

ABSTRACTS

CIK- 14th International Conference in collaboration with SINGEP

Oct. 21-23, 2026, Hybrid

Theme: Global Business in the Age of Disruption: Technology, Climate, and Sustainable Growth



**CYRUS Institute of Knowledge
Cambridge, USA,**

**ESCA Ecole de Management, Casablanca Morocco,
And**

**Simpósio Internacional de Gestão de Projetos,
Inovação e Sustentabilidade (SINGEP)**

October 21-23, 2026

Hybrid

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Conference Theme:

***Global Business in the Age of Disruption:
Technology, Climate, and Sustainable Growth***

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DIGITAL CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND IDENTITY IN TRANSITION: THE CASE OF MOROCCO

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Abstract

Digital technologies have become central to reshaping how cultural heritage is preserved, accessed, and transmitted across generations. In Morocco, a country with a centuries-old rich and diverse tangible and intangible heritage, traditional practices, oral histories, and regional cultural expressions remain under-represented in digital initiatives, while facing increasing pressures from globalization, urbanization, and generational change. At the same time, digital transformation creates opportunities for wider cultural access, educational engagement, tourism development, and intergenerational knowledge transfer. Digital affordances such as multimedia interactivity, gamification, and co-creation may further contribute to the resilience and visibility of Moroccan cultural heritage, provided that initiatives remain grounded in local knowledge and community participation. This study examines the role of digital technologies in the preservation and transmission of Moroccan cultural heritage, with particular attention to the opportunities and challenges associated with digital transformation. Drawing on case studies of national archives, digital heritage initiatives, and community-based projects, the analysis explores how multimedia archives, interactive platforms, and social media can facilitate documentation, dissemination, and intergenerational transmission. It also identifies challenges including technological infrastructure limitations, disparities in digital literacy, resource constraints, intellectual property concerns, and tensions surrounding authenticity, representation, and commercialization. By situating Morocco's experience within broader debates on digital heritage and cultural tourism, the study contributes to understanding how digital transformation can reshape heritage preservation while negotiating issues of identity, authenticity, participation, and cultural sustainability, offering implications for policymakers, cultural institutions, and technology developers.

Keywords:

Digital transformation, Cultural memory, Cultural identity, Heritage preservation, Morocco, Community engagement

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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, CARBON ACCOUNTING, ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL RESILIENCE: MANAGING CLIMATE RISK IN UK BUSINESSES

**Yetunde Bernice Oyewole, Adeola Adeniyi,
and Bojuwon Mustapha**

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Abstract

This study investigates the symbiotic relationship between digital transformation (DT), carbon accounting (CA), and enterprise risk management (ERM), and their impact on financial resilience (FR) of UK-listed companies during an increasing climate risk scenario, in an 11-year balanced sample of 30 FTSE 350 listed companies (330 firm-year observations, 2015–2025). Based on Dynamic Capability Theory, the study identifies DT as sensing, CA as seizing, and ERM as transforming mechanisms that directly affect FR, while ERM has a mediating role, and tests all three mechanisms through the use of four estimators: Pooled OLS, Fixed Effects, Random Effects, Driscoll–Kraay, and System GMM, along with a formal mediation analysis. Cross-sectional dependence, first-order autocorrelation and multicollinearity among the three focal constructs are confirmed by the diagnostic tests, which require strong and dynamic estimation strategies. The results indicate that digital transformation is the most stable resilience driver overall, having positive results and generally being significant across both specifications and alternative proxies of resilience. The impact of carbon accounting is statistically positive in within-firm estimators, but statistically negative in alternative estimates of carbon accounting, and the ERM shows an ongoing and hypothesis-disconfirming negative link with composite resilience, which is likely due to multicollinearity and reverse causality rather than a genuine erosion of resilience. The pathway from seizing to transforming is confirmed by mediation analysis, which indicates very strong carbon accounting effects on ERM maturity; no effect was found for digital transformation, and little with statistical confidence, as the bootstrap procedure was unsuccessful. The findings warn UK regulators that formal governance compliance does not necessarily lead to resilience gains and pinpoint digital investment as the most defensible way for a UK-listed firm to shift to a climate-resilient strategy.

