Special Issue

Big Data: A State-of-the-Art within the Application Area of Smart Factory and Industry 4.0

Message from the Guest Editors

While enterprises have a good understanding of the impact of digital transformation, based on the advent of big data and their requirements, they struggle to apply this transformation, notably when integrating analytical/digital solutions in their core business and identifying new governance models. Initially introduced as a way to leverage new technologies to face modern challenges, such as resource scarcity, global competition, and demographic changes, the concept of Industry 4.0 was quickly complemented by the notion of a digital transformation of organizations, to emphasize the organizational changes needed to reach the aforementioned goals. One part is the Smart Factory—a term from research in the field of production technology. To address this research need, we seek to identify gaps and research on the big-data-related digital transformation process, especially concerning the methods and guidelines to support organizational changes in the context of Industry 4.0, especially the Smart Factory.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Carsten Felden

Prof. Dr. Nicola Castellano

Prof. Dr. Henning Baars

Prof. Dr. Bruno Maria Franceschetti

Prof. Michiyasu Nakajima

M.Sc. Fanny-Eve Bordeleau

et al.

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Applied Sciences
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
applsci@mdpi.com

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Giulio Nicola Cerullo
Dipartimento di Fisica, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza L. da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

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