



Editorial—From closed science to open science, towards a human-centred ethos of innovation

[10.29073/jer.v3i2.57](https://doi.org/10.29073/jer.v3i2.57)

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It is said that, one day, the mathematician Michael Atiyah tried to explain to his mother what it meant to be a researcher. She listened, smiled, and then asked: “Now I understand, my son—but why do they pay you to do that?” This anecdote, often recounted in academic circles, continues to illustrate the persistent gap between scientific work and the public perception of its value.

Although we recognise that knowledge is the true engine of progress, science remains largely confined to restricted circles. Since the seventeenth century, when the *Philosophical Transactions* first appeared, scholarly journals have played a crucial mediating role between knowledge and society. Yet the academic publishing ecosystem faces new dilemmas: metrics that overshadow meaning, the pressure to publish at all costs, and an increasing distance between scientific production and social utility.

If the twentieth century measured science by *impact*, the twenty-first must measure it by *meaning*—and by ethical coherence. This transition is embodied in the global movement towards Open Science. The policies of the European Union, particularly *Horizon Europe*, the *European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)*, and the *Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs)* of the EIT, have reshaped the scientific landscape. By promoting the principles of FAIR data (*Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable*) and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), Europe has placed openness, transparency, and human responsibility at the core of its research agenda. This transformation is not merely technical but profoundly cultural—redefining the relationship between the researcher, the institution, and society itself.

As articulated in the European Commission’s Open Science Policy Platform Report (European Commission, 2020) and the UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science (UNESCO, 2021), openness is not only a methodological demand but a cultural and ethical stance. It redefines science as a shared good — a collective endeavour grounded in transparency, inclusiveness, and epistemic justice. In this sense, the contemporary movement toward Open Science resonates with broader philosophical traditions that view knowledge as a relational and moral act (cf. Habermas, 1984; Merton, 1973), where truth gains legitimacy through dialogue, accessibility, and responsibility.

The *Journal of Entrepreneurial Researchers (JER)* actively embraces this epistemological turning point. Its mission is not only to disseminate rigorous, peer-reviewed research but to do so through an inclusive, interdisciplinary, and ethically grounded lens. Each issue seeks to bridge scientific excellence with social relevance, ensuring that entrepreneurial research contributes meaningfully to the broader human condition.

The present volume (Vol. 3, No. 2, 2025) is a landmark in this trajectory. It brings together six original contributions that collectively exemplify the transition from *closed science* to *open, responsible, and human-centred innovation*. More than discrete studies, these works form a mosaic of open scientific practices, where methodological diversity becomes a living dialogue between technology, ethics, and humanity.



Highlights of Volume 3, Issue 2

1. Quantum-Enhanced AI Entrepreneurship in Tourism: Transforming Dynamic and Personalized Business Models

A. Salamzadeh, L.-P. Dana, M. Hadizadeh & N. Rastgoo

The issue opens with a truly frontier contribution that integrates quantum-driven artificial intelligence with entrepreneurial strategy in tourism. Through simulations using twelve qubits, the authors construct an adaptive decision-making model capable of anticipating traveller preferences and responding to uncertainty in real time. This article positions *JER* at the frontier of global research on AI, sustainability, and digital transformation, demonstrating how quantum computing can reimagine entrepreneurship for complex and dynamic environments.

2. Ethics, Truth, and Values in Political Economy Research: Implications for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

A. M. R. Leite & M. V. de Vasconcelos

This conceptual essay argues that ethics and values are not contaminants of scientific neutrality but its epistemic infrastructure. By integrating insights from philosophy, political economy, and entrepreneurship, the authors propose that the pursuit of truth in science inherently involves moral responsibility. Their contribution challenges reductionist models of value-free inquiry and positions ethics as a generative framework for responsible innovation and reflexive entrepreneurship.

3. Unpaid Work and Mental Health During a Pandemic: Evidence from the UK

M. V. de Vasconcelos, E. Santos, & R. D. Santos

Drawing on longitudinal panel data from the *Understanding Society* survey in the United Kingdom, this study provides robust empirical evidence that the burden of unpaid work, especially domestic and caregiving tasks, significantly exacerbated mental health inequalities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the immediate findings, the article reveals the deep interconnection between social policy, well-being, and gendered labour structures—reinforcing the journal's commitment to addressing entrepreneurship as a social and human system.

4. Innovation in the Financial Sector: An Analysis of the Use of Blockchain Technology in Financial Institutions in Portugal

C. Lopes & R. Navas

This empirical study examines the adoption of blockchain and decentralized finance (DeFi) within Portuguese financial institutions. Based on a survey of 168 respondents, the authors identify how these technologies can enhance transparency, trust, and efficiency while reshaping the competitive landscape of banking and investment. The research highlights how digital transformation in finance aligns with the open-innovation paradigm, encouraging regulatory agility and institutional resilience.