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Keywords: digital transformation; carbon accounting; enterprise risk management; financial resilience

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDICAL EDUCATION

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming medical education by supporting personalized learning, clinical reasoning, assessment, and faculty development. Adaptive learning platforms can analyze learner performance and deliver targeted educational content, while generative AI tools can create case-based scenarios, provide immediate feedback, and simulate patient encounters. These applications may increase educational accessibility, reduce administrative workload, and help learners practice complex decision-making in low-risk environments. AI can also support competency-based education by identifying knowledge gaps and generating longitudinal insights from assessment data.

However, successful integration requires careful attention to accuracy, bias, privacy, transparency, and the risk of overreliance on automated systems. AI-generated content may contain errors or reflect inequities present in training data, making faculty oversight essential. Medical students and clinicians must therefore develop AI literacy, including the ability to evaluate outputs, recognize limitations, and use technology ethically in clinical contexts. Institutions should establish governance frameworks, protect learner and patient information, and ensure equitable access to AI-enhanced resources.

The future of AI in medical education should emphasize collaboration between educators, learners, clinicians, and technology developers. Rather than replacing human mentorship, AI should augment it by expanding opportunities for practice, feedback, and reflection. Evidence-based implementation and continuous evaluation will be critical to ensuring that AI improves educational quality while preserving professionalism, human judgment, and patient-centered care.

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AI ADOPTION IN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS: IS IT WORTH IT?

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence is booming. Tools that once seemed highly technical or available only to large corporations can now be accessed by almost anyone with a computer. Employees can use AI to draft emails, summarize reports, organize information, analyze data, and generate new ideas in a matter of seconds. As these tools become easier to access, the question for many organizations is no longer simply “should we use AI?” Instead, they must ask “how should we use it and where does it actually make sense?”

This question is especially important for nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits are expected to accomplish many tasks with limited funding and small amounts of staffing. Because of this, the promise of completing work faster can be difficult to ignore. AI could help employees spend less time on repetitive administrative tasks and more time working directly with programs and communities. Some might ask: If AI can save nonprofits time and money, why would they not use it? The answer is more complicated than it may first appear.

This paper examines how nonprofit organizations can make thoughtful decisions about AI adoption. It uses recent nonprofit reports and professional articles to study current uses of AI, common barriers to adoption, ethical concerns, and the role of employees. The research shows that nonprofit employees are already using AI for tasks such as grant writing, communications, data analysis, forecasting, and information management. At the same time, many organizations do not have formal AI strategies, employee-use policies, or sufficient training. This creates a situation in which AI use may grow before leaders have decided how the technology fits into their organization.

To address this problem, the paper presents a five-part framework for evaluating AI investments. The framework considers whether an AI tool addresses an actual mission need, provides enough organizational value to justify its full cost, protects privacy and fairness, matches the organization's level of readiness, and keeps people responsible for important decisions. The paper argues that AI should be viewed as an

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organizational strategy rather than only as a technology purchase. AI can help nonprofits increase their capacity, but it should support rather than replace work and community effectiveness.

Keywords: Nonprofit organizations, Artificial intelligence, Mission Alignment, Human Oversight, Strategy



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DEVELOPMENT OF AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENT FOR USE IN POST-HARVEST PROCESSING FOR SMALL RURAL PRODUCERS

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Abstract

Small-scale and family farming are fundamental to global food security and local economies. In this sector drives a substantial portion of food production. However, smallholders face continuous challenges throughout the agricultural value chain, particularly during the critical post-harvest phase. Due to limited financial resources, technical knowledge, and poor connectivity, these farmers are often excluded from high-cost agribusiness technologies (such as automation and sensing), leading to substantial quantitative and qualitative food losses. While Artificial Intelligence (AI) has revolutionized modern agriculture, existing solutions predominantly target large corporations. This study addresses this technological gap by developing a free, accessible, and adaptive prototype AI assistant (beta phase) designed to provide real-time, science-backed guidance on post-harvest handling, shelf-life prediction, and deterioration risk mitigation.

