

Call for Proposals for PhD students and early-career researchers

Designing Alternative Futures, Strategies, and Systems-Changes in the Anthropocene *Idea Development Workshop*

Context

As we collectively reach and begin transgressing planetary boundaries, new questions are arising in both research and practitioner communities on how organizations can prepare for growing socio-ecological grand challenges and adapt their strategies.

To tackle these questions and address their complexity, emlyon business school and [IF Initiative](#) by Carbone 4, through the joint research and teaching Chair "[Strategy in the Anthropocene](#)", are organizing an **Ideas Development Workshop** to explore the design of alternative futures in the face of the Anthropocene and Planetary Boundaries through new research areas at the crossroads of the fields of strategy, foresight, design, and systems thinking to support action.

The Idea Development Workshop **Designing Alternative Futures, Strategies, and Systems-Changes in the Anthropocene** will bring together participants from three communities working at the interface between business strategy, scenario planning and foresight.

- Organization theory, strategy and management scholars and researchers;
- Practitioners - either decision-makers or experts working at the interface between foresight tools and practical public or private decision-making processes;
- Early-career researchers from Organization theory, Strategy and Management working on Sustainability in the context of the Anthropocene.

Aim and objectives

Through a series of roundtable discussions and plenary discussions, the aim of this two-day workshop is **to provide a multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder platform to build bridges between researchers and business leaders and co-develop new research ideas and discussions** based on the latest research and grounded in the needs of businesses.

Participants will engage in three discussion tracks :

- **Track #1 - Future(s)-making in the Anthropocene:** How can we imagine, design and learn from alternative, possible, and desirable futures?

- **Track #2 - Strategizing and Organizing in the Anthropocene:** How can we develop a shared science-based strategy framework for the Anthropocene?
- **Track #3 - Designing Systems-Changes in the Anthropocene:** How can we foster systems transformations?

One of the workshop's intended outcome is the generation of draft ideas for [AMP Practitioner Perspectives](#) articles, co-authored by researchers and practitioners.

Who can participate?

This event will bring together a total of 30-40 participants.

While the workshop is invitation-only for practitioners and researchers, **up to 12 slots are being opened for PhD candidates and early-career researchers** through this expression of interest. The full attendance costs of these selected participants will be funded by the workshop organisers.

Benefits for participants

For academics and early-career researchers

- Exploring how different fields frame shared research interests and developing new research questions
- Learning from on-the-ground challenges and thought processes of decision makers
- Developing collaboration opportunities with practitioners and decision-makers

For practitioners and decision-makers

- Sharing and reflecting on own challenges and decision-making questions and exploring solutions with peers
- Challenging strategies and practices and identifying possible solutions
- Exploring concepts and research contents that can support and underpin efforts to transform their organizations

How to apply

PhD students and early-career researchers from the fields of organisation theory, strategy and management wishing to apply for a fully-funded slot are invited to submit a short abstract (maximum 500 words) with the following information:

- Name of researcher and project title (also include institutions, name of supervisors and start date of PhD)
- Research rationale and questions, with a focus on how their research is linked to one of the three tracks in the context of the Anthropocene
- Research methods including any business case studies

- Relevance for business and/or public policy and how participation in this workshop will support their work
- Progress so far / preliminary results
- Further research and main references.

Expressions of interest should be sent via email to Prof. Thomas Gauthier (gauthier@em-lyon.com) by 27th June 2025 with the mail tag "Proposal - Idea Development Workshop". Successful applicants will be notified by 11th July 2025.

Academic-Practitioner Partnering Organizing Committee

- **Prof. [Thomas Gauthier](#) (emlyon business school)**, Associate Dean for Pedagogy in the Anthropocene and Holder of the Carbone 4 Chair "Strategy in the Anthropocene"
- **[Jacques Portalier](#) (Carbone 4)**, Director, IF Initiative and Co-Steering of the Carbone 4 Chair "Strategy in the Anthropocene"
- **Prof. [Amanda Williams](#) (IMD Business School)**, Sustainability Research Fellow and Term Research Professor at the Center for Sustainable and Inclusive Business
- **[Pierre-Baptiste Goutagny](#) (Carbone 4)**, Project Leader, IF Initiative and PhD candidate at University Lyon 3 (Magellan), emlyon business school (Carbone 4 Chair "Strategy in the Anthropocene" and IFGE) and Strate, School of design (reset Design Lab)
- **Dr. [Marion Ferrat](#) (Carbone 4)**, Engagement Lead, IF Initiative

When and where

The workshop will take place at emlyon business school, 144 avenue Jean Jaurès 69007 Lyon, France on Tuesday 30th September (full day) and Wednesday 1st October 2025 (morning).