CALL FOR PAPERS

ALIGNING FINANCE WITH SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

About

The increasing complexity of global challenges—ranging from climate transition and persistent inequality to fiscal constraints and geopolitical fragmentation—has highlighted the limitations of conventional economic frameworks and financial practices. Traditional approaches have fallen short in addressing systemic, interdependent, and long-term transformations. In this context, it is urgent to rethink how economic theory can better inform public policy, as well as how public institutions can improve the design and implementation of financial decisions (Mazzucato 2025, 2014).

We invite original research articles offering novel theoretical and/ or empirical contributions addressing one or more of the thematic areas outlined below. In particular, we seek insights directly relevant to real-world policy and financial decision-making, through a transformative lens. We invite proposals from women economists, researchers, and practitioners, with priority given to contributors from the Global South (full submission guidelines can be found below). By encouraging contributions from diverse regions and professional backgrounds, the initiative aims to broaden the perspectives shaping economic and financial discourse.

Topics of interest include:

1. **Financing and Shaping Structural Transformation**

Explores how financial systems can move beyond passive allocation of capital to actively shaping inclusive economic transformations, with attention to how financial instruments can be designed to close gender gaps. Selected contributions will examine the role of public finance, development banks, and innovative fiscal instruments in driving structural change. Particular attention may be given to how financial tools can support a green transition while addressing social and regional inequalities (Golka et al. 2024). Contributions are also encouraged to examine under what conditions sustainable finance may reinforce existing patterns of accumulation and value extraction rather than supporting transformative change (Gabor and Sylla 2023; Newell 2025).

2. **Women Leaders and Sustainable Finance Outcomes**

Despite growing attention to sustainable finance, financial systems and institutions remain predominantly male-led, particularly in senior decision-making roles across public finance, development banking, and financial regulation. We welcome studies that examine how gendered power structures and institutional norms shape economic and financial decision-making, and what this implies for development and sustainability outcomes.

3. Mission-Oriented Innovation Finance and the Entrepreneurial State

Focuses on the role of governments as proactive agents in shaping markets and directing innovation towards SDGs and societal goals (Mazzucato 2025), with attention to how mission-oriented mandates and conditionality frameworks can embed gender-responsive targets and accountability. Contributions may investigate the design, governance, and implementation of mission-oriented policies across sectors such as climate, health, and economic inclusion. Contributions may explore how public institutions can build the capabilities required to lead complex, cross-sectoral transformations, and rethink the role of the state as a driver of innovation and public value. Particular attention may be placed on the role of public financial institutions such as development banks or public wealth funds. The aim is to rethink the role of the state as a driver of innovation and public value (Mazzucato and Macfarlane 2023; Feil et al. 2025; Humphrey 2022; Griffith-Jones et al. 2022).

4. Rethinking Financial Governance, Public Financial Decision-Making and Value Creation

Examines how public financial decision-making can be reoriented toward long-term, sustainable, and inclusive outcomes. Contributions are encouraged to examine how power relations, conflicting interests, and distributional dynamics shape what is valued, what is considered investable, and whose interests are advanced or marginalised through financial governance (Gabor 2020). Contributions may address how ministries of finance and key institutions can integrate uncertainty, interdependence, and systemic risk into their frameworks, with particular attention to how institutional responses differ across Global South and Global North contexts. Contributions may also explore how gendered norms, career pathways, and institutional cultures shape who participates in high-level financial decision-making, and explore how financial governance can better align with broader societal objectives.

5. Co-Creating Innovative Public Policies for Inclusive and Sustainable Systems

Highlights the importance of collaborative and experimental approaches to public policy design and implementation (Mazzucato 2025). Research may explore co-creation processes, policy innovation labs, and new governance models that bring together diverse stakeholders. Contributions may explore how governments can effectively move from experimentation to scale while ensuring inclusivity and systemic impact. The focus is on building adaptive, responsive, and future-oriented policy ecosystems. This includes co-creation processes that deliberately widen women's participation in policy design, not as a downstream consultation but as a core input to the process.

