



**Organization Theory's new special themed section:  
'Catalyzing and Crystallizing'**

**Call for Proposals**

*Organization Theory* is establishing a new special themed section – '*Catalyzing & Crystallizing*' – and invites proposals by potential guest editors that fall within the [aims and scope](#) of the journal (for details, see <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/OTT>). A variety of forms of contribution are welcomed, including conventional academic theory papers and scholarly essays. The first of these new special themed sections will be published in 2027, and they will become a regular feature of the journal once or twice per calendar year.

In creating *Catalyzing & Crystallizing*, we are seeking to promote scholarly engagement with novel and innovative ways of organizational theorizing that are thought-provoking, agenda-setting, and forward-looking, thereby *crystallizing* nascent and emerging new ways of thinking about organization, organizing, the organized, and organization-society relations. This includes explorations into theorizing at the interstices with neighbouring disciplinary fields that can provide us with a better understanding of empirical phenomena and unresolved conceptual problems. We also welcome proposals that aim at *catalyzing* current understandings and ideas in ways that bring fresh perspectives to bear or offer a new coherence from which novel explorations may proceed. Proposals should explicitly challenge existing conventions and push the boundaries of theoretical knowledge in our domain of scholarly inquiry.

The following instructions are meant to help those interested in developing *Catalyzing & Crystallizing* proposals, and give an indication of how the *Organization Theory* editorial team will evaluate them.

The **deadline** for submission for the initial round of *Catalyzing & Crystallizing* proposals is **March 15, 2026**. Please submit your proposal to: [orgtheoryjournal@gmail.com](mailto:orgtheoryjournal@gmail.com)

*Catalyzing & Crystallizing* proposals should not be more than five pages long (excluding references) and contain the following:

1. A provisional title for, and short thematic outline of, the planned special themed section.
2. An explanation of the special themed section's objectives and scope, including potential theoretical problems and questions to be addressed in the proposed *Catalyzing & Crystallizing* section.

3. A justification for dedicating a section of *Organization Theory* to this particular theme: Why and how will the envisaged special themed section help in *crystallizing* nascent and emerging novel ways of thinking about organizing? How will the section contribute to *catalyzing* elements of existing thought into more coherent forms of theorizing? How will the special themed section provide a firmer foundation for future research on (dis-)organizing, (dis-)organization, the (dis-)organized, and organization-society relationships? What are the practical and political implications for our domain of scholarly inquiry that might be addressed through this special themed section?

4. A positioning of the expected theoretical contribution(s) within the existing research landscape (related publications, Special Issues, or themed sections in other academic outlets), explaining the proposed *Catalyzing & Crystallizing* section's promise to push the boundaries of theorizing in the field of organization and management studies further, including reflections on how bridging boundaries to neighbouring disciplines might help to do so.

5. A description of the proposed team of Guest Editors (up to three people), including a short biography for each, outlining their thematic expertise and editorial experience as well as an indicative list of relevant publications in relation to the proposed special themed section. A preference is given to teams reflecting the diversity of our community of scholarship in terms of, for instance, geography, gender, academic seniority, or disciplinary background.

6. A brief indication of how the proposed team will attract contributions from a diversity of authors from around the world. Please note that the resulting Call for Papers for a *Catalyzing & Crystallizing* section must be truly open to any researcher working in the fields addressing the topic, and therefore cannot be restricted to researchers participating in specific sub-communities, network meetings, or workshops.

If your proposal is successful, a process involving the *Organization Theory* editorial team will follow to develop and shape the final Call for Papers. The successful proposers will be invited to be Guest Editors of the section and a member of the *Organization Theory* editorial team will join them to provide guidance and support throughout the process from publication of the final Call for Papers, to the R+R process, to acceptance and publication of papers. We anticipate that these sections will contain three or four papers, plus an introduction which the Guest Editors and the involved *Organization Theory* editor will co-author.

In case of any questions, please reach out directly to the current Editors-in-Chief, [Markus Höllerer](#) and [Sigrid Quack](#), and/or the incoming Editor-in-Chief, [Rick Delbridge](#).