

CALL FOR CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS AND BOOK ABSTRACTS

## Epistemic Organization: Advancing Anna Grandori's Economic Organization Research Program

Conference at Bocconi University, 23 January 2026

Book: Bocconi University Press

### CONVENORS AND EDITORS

**Magdalena Cholakova** Rotterdam School of Management

**Marco Furlotti** Nottingham Business School

**Santi Furnari** Bayes Business School & Northwestern University

**Giuseppe "beppe" Soda** Bocconi University

Although the intellectual foundation of Anna Grandori's thinking lies within Organizational Science, it would be limiting to exclusively confine her contribution within this field, given the inter-disciplinary nature and breadth of her scientific production. Likewise, it would not do justice to her intellectual curiosity, thought and research activity, which always strived to identify the intersections and enhance the opportunities for integration, among economic organization, law, economics and behavioral sciences.

The international scientific community owes Anna Grandori an ambitious and innovative attempt to integrate the economic and behavioral sciences with the philosophy of knowledge. The result of this attempt is an "epistemic" economic actor, who is neither omniscient nor purely calculating, but capable of imagination, discovery and theoretical construction. Consequently, economic decision-making and coordination are conceived, first and foremost, as epistemic and discovery problems, rather than problems of allocating scarce resources and reconciling given interests. This original perspective has produced an extension of the Simonian heuristic decision-making model, to also include rational discovery and innovation-oriented heuristics.

This shift in perspective clearly distinguishes the absence of knowledge from the lack of rationality, and it enables to deal rationally with highly uncertain situations. In turn, this move has implications for the design of organizational structures and configurations, and of innovative, robust and multimodal intra-organizational and inter-organizational systems that deal with uncertainty by promoting knowledge growth.

Anna Grandori's extraordinary and prolific scientific production entrusts new generations of scholars with a rich heritage of ideas, concepts, theories and insights that collectively constitute a unique resource.

The aim of the **conference (held at Bocconi University on 23 January 2026)** and of a **book** (published by Bocconi University Press), which will include a selection of the papers presented at the conference, is to collect contributions that enhance this heritage by addressing issues and research questions situated in different disciplinary fields and at different organizational levels.

In keeping with Anna Grandori's wide range of scholarly interests, we welcome contributions on the micro foundations of economic organization, on governance, organizational design, methods and heuristics of knowledge discovery and development, and on organizational forms and behaviors. We invite contributions about the forces that shape those organizational elements as well those that determine their evolution.

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A non-exhaustive and indicative list of themes and research questions for potential contributions includes:

- What rational heuristics and discovery methods can guide the construction of the organization of the future?
- What organizational and governance forms can enable democratic management of the organization and fair representation of the interests involved?
- What organizational configurations can be robust and resilient under conditions of extreme uncertainty?
- What rational heuristics and discovery methods can guide the evaluation of early-stage opportunities? What are some effective rational heuristics for the discovery and development of novel ideas?
- How can the concept of rights be integrated to rethink the organizational forms of the future?

We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions from every methodological and (inter)disciplinary orientation, especially when directed at relatively neglected or emerging organizational elements, or when informed by new methods or new empirical evidence.

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND TIMELINES

All interested scholars are invited to submit an abstract by **15 October 2025** (suggested length: 1500-2000 words) by email to the convenors ([giuseppe.soda@unibocconi.it](mailto:giuseppe.soda@unibocconi.it), [Santi.Furnari.1@citystgeorges.ac.uk](mailto:Santi.Furnari.1@citystgeorges.ac.uk), [marco.furlotti@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:marco.furlotti@ntu.ac.uk), [cholakova@rsm.nl](mailto:cholakova@rsm.nl)).

The convenors will select the received abstracts and notify the outcome of the selection by 15 October 2025.

## PRESENTATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

During the conference, each contribution will be discussed, and the authors will receive constructive feedback for preparing their book chapters. The submission deadline for the final version of the chapters is **15 June 2026**. The suggested length of each chapter is 7000-10000 words (all in).

