

Call for Papers



The 29th International Symposium on Logistics (ISL 2025)

Embedding Circularity in Supply Chains

**Wiesbaden, Germany
6th – 9th July 2025**



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SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME AND SYMPOSIUM AIMS

The fundamental goals of good logistics are to manage the movement of materials from the point of acquisition to the point of final consumption, as well as the associated information flows, with a view to providing excellent customer service at a reasonable cost. Achieving these goals requires fast and efficient management of internal and external resources within the context of global supply chain networks. Papers will represent the latest in academic thinking and case examples of successful implementations of ideas, models and concepts. The wider audience will therefore benefit from the knowledge and experience of leading practitioners and academics in this area.

The 29th International Symposium on Logistics aims to provide a forum for discussion between leading academics, researchers and practitioners who specialise in the area of logistics and supply chain management and to promote excellence in this field. The chosen theme for ISL 2025 is "**Embedding Circularity in Supply Chains**". As organizations seek to transition towards sustainable and circular practices, the integration of energy management, digitalization, last-mile logistics, transport and mobility systems, and other elements play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions and promoting resource efficiency. By leveraging these domains, businesses can create resilient, circular supply chains that not only meet current demands but also contribute to a sustainable future. We welcome papers original contributions on the developments in theory and practice in the area of logistics, mobility and supply chains. The 29th ISL aims to provide a forum for both academics and practitioners to discuss the current and future research in the area of logistics and supply chain management.

This major event for international scholars in the areas of Logistics, Operations and Supply Chain Management will be hosted in Wiesbaden, Germany following the successful events in Bangkok 2024, Enschede 2023, Cork 2022, online 2021, Würzburg 2019, Bali 2018, Ljubljana 2017, Kaohsiung 2016, Bologna 2015, Ho Chi Minh City 2014, Vienna 2013, Cape Town 2012, Berlin 2011, Kuala Lumpur 2010, Istanbul 2009, Bangkok 2008, Budapest 2007, Beijing 2006, Lisbon 2005, Bangalore 2004, Sevilla 2003, Melbourne 2002, Salzburg 2001, Iwate 2000, Florence 1999, Padua 1997 and Nottingham 1995 and 1993.

The official language of the Symposium is English.

SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The intention is to hold the conference face-to-face, but with an online option for those who prefer this. Based on learning from previous hybrid ISL conferences, this year we anticipate online participants will only have access to online presentation sessions and keynote speakers. These arrangements will be confirmed in due course.

SYMPOSIUM TOPICS

Contributed papers may deal with, but are not limited to the following:

- Circular supply chains – encompassing renewable energy integration, innovative last-mile logistics solutions, data analytics applications, other digital technologies and advancements in transport and mobility systems to promote circularity and efficiency.
- Sustainability in logistics and supply chains – covering environmental/'green' and social aspects as well as research that considers the 'triple bottom line' and ESG.
- Logistics connectivity – logistics networks and their nodes, maritime logistics, distribution, multimodal transport and third-party logistics.
- Smart/digital supply chains – covering all aspects of technology, including Industry 4.0, blockchain, digital twins, e-Business, decision support systems and RFID.
- Building resilience for supply chains – considering how supply chains can respond to both short- and long-term risks and uncertainties, including responses to geopolitical turbulence.
- Supply chain analytics – covering the use of data for decision making, predictive models, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and supply chain planning as well as performance assessment of existing operations.
- Globalisation of supply chains – strategies for de-coupling global supply chains, approaches for scaling up or down logistics and supply chain operations, trade regulations and cultural challenges.
- Humanitarian logistics – the requirements for logistics operations in addressing the aid needs of those affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- Supply chain skills, training and education – addressing industry skills challenge in logistics and supply chain management including training needs and competencies, as well pedagogical and novel approaches to teaching.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

The main focus of the conference will be the presentation of research papers. Two types of paper submissions will be considered:

- **Abstracts only** – these submissions only require a structured abstract of 1,000 words, and this will be needed for review by Monday 10th February 2025. If accepted, an updated version will be required by Monday 26th May 2025. Format requirements for the abstract are detailed below. Abstracts will be included in the proceedings of the conference.
- **Full papers** – The complete paper and an accompanying structured abstract should be submitted by Monday 10th February 2025 and will be subjected to a full peer review process. Full papers must be no longer than 8 pages (excluding the abstract). Format requirements for the abstract are detailed below, and a style guide for the papers can be found on the ISL website. If accepted, authors will be expected to make changes consistent with the reviewers' comments before final submission by Monday 26th May 2025. All full papers will be published in the Proceedings of the Conference, which will have an ISBN number.