The methodology followed six structured stages:

1. **Diagnosis and Bottleneck Identification:** Conducting literature reviews and mapping post-harvest challenges through field queries with smallholders.
2. **AI Architecture Design:** Developing a Natural Language Processing (NLP) model optimized to comprehend colloquialisms, regionalisms, and simplified syntax, ensuring an intuitive interface for users with low formal education levels.
3. **Training and Content Curating:** Feeding the AI model a robust corpus of postgraduate-level scientific literature from the Postgraduate Program in Agricultural Engineering.
4. **Large-Scale Testing and Optimization:** Simulating diverse user interactions to perform stress tests, eliminate programming bugs, and refine processing stability.

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5. **Field Validation:** Piloting the AI agent with smallholders via the Rural Syndicate to continuously optimize language adaptation and usability based on user feedback.
6. **Dissemination:** Launching virtual extensionist events and structural partnerships to maximize regional adoption.

The project successfully delivered a highly efficient, functional AI agent capable of delivering accurate recommendations on temperature, humidity, and optimal storage practices with minimal response latency. Additional outcomes include the publication of an illustrated, open-access Technical Bulletin hosted on website to ensure autonomous user onboarding. Short-term field impacts demonstrate increased access to specialized knowledge, an empowered local farming community, and high potential for mitigating post-harvest food waste and boosting family income. This post-doctoral project underscores how low-cost, high-impact digital innovation can bridge the gap between academia and society, transforming AI into a powerful tool for social inclusion, rural extension, and regional food security.

Keywords: Smallholder Farming; Post-Harvest Losses; Artificial Intelligence; Natural Language Processing; Rural Extension;

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DO GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCED DIRECTORS ON BOARDS INCREASE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES?

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and

Tyler Wasson

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship of government experienced directors (GEDs) to corporate political spending disclosure at S&P 500 firms from 2017-2020. Government experienced directors are former elected or appointed United States government employees who go on to serve as board members. Firms can benefit from GEDs on their boards through their experience and connections, potentially increasing government contracts (Wasson and Quinn, 2024). However, having GEDs on corporate boards can increase public scrutiny of firms. One of the ways in which a firm can address the increased scrutiny is through disclosure of the firm's political activities.

Prior research using an ordinary least squares (OLS) approach found a positive relationship between disclosure levels and having government experienced directors (Goh, Liu and Tsang, 2020). Our study adds to the literature and practice in several ways. First, this study examines the relationship of government experienced directors to political disclosure accounting for their political party affiliations. Second, we account for a wider definition of GEDs to include high-level appointed positions (such as cabinet posts) in the federal government and GEDs without a publicly stated political party affiliation, rather than only elected and party officials as done in previous research. Third, this study utilizes a quantile regression approach in the analysis.

The quantile regression yields interesting insights. Results found that firms sorted along the distribution into three categories: very low likelihood of disclosing, potentially disclosing, and very high likelihood of disclosure. The firms who have a very low or very high likelihood of disclosure do not have

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their likelihood of disclosure as strongly impacted by having GEDs on their boards. The firms who are closer to the middle of the distribution exhibit the highest positive effect on disclosure from GEDs on corporate boards. Also consistent with the scrutiny view, the results find that firms being involved in lobbying and/or government contracts are positively related to political disclosure.

These results have implications for practice. For firms who already have a moderate level of political disclosure, putting GEDs on their boards will likely increase their disclosure without the need for additional regulations. However, when GEDs join the boards of firms with low levels of disclosure they likely will not provide the same boost to disclosure rates. It should concern policy makers that firms which are already lacking transparency are appointing GEDs to their boards who can go on to influence firms' government contracts without increasing their disclosure of political activities.

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ESG PRACTICES AND FIRM PERFORMANCE: THE MEDIATING ROLE OF TRANSACTION COSTS AND SHAREHOLDER RETURNS IN U.S. MANUFACTURING FIRMS

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And Daniel Pardini

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Abstract

Purpose: This study investigates the influence of ESG practices, transaction costs, and shareholder returns on the performance of U.S. publicly traded manufacturing firms from 2018 to 2023, proposing an integrative model that articulates sustainability, operational efficiency, and governance dimensions.

Design/methodology/approach: A quantitative, exploratory-explanatory design was employed using secondary data from the Refinitiv® LSEG Data & Analytics database. The final sample comprised 2,034 firm-year observations from U.S. publicly traded manufacturing companies. Data were analysed using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) via the SEMinR package in R.

