

FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:
2024 Technology Transfer Society (T2S) Annual Meeting

**Blurring Boundaries and Ambiguous Roles:
Universities and the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**

September 11-13, 2024

Brussels, Belgium

<https://www.t2s2024.be>

Hosted by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

After a Covid-induced hiatus, the Technology Transfer Society (T2S) is back and will organize its 2024 annual conference in Brussels, Belgium. We invite all scholars in the domain of Technology Transfer, Academic Entrepreneurship, and Science Commercialization to submit their abstracts and papers for presentation at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Technology Transfer Society.

In the past years, universities have transformed into active actors in the entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems. This means that the vision of what constitutes technology transfer and academic entrepreneurship has widened considerably. As such, we are confronted with questions on how universities will fulfill their role in modern society. Increased digitalization, the call for universities to substantiate their impact, and the active participation of stakeholder groups, lead to the blurring of boundaries of the university's technology transfer process and to ambiguity in the university's role.

This conference encourages submissions dealing with the complex nature of entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems, interfaces of government, university, and industry, civil society, and the environment. Submissions featuring longitudinal and historical studies, using mixed-methods or multi-level research approaches are particularly encouraged. Submissions based on other methods and approaches are also welcome. We encourage scholars to submit interdisciplinary approaches. We anticipate studies conducted at the micro, meso, and macro level, but encourage studies to embrace multiple levels.

Presentation and Paper Development Sessions

The conference will work with two types of sessions.

- **Presentation session:** The authors will present their work to the audience in a classic presentation set-up, followed by a Q&A. Based on the accepted abstract.
- **Paper Development session:** Authors will briefly present their full paper to the audience after which a discussant, having read the paper, will provide feedback. The discussion is then opened to the audience. Especially relevant for young scholars and papers almost ready for submission to a journal. Full paper submission after acceptance of the abstract is required.

Key Dates

- February 15, 2024 – Deadline for abstract submission.
- March 15, 2024 – Notification of acceptance and Early bird registration opens.
- June 15, 2024 - Deadline for full papers (only for authors submitting to the Paper Development Track). Early bird registration closes, and regular registration opens.
- June 30, 2024 – Deadline for accepted authors to register and confirm attendance.

How to Submit Your Abstract

Abstracts must be submitted via the website <https://www.t2s2024.be/> no later than February 15th, 2024. When submitting an abstract, please take the following guidelines into account:

- Your abstract is a maximum of 500 words, excluding references. Please limit the use of references in your abstract (max. 3).
- Indicate keywords (min. 3, max. 5).
- The document is in .docx, .rtf, or .txt format. (Note: PDFs will NOT be accepted.)
- The name, affiliation, and contact information for each author are included in the document.
- Authors wishing to submit a full paper for the Paper Development Track must indicate this during the abstract submission process on the website.

How to Submit Your Full Paper (Paper Development Track only)

- You can only submit a full paper to the Paper Development Track if your abstract is accepted.
- Full papers must be submitted via email to t2s2024@vub.be no later than June 15, 2024.
- When submitting a paper, please ensure that it meets the Journal of Technology Transfer submission guidelines:
<https://www.springer.com/journal/10961/submission-guidelines>

Scholarships for Scholars from the Global South.

The organization committee will award several scholarships (waiver of registration fee) to scholars connected to universities/institutions in the Global South¹. Please indicate your affiliation with these institutions clearly when submitting an abstract.

Scholarships for Scholars at Risk.

The organization committee will award several scholarships (waiver of registration fee) to scholars of the Scholars at Risk Network (<https://www.scholarsatrisk.org>). Please contact VUB's Scholars at Risk office at refugee@vub.be upon submission of your abstract.

¹ Partner Country List (Global Minds): Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ecuador, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Special Issue

Two special issues of the [Journal of Technology Transfer](#) are linked to this conference, one issue on the conference theme, and the other issue will bundle the best contributions on other themes or topics.

Conference Topics

This topic list is not exhaustive but provides guidance on the scope and types of research that fit the conference.

- The role of stakeholders, such as Technology Transfer Offices, Intermediaries, Incubators, Research Institutes, Technology Transfer Institutes, The Academic Firm, Government Labs, etc.
- Dynamics of (eco)systems, be it innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurial ecosystems, technology transfer ecosystems, or other related constructs such as networks and clusters, etc.
- Topics on the technology transfer and public policy nexus, such as public entrepreneurship, the entrepreneurial government, the role of institutions, evaluation of technology transfer, its performance, or its qualitative/quantitative metrics, the socio-economic impact of science commercialization, (re)evaluations of legal frameworks, etc.
- Phenomena and concepts that relate to the commercialization process of scientific results, such as university spin-offs, intellectual property management and technology licensing, invention disclosures, opportunity recognition, venture creation, etc.
- Interactions, such as university-government collaborations, university-industry collaborations, strategic alliances, public-private partnerships for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship, etc.
- Geographical boundaries of technology transfer or academic entrepreneurship, either national, regional, or international, covering the digital, physical, or hybrid forms that impact technology transfer, etc.
- Social and societal aspects related to technology transfer activities, such as social, sustainable, inclusive practices, the role of immigration and diversity in technology transfer practices, etc.
- The role of digitalization in technology transfer and academic entrepreneurship, the role of digital technologies (generative AI, IoT, quantum computing, ...) in the commercialization process, and the mobility or diffusion of technologies and academic knowledge.
- Underlying dynamics that drive technology transfer activities, such as competition vs. cooperation, formal and informal knowledge flows, tangible or intangible exchanges, (trans/national) learning and education, career development, costs vs. benefits of technology transfer, etc.
- The strategic choices related to knowledge and technology transfer, connecting to innovation management, knowledge management, strategic management, etc.