There will also be the opportunity for papers to be considered for publication in the International Journal of Logistics Management or Computers and Industrial Engineering.

For both Abstracts and Full Papers, the aim is to provide feedback to authors by Monday 14th April 2025.

Abstract Format

All papers require a structured abstract, and this should be uploaded onto ConfTool. There are five headings which are obligatory (Purpose, Design, Findings, Value and References); the other two (Research implications and Practical implications) may be omitted if they are not applicable to your paper. Abstracts should be no more than **1,000** words including references and reflect the research you intend to present at the conference.

- **Purpose of this paper (minimum 200 words):** What is the reason(s) for writing the paper or the aims of the research?
- **Design/methodology/approach (minimum 200 words):** How are the objectives achieved? Include the main method(s) used for the research. What is the approach to the topic and what is the theoretical or subject scope of the paper?
- **Findings (minimum 200 words):** What was found in the course of the work? This will refer to analysis, discussion, or results.
- **Value (minimum 100 words):** What is new/original in the paper? State the value of the paper and to whom.
- **Research limitations/implications (if applicable):** If research is reported on in the paper this section must be completed and should include suggestions for future research and any identified limitations in the research process.
- **Practical implications (if applicable):** What outcomes and implications for practice, applications and consequences are identified? Not all papers will have practical implications but most will. What changes to practice should be made as a result of this research/paper?
- **References (minimum 3):** Please provide all references cited in the abstract.

Paper Format

Full Papers should comply with the style guidelines of the conference and details of these can be found on the website (<http://www.islconf.org>). It is expected that the only changes made to the Full Paper after initial submission will be reflective of feedback received from reviewers. For the initial submission, please ensure that the paper does not contain the authors' details; these can be added once the review process has been completed.

Submission Process

Full Papers and all abstracts should be submitted on-line by the deadline of Monday 10th February 2025. Please visit our website at <http://www.islconf.org> and register for full details and instructions. The corresponding author should be the one to upload the documents. If you are unable to use the online system, please contact the Symposium Administration by e-mail: isl21@nottingham.ac.uk

Papers and abstracts will only be accepted for review on the condition that the manuscript has not been copyrighted, published, presented or accepted for presentation at a professional meeting and is not currently under review for presentation at another professional meeting.

Authors must register for, and attend, the Symposium to present the paper if it is accepted. Please note that each participant can present no more than two submissions at the conference.

Publication will take the form of a Proceedings, which will contain the abstracts for all submissions plus Full Papers. The Proceedings will be made available on the website and have an ISBN number.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOURNAL PUBLICATION

ISL 2025 is once again partnering with the International Journal of Logistics Management (IJLM), building on our long-standing relationship. IJLM aims to provide a platform for new thinking on (new) problems, practices and techniques of logistics and supply chain management as well as facilitating the interchange of information about logistics and supply chain management among business managers and researchers on a world-wide basis. The journal is indexed widely and had an 5-year impact factor of 7.3 (2023). Each year, we aim to publish 3-4 papers in IJLM as a focused cluster of papers based on those presented at IJLM. While the final choice of papers rests with the organising committee, you are encouraged to indicate your interest in your paper being published in IJLM when submitting your initial abstract. Any full paper submissions that are only an abstract will not be considered for the special issue.

In addition, ISL 2025 will also be looking to invite papers for a cluster within the journal Computers and Industrial Engineering (CIE). These papers will tend to adopt a more quantitative approach and therefore align with the overall objectives of this journal.