Findings: Of the six hypotheses tested, only two were confirmed. ESG practices did not directly impact firm performance ($\beta = -0.013$, n.s.) but significantly reduced transaction costs ($\beta = -0.341$, $p < 0.01$). Shareholder returns negatively affected firm performance ($\beta = -0.111$, $p < 0.01$). Contrary to expectations, transaction costs positively influenced both firm performance ($\beta = 0.035$, $p < 0.05$) and

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shareholder returns ($\beta = 0.071$, $p < 0.01$). ESG practices negatively impacted shareholder returns ($\beta = -0.402$, $p < 0.01$).

Originality/value: This study provides an integrative, empirically validated model that articulates ESG practices, transaction costs, and shareholder return as determinants of firm performance. It advances the literature by demonstrating that ESG benefits are indirect - operating through transaction cost reduction - rather than direct, and that liquidity in capital-intensive industries serves as a strategic buffer rather than a mere cost.

Practical implications: Managers in capital-intensive industries should recognise that ESG investments yield value primarily through governance and transparency mechanisms that reduce transaction costs, rather than through immediate financial returns. Financial slack should be viewed as a strategic instrument for stability and value creation, not merely as an operational inefficiency.

Keywords: ESG; transaction costs; firm performance; shareholder returns; PLS-SEM.

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GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS AND THE LIABILITY OF SMALLNESS: GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND SME

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Abstract

As global production becomes increasingly fragmented, participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) offers important opportunities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to internationalize, build capabilities, and upgrade their activities. Yet SMEs continue to face major structural constraints. These include limited resources, difficulties meeting international standards, restricted access to finance, information gaps, and dependence on powerful lead firms. Such constraints can affect both entry into GVCs and the ability of SMEs to capture greater value once they participate. This paper examines why SMEs that participate in GVCs differ in their ability to upgrade, with particular attention to firm capabilities and GVC governance conditions. Existing research has generated substantial knowledge on SME capabilities and on GVC governance, but these perspectives are often examined separately. This leaves limited explanation of how internal firm conditions and external governance structures jointly shape SME upgrading. The paper combines the Resource-Based View, which focuses on firm-level resources and capabilities, with GVC governance theory, which explains how power, coordination, and lead-firm relationships shape opportunities within the value chain. The central argument is that firm capabilities alone may not be sufficient for upgrading; their value depends partly on the governance conditions under which SMEs participate. Conceptually, the study develops an integrated framework to explain how the liability of smallness, firm capabilities, and GVC governance contribute to different upgrading outcomes. It distinguishes between entering a GVC, the conditions under which participation occurs, and the ability of SMEs to move toward higher-value activities, functions, or capabilities. The framework is informed by the literature on SME internationalization and seeks to explain why similarly resource-constrained SMEs may experience different trajectories within global production networks. It also provides a basis for considering more targeted policy and managerial interventions aimed at strengthening SME capabilities, productive linkages, and upgrading opportunities within global supply networks.

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OPERATIONALIZING SUSTAINABILITY: THE IMPACT OF ESG PERFORMANCE ON ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCE AND LONG-TERM VALUE CREATION

Adeola Adeniyi

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Abstract

Organizations are increasingly expected to address sustainability while maintaining profitability, competitiveness, and stakeholder trust. Sustainability has evolved beyond regulatory compliance into a strategic priority driven by investors, customers, employees, and policymakers. Despite growing commitments to sustainability, many organizations face challenges in translating sustainability strategies into measurable outcomes due to resource constraints, competing operational priorities, and evolving stakeholder expectations. As a result, the key challenge is no longer developing sustainability strategies but effectively operationalizing them to create business value.

This study examines the relationship among environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, organizational resilience, and long-term value creation. Drawing on Stakeholder Theory and the Resource-Based View (RBV), the study argues that organizations with stronger ESG performance are better positioned to enhance resilience, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and achieve sustainable competitive advantage. The research investigates whether improvements in ESG performance contribute to organizational resilience and ultimately drive long-term organizational value.

