Call for Special Session

Beyond the AI Bubble: The Promise and Peril of How Intelligent Tools Reshape Markets, Policy, and the Environment

Chair: Dan Gabriel Anghel (Bucharest University of Economic Studies)

Artificial intelligence and machine learning are rapidly transforming economics, offering powerful new tools for analyzing data, modeling complexity, and informing policy. Yet, alongside this enthusiasm, a growing strand of research warns of an emerging **AI bubble**—a surge of investment and expectation that may be outpacing genuine innovation and measurable productivity gains. Much like past episodes of speculative optimism, the current wave of AI-driven growth raises questions about valuation, sustainability, and the narratives that fuel belief in technological inevitability. Large language models, while celebrated for their generative and analytical capabilities, often illustrate these tensions: they produce compelling outputs but remain opaque, prone to bias, and difficult to verify. Economists are increasingly examining how such tools shape not only markets and labor but also the epistemic foundations of economic reasoning itself—how we decide what counts as credible knowledge or predictive insight. Subtle echoes of this dynamic can already be seen in finance, where algorithmic trading and forecasting amplify both speed and volatility, and in climate economics, where AI models promise foresight yet struggle with interpretive nuance and data asymmetry. The central challenge is to discern where genuine transformation ends and speculative hype begins.

This special session invites papers that critically engage with the unfolding debate around the "AI bubble" and the evolving role of intelligent systems in economic sciences, while also welcoming research that demonstrates the still largely untapped potential of AI to advance empirical and theoretical work in economics, finance, and climate-related analysis—particularly studies that reveal how these technologies can deepen understanding, improve forecasting, or inspire new ways of modeling complex systems.

JEL codes: O33, G17, Q54, C45, D83, E44, Q55

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, AI Bubble, Financial Markets, Climate Economics, Digital Economy, Sustainable Growth

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Deadline for paper submission: February 28, 2026

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