

# BAM 2023 CONFERENCE

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BUSINESS  
SCHOOL

## Operations, Logistics and Supply Chain Management Track

### Track Chairs

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- Mr Mark Bentley – Anglia Ruskin University, UK

As we move into the second quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the world has witnessed a significant shift towards **disruptive sustainability** and the adoption of **innovative technologies**. Together, disruptive sustainability and technological innovation have a significant role in achieving the SDGs and the potential transformation of society towards a sustainable future. Digital transformation for sustainable development is expected to be a precondition for the six major transformations required to achieve the goal of [TWI2050](#) – human capita & demography; consumption and production; decarbonisation & energy; food, biosphere & water; smart cities; and a digital revolution (United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2018). Achieving the SDGs requires integrated pathways, such as between the digital revolution and the consumption and production pathways, i.e., “**Consumption and production** cut across several of the other transitions, by ensuring an efficient use of resources and providing an ideal entry point for integrated pathway development” and “**Digital technologies** support the sustainability transition and cut across all the other transformations.” Yet, the UN reports, “Current trends are not moving towards sustainable development” ([IIASA](#), 2018, p.70). The ‘responsible consumption, efficient production and digital revolution’ integrated pathway to sustainable development requires a better understanding of how to get from where we are today to where we want to be in 2030 and beyond. To do so, the UN says it is necessary to answer the following 3 questions: *how do we meet the SDGs; what are the synergies and trade-offs; and what the costs of pursuing social goals without meeting sustainability goals and the other way around?* ([UNSDSN](#), 2022)

To date, we have moved from industrial age to the network age and now in the digitalisation era that can accelerate and maximise the effects of sustainability measures. With this radical transition, traditional models of growth and productivity are frequently being challenged at societal, environmental, and economic levels. We live in an era that

accentuates the values of intangibles to create tangible outcomes, and in which production, acquisition, and flow of data and knowledge drive the established and emerging economies. This development, has raised a range of questions such as, *how have these transformations impacted existing socio-economic structures and vice versa? What approaches can be taken to achieve the SDGs? What does the fundamental system transformation that is required look like?* New 'disruptive sustainability' value propositions and paradigms are leading to new business and productivity models.

To respond to disruptive sustainability in the operations, logistics, supply chain management (OLSCM) field, practitioners and policymakers need to understand not only the opportunities to apply a disruptive approach to creating new and adaptive business models, but also how to identify and manage the risk, along with the tools to support their decision-making, and capabilities required to transform. The OLSCM track can contribute to the disruptive sustainability agenda initially through the development and capacity building of theoretical models and discourse that critique and develop the integrated pathways model towards sustainable development. The theme of **disruptive sustainability** also allows the OLSCM track to reappraise and re-evaluate some of the contemporary **digital technology** tools associated with the industry disruption and how these can be effectively applied to current and new business models in the future, creating new value, growth, and productivity. A new objective is being introduced to this year's track, whereby we welcome practitioner papers and industry collaborators. We are introducing **practitioner-focused session** to develop impact and engage more meaningfully with practitioners and policymakers on current to potential challenges in the area of food security, logistics 4.0, sustainable food supply chains, circular food economy, etc.

Full and Development Papers from researchers (including PhD and Early Career Researchers) and practitioners at all stages of their careers are welcomed as these will be discussed in an encouraging and supportive environment.