The study adopts a quantitative research design using secondary data collected from publicly available sustainability reports, annual reports, and ESG databases. A sample of publicly listed firms across multiple industries will be analyzed over five years. ESG performance scores will serve as the independent variable, while organizational resilience and long-term value creation will be measured using financial and non-financial performance indicators. Data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, and multiple regression techniques to examine the relationships among the variables.

The findings are expected to demonstrate that organizations with higher ESG performance show greater resilience and superior long-term value creation. The study contributes to the sustainability management

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literature by providing empirical evidence on how sustainability performance can be operationalized as a strategic capability that enhances organizational outcomes. The paper concludes that effective sustainability implementation can serve as a source of resilience, competitive advantage, and long-term value for organizations and society.

Keywords: Sustainability, ESG Performance, Sustainability Operationalization, Organizational Resilience, Long-Term Value Creation, Sustainable Competitive Advantage, Firm Performance

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REGULATING THE UNREGULABLE: LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR TECHNOLOGY, CLIMATE ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS IN A DISRUPTED WORLD

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I. Context and Rationale

The contemporary world is shaped by three major structural disruptions that are fundamentally redefining the rules of international trade and the global economy: the digital revolution and the rise of artificial intelligence, the climate emergency and the energy transition, and the emergence of a new growth paradigm grounded in sustainability.

Faced with these transformations, law, in its national, regional, and international dimensions, finds itself at a crossroads: at times outpaced by the speed of change, at times called upon to be its principal architect.

It is within this context that this contribution is situated, seeking to examine the capacity of legal systems to apprehend, regulate, and steer these disruptions in the service of a more equitable and sustainable global development.

II. Central Research Question

To what extent are existing legal instruments, business law, international environmental law, digital law, and economic regulatory law, capable of governing disruptive phenomena whose transnational nature, technical complexity, and accelerated pace exceed traditional normative frameworks? And what new legal architectures must be envisioned to make law a genuine driver of transition toward a sustainable global economy?

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III. Thematic Axes

The contribution will be structured around three complementary axes:

Axis 1 — Law and Governance of Disruptive Technologies

1. The regulation of artificial intelligence: between soft law and hard law (European Union, OECD, UN).
2. The global protection of personal data: convergences and divergences across legal systems (GDPR, CCPA, African and Arab legislation).
3. Legal challenges of blockchain, crypto-assets, and digital platforms in international commercial transactions.
4. Civil and criminal liability of algorithms: toward new legal subjects?

Axis 2 — Climate Accountability and Corporate Law

1. Climate litigation: new forms of liability for corporations and States.
2. Environmental due diligence and corporate duty of care: from voluntary commitment to binding obligation.
3. Sustainable finance and ESG obligations: what binding legal value?
4. Green taxonomies, carbon markets, and contract law: articulations and tensions.

Axis 3 — Toward a New Law of Sustainable Business

1. Reforming international investment law in light of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Corporate law and the purpose-driven enterprise: toward a redefinition of the corporate object.
3. International standards for non-financial reporting: between technical standardisation and legal obligation.
4. The role of regional organisations (African Union, Arab League, EU) in building a shared normative space for sustainable growth.

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IV. Methodological Approach

The contribution adopts a multidisciplinary approach combining comparative legal analysis, the study of international and regional legal sources, and a critical reading of recent normative developments.

It will draw on case studies from national and international experiences, placing the legal systems of developed, emerging, and developing countries in comparative perspective.

The comparative dimension will enable identification of best practices, normative gaps, and opportunities for convergence toward a common framework of sustainable and responsible business law.

V. Expected Outcomes

1. Map the gaps and tensions in existing legal frameworks in the face of the three identified disruptions.
2. Formulate concrete normative reform proposals at the national, regional, and international levels.
3. Contribute to interdisciplinary dialogue between legal scholars, economists, and policymakers.
4. Enrich the academic debate on the foundations of a global law of sustainable business.

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EDUCATION: THE KEY PIECE TO PEACE

Michael DeRosa, Sarah English, and Yanni Haginicolás

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Abstract

Pax Populi Academy, roughly translating to “the people’s peace”, is an online school with a mission to provide Afghan women and girls with the opportunity to complete a secondary school curriculum. Originally founded in 2010 with the goal of advancing peace through education, Pax Populi had to carefully reorganize after a policy in Afghanistan banned girls from attending school past sixth grade in 2022, and safety remains their number one priority to this day. The Academy offers courses in mathematics, science, social studies, philosophy, and literature, which are designed to prepare students for both graduation and global higher education. There are also opportunities for students to lead clubs, engage in peer tutoring, and mentor younger students through the program.