5. Entrepreneurial Innovation through Quality Function Deployment: From Customer Voice to Measurable Design in a Ready-to-Eat Taro Product

M. Teles

At the intersection of engineering, sustainability, and entrepreneurship, this paper introduces an ISO 16355-aligned framework that translates the Voice of the Customer (VoC) into measurable design and production parameters—such as pH, shelf life, oxygen transmission rate (OTR), water vapor transmission rate (WVTR), percentage of recycled content, and supplier certification standards. The study not only operationalises the concept of sustainability beyond declarative claims but also provides a replicable blueprint for responsible innovation and *Stage-Gate* governance in food entrepreneurship.



6. Technological Innovation and Management in Rehabilitation Nursing

G. Jardim (ISCTE)

Closing the issue, this article explores the integration of technological innovation into rehabilitation nursing, bridging clinical practice, academic entrepreneurship, and strategic management. Through comparative analysis of international reference systems (Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, KiReS) and national initiatives such as *DigiNurse* and *TecCare*, the study reveals how technology can personalise care, improve outcomes, and humanise healthcare systems. It stands as a compelling demonstration of how entrepreneurial and academic collaboration can deliver measurable, sustainable benefits to society.

Conclusion

Across these six studies—spanning quantum intelligence, ethics, social well-being, financial technology, sustainable design, and healthcare innovation—this issue embodies the guiding principle of the *Journal of Entrepreneurial Researchers*: that science achieves its highest purpose when it serves humanity. Entrepreneurship is thus not merely an economic function, but a dynamic synthesis of ethics, technology, and social value.

By publishing this collection, the *JER* reaffirms its commitment to a human-centred ethos of innovation, fully aligned with the European Research Area, the Open Science movement, and the frameworks of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). The journal seeks to advance knowledge that is both rigorous and transformative—knowledge that connects discovery with meaning, and innovation with dignity.

Editorial Note (2026): Commitment to Triple-Blind Peer Review

Beginning in 2026, the *Journal of Entrepreneurial Researchers* will progressively implement a triple-blind peer review system, ensuring that authors, reviewers, and handling editors remain mutually anonymous during the evaluation process. This initiative strengthens the journal's commitment to equity, diversity, and research integrity, fully in line with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the DOAJ Best Practices 2025.

Positioning Statement

This editorial represents not only the introduction of Volume 3, Issue 2, but also the consolidation of *JER* as an emerging European and global platform for open, interdisciplinary, and responsible research in entrepreneurship and innovation.

It directly reflects the journal's adherence to Scopus and Web of Science selection criteria: regular publication continuity, international author diversity, strong ethical and editorial standards, thematic relevance, and visible engagement with contemporary research policies such as Open Science, FAIR data, and RRI.

The growing international recognition of the *Journal of Entrepreneurial Researchers* is also reflected in its distinguished author and editorial network. Volume 3, Issue 2 includes a contribution by Leo-Paul Dana, listed among the world's Top 2 % most-cited scientists according to Stanford University's global classification, whose seminal work on entrepreneurial ecosystems and cross-cultural entrepreneurship continues to inspire the field worldwide.

The editorial board likewise features David B. Audretsch, another Top 2 % Stanford scholar and one of the founding architects of the modern research agenda in innovation and regional development; Vanessa Ratten, also ranked in the Top 2 %, globally recognised for pioneering studies in entrepreneurial learning, sports entrepreneurship, and social innovation; and Dafna Kariv, a leading voice in entrepreneurship education, women's leadership, and gender-inclusive innovation policy.

Collectively, their involvement reflects *JER*'s ability to bridge continents, generations, and perspectives — integrating economic, social, and humanistic dimensions of entrepreneurship. Their participation attests to the journal's scientific maturity and reinforces its commitment to excellence, mentorship, and the dissemination of



knowledge that transcends borders. Together, these affiliations demonstrate JER's capacity to unite emerging and established scholars in a genuinely international dialogue — a core criterion of the Scopus and Web of Science selection frameworks.

By uniting scientific excellence with accessibility and societal value, the *Journal of Entrepreneurial Researchers* stands as a reference for the new generation of academic publishing—one where knowledge is not only produced but meaningfully shared, reinforcing the conviction that innovation, when centred on the human being, is the most enduring form of progress.

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Ethical Statement

Conflict of Interest: Nothing to declare. **Funding:** Nothing to declare.



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