

»Networks in changing business ecosystems«

9th International Research Symposium Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg [HYBRID], June 24-25, 2026

Venue

Hybrid (online and in-person)
symposium at Helmut-
Schmidt-University, Hamburg,
Germany, held on June 24-25,
2026

Call for Contributions

Abstracts (max. 500 words)
relating to the symposium
theme *Networks in changing
business ecosystems* are
invited. Please include author
affiliations and contact details
of corresponding author.

Key Dates

1 March 2026: Deadline for
submission of abstracts –
early submissions are
welcome!

15 March 2026: Decisions on
acceptance

June 24 & 25, 2026: Hybrid
Research Symposium in
Hamburg

Start: Wednesday 2 p.m.

Close: Thursday 4 p.m.

Contact

Abstract submission & further
information:

A/Prof. Susanne Gretzinger
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Prof. Susanne Royer
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*Building collaborative research
between Australia and Germany:
GAP - German Australian Research
Project on Clusters since 2006*



Photo credit: M. Royer, L. Royer

SYMPOSIUM THEME

Understanding how firms and other stakeholders cooperate and exploit networked resources is the core agenda of this research symposium. Increasingly, owning resources appears to be less relevant to contemporary organisations than having access to resourceful networks.

Businesses need to consider the interplay between local activities in regional clusters and those embedded in global value chains in turbulent times. Their various value creation activities may follow different organisational principles – exchange modes vary between market, hierarchy and cooperative governance forms. The notion of cultivating and accessing resourceful networks thus is significant. Business activities extend beyond the focal firm and into a dynamic relational space which connects stakeholders, other firms and industry participants in changing ecosystems.

The organisers of the research symposium have the aim to bring together researchers from diverse backgrounds to share knowledge and insights into the topic of networks in changing business environments. Building on this interdisciplinary exchange we seek to establish a broad cooperative research agenda about the contemporary role of businesses in an increasingly networked world.

INVITATION TO ATTEND

The symposium is primarily held **in-person in Hamburg (Germany)**. However, we also offer the **possibility to join online**. Hence, the symposium will be in a hybrid-mode.

INVITED TOPICS

We are interested in developing knowledge about the role of relational resources in a networked environment within changing business ecosystems.

We invite papers from a wide range of multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches in the following topic areas:

- Ecosystems and transformation
- Ecosystems in regenerative economies
- Sustainability-oriented strategies
- Stakeholder engagement in ecosystems
- Challenge-led innovation
- Regional resources/location advantage
- Resilience in ecosystems, networks & value chains
- Entrepreneurship in regional networks

ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS

The symposium will be a combination of keynote speeches, paper presentations and highly interactive sessions. We strive for an informal set-up and a lot of interaction. There is **no fee for participation** but it is expected participants pay for their transport, accommodation and meals during the conference.

ORGANISING TEAM

Prof. Wenzel Matiaske, HSU, Germany
A/Prof. Susanne Gretzinger, SDU, Denmark
Prof. Susanne Royer, Euf, Germany
Prof. Kerry Brown, Edith Cowan Uni, Australia
Prof. John Burgess, Torrens University, Australia
Dr. Nils Grashof, FSU Jena, Germany
Dr. Sidsel Grimstad, Griffith University, Australia
A/Prof. Mads Bruun Ingstrup, SDU, Denmark