Pax Populi Academy is already achieving extraordinary goals, but we are aiming to advance their operations in a few keyways. First and foremost, there is a clear need for expansion. In 2024, Pax Populi received 586 applications for just 50 spots, and the following year, applications almost tripled, reaching 1,500. This highlights just how many women and girls desire an education in Afghanistan, and we will work to help Pax Populi better meet this demand. Pax Populi is also not an accredited academy, so we will begin to investigate the first steps in this substantial undertaking. Additionally, greater financial security is imperative for the success of Pax Populi. The Academy pays for internet for a majority of its students and sponsors students in higher education. There has been difficulty meeting these expenses in the past, and additional income would be necessary for further expansion. Ultimately, we believe that acquiring stronger systematic funding for Pax Populi through grants will advance the academy in many ways, including these three highlighted areas.

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES, STRENGTHENING CHILDREN: AN ANALYSIS OF HOLDING HANDS

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Abstract

Handhold is a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to supporting parents and caregivers navigate their children's mental and behavior health. Families often do not know where to turn when their child is struggling emotionally, having behavioral changes or even combating a mental health challenge. Handhold serves as a bridge to help provide accessible and trustworthy resources that families can utilize to better understand and support their child. Their online platform Handhold contains strategies, tools, educational materials, and other organizations that can provide families with additional support depending on specific needs. Some resources they provide cover the topics of anxiety, depression, substance use, trauma, coping skills, stress, developmental concerns, and crisis support. Handhold helps educate families to identify when a child's behavior may require attention and guides them on finding the appropriate resources.

Handhold emphasizes that families should not navigate mental health challenges alone. Through their contribution of multiple resources, community organizations, and a built-in community with shared experiences. Handhold empowers families to feel more confident, informed, and supported. The organization provides families with early interventions by helping families recognize concerns and receive support. They aim to turn a complicated process of unknowns into an approachable and accessible way to find mental health support for all children and their families.

ABSTRACTS

CIK- 14th International Conference in collaboration with SINGEP

Oct. 21-23, 2026, Hybrid

Theme: Global Business in the Age of Disruption: Technology, Climate, and Sustainable Growth

PASSION TO ACTION: AN ASSESSMENT OF HISPANAS AMIGAS

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Abstract

Hispanas Amigas is a grassroots group of Latina women founded by Maribel Carvajal, an Ecuadorian immigrant and licensed family childcare provider. Carvajal built it around a problem she lived: language barriers that keep Latina mothers and childcare educators from the information and resources meant for them. Her organization solves that problem through mutual support, advocacy, and shared events, and demand has grown faster than its structure. That gap now limits what the organization can do next.

Hispanas Amigas is incorporated as a nonprofit in Massachusetts but does not yet hold federal 501(c)(3) status. Without that status, donations are not tax-deductible, and most foundations will not award grants. As a result, Hispanas Amigas runs entirely on per-event payments from members; leadership has expressed they want to keep no membership fees. That model can sustain events and activities, but limits future large capital expenditures.

Funding is only part of the problem as funders also need evidence of tangible outcomes. Hispanas Amigas does not yet have clearly defined programs, stated goals, or a way to track outcomes. Without those, even a strong application cannot show what a grant would accomplish. There's clearly so much passion; they just need more direction.

Our project builds the foundation that turns this momentum into fundable, measurable work. First, we'll narrow the group's activities into a few core programs with defined goals. Next, we will design a simple outcome-tracking system so each program produces data a funder can use. We will then map the steps to federal 501(c)(3) status and evaluate fiscal sponsorship as a bridge to grants in the meantime. Finally, we will identify funding sources and culturally grounded partnerships that fit the group's values. The result will be a step-by-step roadmap that lets Hispanas Amigas grow without losing the community that made its demand so abundant.