6. New Economic Thinking and Diverse Perspectives in Practice

Encourages contributions that challenge dominant economic paradigms and bring forward new ways of understanding value, labour, growth, and development. Successful contributions will elevate diverse perspectives, including those from different regions, disciplines, and professional backgrounds. Submissions may explore how alternative frameworks can be applied in real-world policy and institutional contexts. The aim is to foster a more plural, inclusive, and practice-oriented economic discourse.

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About the partnership

This call is a cooperation between the Women Leaders in Finance Platform (WIF) and the Strategic Economics Alliance (SEA) at the University College London Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) that reflects a shared vision of advancing new approaches to economic thinking and financial practices. SEA seeks to amplify the voices of women economists in economic theory and policymaking, building on IIPP's strong intellectual foundation focused on rethinking value creation, the role of public institutions, and mission-oriented policy frameworks. WIF, in turn, operates at the interface of finance and policy, engaging women leaders directly involved in economic decision-making. This synergy enables a more grounded, policy-relevant exploration of Global South approaches, linking conceptual innovation with institutional realities.

Indicative timeline

- Proposals due: **September 30**
- Successful authors notified: **Early October**
- First draft for workshop due: **January 15, 2027**
- Workshop: **mid-February, 2027**
- Written feedback shared: **end of February 2027**
- Final drafts due: **May 31, 2027**
- Selected contributions will have the opportunity to participate in IIPP's 2027 Rethinking the State Forum (**June 2027**), and be considered for publication in an international research outlet.

Elegibity

- This Call for Papers is open for research proposals from women economists, researchers, and practitioners, with priority given to authors from the Global South. Submissions from Latin America and cross-regional comparisons from the Global South are encouraged.
- Research led by an early-career scholar (less than 10 years since PhD) on the basis of a partnership with a middle- to senior-career scholar and/or practitioner will be given priority.
- Partnerships between a scholar and a civil servant will be given priority.

Selection Criteria

Scope: The core research question addresses one or more of the thematic areas outlined in this call. Priority will be given to submissions from Latin America and cross-regional comparisons from the Global South.

Methodology: The proposed research demonstrates an appropriate methodological approach, with claims grounded theoretically and/or empirically.

Originality: The author(s) identifies novel expected contributions to the literature on the selected topic.

Policy relevance: The proposal identifies applications of expected research findings to real-world policy and financial decision-making.

Voice: Priority will be given to submissions by women economists and those that elevate Global South perspectives.

Submission Requirements

Initial submission criteria: Extended abstract of up to **500 words**, outlining the research question, methodology, and expected contribution, before September 30 to contact@womenfinance.org

Final Papers (for selected contributions only): Papers between 5,000 and 8,000 words, not including footnotes and references. Successful authors will be notified in October 2026. A complete timeline is included above. All submissions must meet the following editorial standards:

- **Citation style:** All submissions must follow the Harvard referencing style with guidance available at the UCL website: https://library-guides.ucl.ac.uk/harvard/a-z.
- **Reference management:** Authors must use a reference manager (e.g. Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote) and submit a structured bibliography file alongside the abstract/full manuscript. All in-text citations must correspond to a verified bibliographic entry.
- **Source integrity:** Every factual claim must be traceable to a verifiable, publicly accessible source. Internal, unpublished, or forthcoming references must be flagged explicitly and accompanied by documentation confirming the data exists and is available for editorial audit. Authors are responsible for ensuring that cited sources directly support the claims made in the text.
- **URLs:** All URLs must be live and accurate at the time of submission. Broken or inaccessible links must be replaced with archival versions (e.g. via the Internet Archive) or removed.
- **Figures and tables:** All visual elements must be numbered sequentially, titled, and include a source attribution line. Units must be clearly stated and applied consistently throughout the paper. Authors are encouraged to use automatic cross-referencing and caption tools to keep figure and table numbering consistent throughout the document.

Contact: For any further information and proposal submissions, please email to **contact@womenfinance.org**

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