

Special Issue

AI and Sustainable Economic Development: The Long Tail Entrepreneurial Opportunities and Threats to the Rest of Us

Message from the Guest Editor

Sustainable economic development is increasingly being recognized as a vital global imperative, particularly as societies confront accelerating climate change, environmental degradation, widening inequalities, and structural shifts in labor markets. In this context, fostering inclusive entrepreneurship has emerged as a key strategy for achieving more resilient and equitable economies. The convergence of AI's technological push and the market-driven pulls of sustainability present a unique context for empowering individuals and small enterprises. This phenomenon, framed as the “long tail” of entrepreneurship, enables broader participation in economic activity by lowering traditional barriers related to scale, capital, and specialized expertise. In doing so, AI has the potential to expand the entrepreneurial landscape—geographically, demographically, and cognitively—by equipping small-scale actors with advanced tools for innovation, efficiency, and market responsiveness. This Special Issue will explore how AI could support sustainable development and entrepreneurial inclusion across several key dimensions.

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