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FROM INCARCERATION TO RESTORATION

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Abstract

The Transformational Prison Project (TPP) is a Boston-based nonprofit organization that helps individuals who were incarcerated as youth and released as adults adjust back into society. TPP emphasizes healing, accountability, and reentry for these individuals, grounded in restorative justice practiced in three areas: in institutions, in the community, and in education and narrative change. The organization was founded in 2013 at MCI-Norfolk and has since expanded to five additional Massachusetts correctional institutions, reaching thousands. What makes TPP so effective is that it is led by formerly incarcerated individuals who can share their stories and experiences to help others adjust to society when little other support is available to them.

This report will analyze TPP's history, mission and values, programs, governance, and financing structure, concluding with a SWOT analysis that will help guide the organization in its future endeavors. Identifying its strengths (leaders with lived experience) and weaknesses (financing constraints), we will assess opportunities for growth (finding sustainable financing options) and potential threats the organization should be wary of (dependence on grants). The final step of this analysis will be to draw comparisons with similar nonprofits and identify ways the organization can improve. Focusing on areas such as funding, outreach, and sustainability, this analysis will provide TPP with recommendations to expand its impact on a larger scale.

ABSTRACTS

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CYRUS INSTITUTE OF KNOWLEDGE: GLOBAL GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND HUMAN PROGRESS

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Abstract

As funders increasingly look for evidence of outcomes, nonprofits that advance education and research in developing regions have an increased opportunity to make a strong impact. This presentation shares a case study of the Cyrus Institute of Knowledge (CIK), a nonprofit inspired by Cyrus the Great's commitment to multicultural education. CIK conducts theoretical and applied research on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, and is transitioning towards a think tank structure that combines business consulting with scholarly experience for both students and professionals. Using a SWOT framework, we identify CIK's strengths which are a distinguished record of institutional affiliations, international conferences, and a mission rooted in human capital development. We then explore how CIK can build on this foundation by sharpening its mission narrative, refreshing its brand to reflect its global reach, and improving its documentation of outcomes for grant makers and donors. Drawing on benchmarking against other metrics-driven higher-education nonprofits, we propose a measurement framework that uses data CIK already generates to a small set of OKRs reviewed quarterly and an annual impact snapshot. The presentation offers guidance for education nonprofits looking to optimize donor communications and grant applications.

Keywords: nonprofit sustainability, impact measurement, OKRs, think tank, grant funding

ABSTRACTS

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Humanistic Values, Quality of Life, and Democracy in an Evolving Global Order

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Abstract

The world is undergoing a period of profound geopolitical, economic, and social change. Competition among major powers, regional conflicts, technological transformation, economic uncertainty, and growing public dissatisfaction are reshaping the international system. Yet amid these developments, one fundamental question often receives insufficient attention: Are governments and international institutions serving the interests, rights, and aspirations of ordinary people?

The voices of citizens concerned about their quality of life, personal freedoms, economic security, and human dignity are too often overlooked in discussions dominated by military strategy, national power, and geopolitical competition. Governments frequently measure success through economic growth, military capabilities, international influence, and strategic advantage. These measures are important, but they do not tell the whole story. A country may be powerful internationally while many of its citizens struggle with unaffordable housing, inadequate health care, declining educational opportunities, economic insecurity, or a loss of confidence in democratic institutions.

This essay examines the evolving global order, with particular attention to the United States and the Middle East. It explores the relationship between military power and human development, considers the consequences of current geopolitical strategies, and asks whether growing public demands for democracy, accountability, and a better quality of life may reshape political priorities in the years ahead.

The central argument is that lasting national strength and international stability cannot be measured by military capabilities alone. They also depend on the quality of public institutions, the protection of individual rights, economic opportunity, social trust, and the ability of governments to respond to the legitimate needs of their populations.



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INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

REFLECTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES

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Abstract

Brazil seeks to develop its natural resources in the Amazon as it grows and develops economically and internationally. A major issue regarding such progress involves the rights and wellbeing of the region's Indigenous peoples. Conflicting policies range from acknowledging a wide array of distinctive rights for these people vs. forcing them to adapt to "progress" and national priorities. To clarify the issues, parallels between the United States and Brazil are discussed and generalized.

Keywords: Amazon, Jair Bolsonaro, Indigenous, American Indian, Self-Determinism.