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Establishing an Interdisciplinary Platform for Economics, Governance and Sustainable Development: Conceptual Foundations and Research Agenda

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Abstract: The increasing complexity of development challenges has strengthened the need for research platforms that connect economic systems, governance, and sustainable development within a single analytical frame. Recent evidence shows that institutional quality, governance effectiveness, and policy coherence are closely linked to sustainable development performance across developing and emerging economies. This paper presents the conceptual foundations, rationale, and research agenda of the Journal of Economics, Governance and Sustainable Development (JEGSD) as a response to this need. It positions the journal as an interdisciplinary platform for theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented scholarship, with relevance to developing and emerging economies. The paper also outlines the journal's thematic scope, publication orientation, and future research priorities.

Keywords: Economic systems, governance, sustainable development, interdisciplinary research, institutional quality, academic publishing.

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1. Introduction. Contemporary development challenges are increasingly interconnected. Economic performance, institutional quality, environmental sustainability, and governance effectiveness now interact in ways that make narrowly disciplinary analysis less adequate for understanding policy outcomes. Recent review evidence also shows that emerging governance domains such as digital governance and green governance are developing as cross-cutting fields that connect public administration, technology, sustainability, and development policy (Tariq et al., 2026; Usman et al., 2024).

Within this context, the establishment of JEGSD represents a deliberate effort to create a scholarly platform that welcomes integrative research at the intersection of economic systems, governance, and sustainable development. The journal is intended to support work that does not treat these domains in isolation, but instead examines how they jointly shape development outcomes in both theory and practice (Abel et al., 2025; Cavalheiro et al., 2025).

2. Conceptual Foundations.

Recent empirical research shows that institutional quality is strongly associated with sustainable development outcomes in developing countries. Evidence from multi-country panel studies indicates that stronger institutions contribute positively to economic sustainability and are also linked to better environmental outcomes, although the strength and channels of these effects vary across regions and institutional dimensions (Azam et al., 2021; Hunjra et al., 2023).

Research further suggests that governance quality matters for progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Transparency, stability, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, and corruption control have all been associated with stronger SDG performance. These findings reinforce the view that sustainable development is not only a function of economic resources, but also of the quality of institutions and governance systems through which those resources are managed (Abel et al., 2025; Ikram & Boudraa, 2025).

At the same time, recent work on public spending in emerging markets shows that fiscal interventions are more likely to support sustainable development when they operate within strong institutional settings. This suggests that economic systems, governance arrangements, and sustainability outcomes should be studied as mutually dependent rather than separate policy spheres (Le et al., 2025).

3. Rationale for an Interdisciplinary Research Platform.

The need for an interdisciplinary outlet is reinforced by current evidence of fragmentation across adjacent research streams. Recent systematic and bibliometric reviews show that important areas such as digital governance, green governance, and sustainability-related institutional research are expanding, but often remain dispersed across specialized literatures. This makes synthesis difficult and creates room for a journal that explicitly connects these conversations (Tariq et al., 2026; Usman et al., 2024).

This need is especially relevant for developing and emerging economies. Recent studies show that institutional quality has context-specific effects across regions, and that policy coherence becomes even more important where structural constraints and sustainability pressures coexist. Research focused on Sub-Saharan Africa likewise points to continuing gaps in understanding how governance and institutional quality shape greener and more sustainable development paths (Hunjra et al., 2023; Le et al., 2025).

(Cavalheiro et al., 2025; Tariq et al., 2026)JEGSD is therefore positioned to fill a real scholarly gap by publishing work that connects economic policy, governance structures, institutional quality, digital transformation, and sustainability outcomes within a unified development framework.

4. Scope and Thematic Focus.

The journal adopts a broad but coherent scope. It welcomes theoretical, empirical, review, and policy-oriented contributions on topics such as fiscal governance, institutional quality, public finance, financial integrity, digital governance, and sustainable development. This scope reflects the growing evidence that sustainability challenges are shaped by interacting economic, administrative, technological, and institutional factors rather than by a single domain alone (Tariq et al., 2026; Usman et al., 2024).

The journal is particularly relevant to scholarship on developing and emerging economies, where the interaction between governance capacity, public policy, institutional performance, and long-term development outcomes remains both analytically important and policy sensitive (Appiah et al., 2024; Le et al., 2025).

5. Publication Model and Academic Standards.

JEGSD operates as a peer-reviewed scholarly outlet committed to publishing work that is analytically rigorous, policy relevant, and accessible to a broad research audience. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary relevance reflects the direction of current research, where governance, sustainability, and development are increasingly addressed through integrative frameworks and evidence drawn from multiple domains (Tariq et al., 2026; Usman et al., 2024).

As an emerging journal, its credibility will depend not only on editorial consistency and review quality, but also on its ability to attract research that addresses pressing development questions with conceptual clarity, methodological rigor, and practical relevance (Abel et al., 2025; Cavalheiro et al., 2025).

6. Research Agenda and Future Directions.

The journal's future research agenda should reflect areas where current literature shows both policy relevance and room for further development. These include the role of institutional quality in sustainable

development, the interaction between public expenditure and governance performance, the contribution of digital governance to SDG achievement, and the environmental implications of governance and institutional indicators across regions (Azam et al., 2021; Le et al., 2025; Tariq et al., 2026).

There is also scope for deeper work on developing and emerging economies, especially in Africa, where questions of governance quality, structural transformation, environmental sustainability, and development resilience remain highly significant. A journal that consistently publishes in these areas can make a meaningful contribution to both scholarly debate and policy design (Appiah et al., 2024; Ikram & Boudraa, 2025).

7. Conclusion

The case for JEGSD is strengthened by recent research showing that sustainable development outcomes depend heavily on the interaction between institutions, governance quality, and economic policy. A journal dedicated to these intersections is therefore timely and justified. By serving as a platform for integrative scholarship, JEGSD can contribute to the advancement of knowledge on how development challenges are understood and addressed, particularly in developing and emerging economies (Abel et al., 2025; Azam et al., 2021; Hunjra et al., 2023).

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