

Call for papers

Scandinavian Journal of Information Systems (SJIS) **Special Issue on: *Shaping the Future of Agentic Systems***

Guest Editors

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Motivations for the Special Issue

Agentic systems—software-based technologies capable of sensing, learning, and acting autonomously (Baird & Maruping, 2021; Murray et al., 2021)—are increasingly woven into people’s private and professional lives as well as organizational workflows. These systems not only automate and augment knowledge work through intelligent decision aids, adaptive algorithms, and autonomous agents, but also participate in shaping outcomes through dynamic interaction, contextual reasoning, and independent action.

While such systems promise gains in efficiency, scalability, and decision quality, they also surface theoretical tensions and challenges for information systems (IS) practice. Much of IS theorizing to date has been developed in contexts where human users retained primacy in goal-setting, decision-making, and adaptation (e.g., DeLone & McLean, 1992; Burton-Jones & Grange, 2013). Agentic systems complicate this assumption, underscoring the need to revisit and extend IS perspectives and existing notions of IT use (Rieder, forthcoming).

These developments call for a renewed focus on delegation, collaboration, and control in hybrid human–technology constellations. Human agency, often framed in terms of intentionality, accountability, and will (Bandura, 2001; Archer, 1995), now coexists with systems that can constrain, complement, or substitute for human cognition and behavior (Murray et al., 2021). As scholars have noted, intentionality is no longer located exclusively in humans or technologies, but emerges from conjoined, negotiated, and situationally dynamic relationships (Baird & Maruping, 2021; Stelmaszak et al., 2025).

Focus of the Special Issue

The goal is to extend existing perspectives on agency and agentic systems by treating agency not as fixed ex ante but as enacted in practice (Rieder, forthcoming). Building on recent discourse around delegation and collaboration (e.g., Baird & Maruping, 2021; Fügner et al., 2022; Stelmaszak et al., 2025) and algorithmic control (Bellesia et al., 2022), we invite work that theorizes agency structures as situationally emergent and dynamically evolving rather than predetermined, and that shows how such structures are configured, renegotiated, and stabilized (or destabilized) across design, implementation, use, and governance.

On the design side, we encourage examinations of notions of effectiveness when the user is not the primary agent, including settings in which systems interact with one another (Shaikh & Vaast, 2023; Stelmaszak et al., 2025). We welcome human centered approaches that explicitly surface elements such as purpose, human values and value alignment (Schmager et al., 2025), and transparency/explainability, alongside novel approaches of reciprocal learning.

Moreover, we seek accounts that unpack configurations of agency structure and the evolving nature of human–technology dyads in practice—for instance, how goal structures are negotiated when agentic systems are implemented with specific aims while the systems embody their own sets of goals. Such

studies can clarify how delegation logics, coordination mechanisms, and control regimes take form in real settings.

With respect to use, we are interested in the fluidity of agency structure, the tensions it creates, and the conditions under which agency alignment and conflict may produce superior performance or erode effective use (Rieder, forthcoming). We particularly welcome work that traces user-system processes of learning and adaptation over time (Te'eni et al., 2023).

Finally, we encourage contributions on the governance of agentic systems that probe the implications of shifting agency for oversight, escalation, handover, and accountability. This can entail accounts of how organizations develop and enact mechanisms to foster the responsible development and deployment of agentic systems, including guardrails, performance metrics, and system audits.

We welcome contributions addressing different types of agentic systems—not only agentic AI/GenAI/AGI—and keep agency central to the theorization. We are also open to submissions that explore these aspects from different angles, not just limited to our ideas, including alternative framings, diverse contexts, and varied methodological approaches, provided that agency remains in the core analytic focus.

Topics of Interest (indicative, not exhaustive)

- Mechanisms of delegation, oversight, and collaboration in human–technology dyads
- Agency in human-machine collaborations
- Design principles for enabling integration of agentic systems into human workflows
- Multi-agent systems, including interactions of multiple human and/or technology agents
- Forms and configurations of agency structure
- Dynamics and emergence of agency structure
- Organizational uses and management of agentic systems
- Human-centered approaches to designing agentic systems
- Human values and value alignment in design and deployment of agentic systems
- Cognitive and emotional aspects of using agentic systems
- Effective use of agentic systems
- Adoption and diffusion of agentic systems
- Processes of (reciprocal) learning and adaptation
- Agentic systems for creative tasks
- Outcomes of agentic systems usage (e.g., decision-making)
- Ethical considerations and societal implications specific to agentic systems
- Governance structures and mechanisms for agentic systems, including responsible development and deployment

Methods and Submission Types

We welcome empirical articles using diverse methodological approaches, including qualitative, quantitative, configurational, and mixed methods approaches, design science, experiments, and computational modeling and simulation work (e.g., agent-based models), as well as theory articles. Literature reviews are welcome if they make strong theoretical contributions. Studies can be situated in a broad scope of contexts and settings, taking individual, organizational, or systemic perspectives.

This Special Issue will consist of 1) the best submissions from an open Call for Papers; and 2) invited papers that are extended or modified versions of selected papers accepted at the following venues **i) ECIS2026: [Track 10 Cognition and Behavior in IS](#), ii) IFIP WG6.11 I3E2026.**

Timeline

- Submissions due: November 30th, 2026
- Initial screening decisions: December 30th, 2026
- Round 1 decisions: February 28th, 2027
- Revisions due: May 30th, 2027
- Round 2 decisions: July 30th, 2027
- Second revisions (if needed): September 30th, 2027
- Anticipated publication date: November, 2027

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