CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

WORK AND ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE ERA OF GRAND CHALLENGES: INTEGRATING THEORIES AND PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Catholic University Milan, Italy
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INTRODUCTION

The Small Group Meeting (SGM) "**Work and Organizational Psychology (WOP) in the Era of Grand Challenges**" is dedicated to the collective exploration of social inequalities and environmental sustainability. This event – organized by a collaborative team of scholars belonging to the FoWOP collective (https://fowop.eu/) – beckons scholars and practitioners to integrate theories and practices for a meaningful response to the urgent issues of our time.

In our contemporary global context, where social inequalities and environmental catastrophes cast shadows on diverse communities, WOP stands at a pivotal crossroads. While some populations remain shielded, vulnerable groups face increasing challenges, necessitating responses from both political and grassroots levels. In this milieu, academic activism, exemplified by movements like "Scientists for Future," is gaining momentum. Yet, WOP, despite its potential, has been somewhat reserved in addressing the interconnected challenges that define our era.

Against this backdrop, the SGM introduces three tracks, each offering a distinct lens through which we can unravel the complexities of work, social inequalities, and environmental sustainability. Scholars and practitioners are invited to contribute their insights and research within these tracks.

- **Track 1:** ***Building WOP theories and practices for a sustainable environment:*** In this track, we want to combine the expertise of WOP scholars and activists to improve the protection and restoration of the natural environment and the climate.
- **Track 2:** ***Building WOP theories and practices to combat inequalities:*** This track focuses on taking a critical stance on the role of WOP in reducing inequalities in workplaces and beyond. Additionally, we want to foster a dialogue between WOP scholars, activists, and unions to identify theories and practices that effectively reduce inequalities.
- **Track 3:** ***Integrating WOP theories and practices to improve social welfare and protect the environment:*** This track seeks to integrate WOP theories and practices with radical well-being approaches to sustainability, such as "Buen vivir" (Gudynas, 2011) "Décroissance" (Asara et al., 2015) and "L'art de vivre en paix" (Weil, 1993).

This meeting serves as a catalyst for change, urging WOP scholars to navigate the inherent paradox in the discipline. As we traverse the intersection of work, social inequalities, and environmental sustainability, we invite you to contribute to a collective response that goes beyond traditional approaches. Join us in Milan as we embark on a journey towards meaningful solutions, navigating the intricate balance between organizational interests and the well-being of individuals in the face of grand challenges.

OBJECTIVE

We encourage contributions that integrate alternative approaches, like degrowth with WOP perspectives, fostering collaboration across disciplines. The SGM aims to formulate a programmatic response to the grand social and ecological challenges, exploring innovative solutions at the intersection of work, social inequalities, and environmental sustainability.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Both empirical and theoretical contributions will be considered.

- **Presentation Format:** Short oral presentations and posters.
- **Abstract Length:** Maximum 500 words; a maximum of three references can be added.
- **Please Include:** Track preference, type of contribution (presentation or poster), contribution title, list of authors with affiliations and emails, brief content description, and relevance to the chosen track.
- **Submission Email:** fowop.sgm.2024@protonmail.com.
- **Deadline for Submission:** 15th March 2024.
- **Review Process:** Decisions will be communicated by 15th April 2024.

POSSIBLE THEMES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Theoretical and practical approaches to address grand challenges at macro-, meso-, and micropsychological levels.
- Multi-level perspectives on social inequalities and their implications.
- Challenges to the primacy of work and growth in the face of socio-environmental crises.
- Research methods and self-reflexive considerations in the evolving role of WOP.
- Acknowledging the ambivalent role of WOP in the tension between growth and social/environmental justice.

REGISTRATION

The fees to participate are as follows:

- €50,00 for students and PhD students.
- €100,00 for all others.

The fees cover participation for all three days. The meeting will be in-person. Therefore, the presenter must be present in Milan. However, web links will be arranged so that the short presentations can be followed remotely.

SGM - PAPER OR POSTER CRITERIA

1. Clarity of aims.
2. Clear information about the submission type.
3. Contribution to theory, knowledge and/or practice.
4. Robust theoretical underpinning, methodology, design and findings.
5. Correspondence with the topics of the proposal.
6. The work takes a critical perspective.