

Special Issue

In Search of Validity: Advancing the Science and Practice of Systems Thinking

Message from the Guest Editors

In an era defined by complexity and interconnectedness, systems thinking has become an indispensable lens through which we can understand and address the multifaceted challenges of our time. This Special Issue aims to explore the latest advancements in systems thinking, with a particular focus on cognitive adaptivity as applied to complex everyday and novel situations. We invite researchers, practitioners, and educators to contribute original research articles, case studies, and reviews that delve into innovative systems thinking methodologies, tools, and practices. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, theoretical developments in systems thinking, practical applications of DSRP (Distinctions, Systems, Relationships, and Perspectives) in various fields, educational strategies for teaching systems thinking, and the integration of systems thinking with other interdisciplinary approaches. Empirical submissions are highly encouraged. More detailed information can be found at:

<https://www.mdpi.com/si/systems/71X28MC74Q>

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Derek Cabrera

1. Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, Cornell Institute for Public Affairs and SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA
2. Cabrera Research Laboratory, Ithaca, NY 14850, USA

Prof. Dr. Ricardo Valerdi

Department of Systems & Industrial Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 April 2026



Systems

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.1



[mdpi.com/si/222187](https://www.mdpi.com/si/222187)

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

[mdpi.com/journal/
systems](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/systems)





Systems

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.1
CiteScore 4.1



[mdpi.com/journal/
systems](https://mdpi.com/journal/systems)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Systems is a leading venue for the quick and global dissemination of results of cutting-edge research in various areas of systems science and systems-related fields. An increasing number of researchers are realizing the enormous potential of systems thinking in managing the many unprecedented and complex issues in all areas of need. The *Systems* journal provides a home of exceptional quality for the manuscripts of these researchers who often find it difficult to publish their work in conventional discipline focused journals.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Ben Clegg
Operations & Service Management Department, Aston Business
School, Aston University, Birmingham B4 7ET, UK

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SSCI (Web of Science), Ei
Compendex, dblp, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q1 (Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) / CiteScore -
Q2 (Modeling and Simulation)