reviewers, including their affiliations and contact details where possible.

4. Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated by the editorial team based on the following criteria:

- Strong alignment with the aims, scope, and editorial priorities of IJBGE, ensuring clear thematic coherence
- High relevance, originality, and timeliness of the proposed topic, with the potential to address emerging debates and research gaps
- Demonstrated strength, expertise, and international diversity of the Guest Editors, supported by robust academic and professional networks
- Proven ability to leverage academic conferences, workshops, or symposia to effectively promote and disseminate the call for papers
- Well-defined and credible strategy for identifying, selecting, and inviting high-quality contributors
- Clear potential to enhance the journal's visibility, reputation, and citation impact through the Guest Editors' scholarly standing and outreach capacity
- Strong commitment to maintaining a balance between academic rigor and practical relevance, ensuring contributions are valuable for both scholarly and industry or policy-oriented audiences

5. Editorial Process and Responsibilities

Special issues must be based on an open and transparent call for papers. Submissions should not be restricted to participants from specific events, institutions, or networks. All manuscripts submitted to a special issue will undergo the journal's standard peer review process. All Guest Editors will be responsible for:

- Promoting the call for papers widely
- Managing the peer review process in collaboration with the journal
- Ensuring timely and high-quality editorial decisions
- Maintaining academic integrity and review standards
- Preparing an editorial introduction to the special issue

Contact and Enquiries

For informal enquiries regarding this call for special issue proposals, please contact:

Editor in Chief: Nicola Cucari | Email: nicola.cucari@uniroma1.it

and Associate Editor: Muhammad Ishtiaq ISHAQ | Email: muhammad-ishtiaq.ishaq@devinci.fr

Special Instructions:

The special issue will be published entirely in open access, therefore all accepted articles will be freely available online. This implies that each paper requires a publication fee of EUR 1,700, which is already discounted compared to standard rates and aligned with similar journals, in order to cover editorial costs. All articles will be subject to the same rigorous review standards (double-blind peer review) as regular submissions and will be published together once the editorial process has been completed. All contributions must be original or substantially revised compared to any conference versions, with a very low level of similarity. The review process requires at least two independent reviewers, preferably three, including international reviewers. It is also necessary to ensure a balanced geographical and thematic distribution of contributions, independence in the review of papers authored by the Guest Editors, and full compliance with ethical and copyright standards. Selected proposals will be subject to completion of the journal's official special issue proposal pro forma prior to final review and approval by the Editorial Office.