BEST DOCTORAL PAPER

The ISL Advisory Committee is pleased to once again announce the Best Doctoral Paper Award, which will be presented at the Conference. The award is designed to recognise and encourage new ideas and targeted research in the field of logistics and supply chain management. Submissions will be reviewed by members of the PhD Award Committee, who will consider aspects such as originality, contribution, and quality of presentation. Both Full paper and Abstract only submissions will be eligible for the prize.

The winner will receive £100 (or equivalent) and a certificate. The conditions are:

1. The student must be PhD-candidate at the time of abstract submission.
2. The submission must report on original research conducted mainly by the PhD candidate.
3. The submission must be presented by the student at the conference.
4. The student must be the first author.

If the paper is to be considered for the PhD award, this must be indicated at the time of initial submission. Failure to do so will result in the paper not being considered for the award.

Following the conference, a brief personal profile of the winner should be sent for inclusion on the ISL website.

INDICATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, 6th July 2025

15.00 to 17.00: Workshop.

17.00 to 18.30: Welcome Reception

Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th July 2025

Main Conference – plenary and parallel sessions, both in-person and online

There will be a conference dinner in the evening of Tuesday 8th July

Wednesday, 9th July 2025

Industrial visit (optional) – an opportunity to visit businesses engaged in global and local supply chains.

CENTRE FOR CONCURRENT ENTERPRISE, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL (UK)

The Centre for Concurrent Enterprise (CCE) is a leading international centre for research in the fields of product/service design, concurrent and virtual enterprising, logistics, supply chain and related subfields (<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/business>). CCE conducts internationally leading research through collaborative projects, working with leading companies and universities across the globe. The centre has a successful track record of working in many national and international, multi-disciplinary, industrially applied research projects. Topics have ranged from requirements engineering, electronic commerce, assessment and benchmarking for concurrent engineering, collaborative new product development, product-service systems, collaborative innovation, knowledge management, Cloud Manufacturing, modelling and analysis, performance measurement, outsourcing and analysis of logistics and supply chain operations in Europe, India and China. The centre's staff co-organise two annual international conferences, namely ISL and the annual International Conference on Concurrent Enterprising (ICE) and publish proceedings.

CONFERENCE VENUE

Welcome to Wiesbaden and to the Wiesbaden Business School at the RheinMain University of Applied Sciences. The university offers over 70 Bachelor's and Master's programs across its campuses in Wiesbaden and Rüsselsheim, serving around 12,000 students. Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022, the Wiesbaden Business School (WBS) began with 51 students in 1971 and has grown to over 2,000 students across six Bachelor's and five Master's programs. Located in a historic building near Wiesbaden's city center, WBS provides modern facilities and focusses on interdisciplinary education, intercultural competence, and social responsibility, preparing students for careers in a global context. The school fosters collaboration with businesses, leading to practice-oriented research projects and opportunities for doctoral studies in fields like "Mobility and Logistics." Students benefit from this integration of research and practice, equipping them for a rapidly evolving world.

Wiesbaden, the capital of Hesse, is one of Germany's oldest spa towns, renowned for its thermal springs that were cherished by the Romans. With a population of around 280,000, this charming city on the Rhine seamlessly blends history and modernity. Architecturally, Wiesbaden boasts impressive landmarks, including the neoclassical Kurhaus, which houses a prestigious casino and hosts various cultural events. Culturally diverse, Wiesbaden hosts numerous events and festivals, such as the annual Wiesbaden Music Festival and a wide range of film screenings at the Caligari FilmBühne. Museums like the Landesmuseum Wiesbaden showcase Hessian history and art. As a vital business hub with international appeal, Wiesbaden attracts professionals, benefitting from its central location in the Rhine-Main region, close to Frankfurt am Main. Nature lovers can explore various parks and green spaces, like the Kurpark and Neroberg, where the historic Nerobergbahn funicular leads to scenic vineyards and hiking trails.

During July, Wiesbaden is known for typical summer weather, characterized by high temperatures and moderate rainfall. Throughout the day, temperatures can rise to about 25°C (and more in hot summers). We warmly invite you to discover this captivating city as the venue for the upcoming conference!