

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special issue: Microfinance

Guest Editors

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We invite submissions dedicated to Microfinance for an upcoming special issue in the Journal of Alternative Finance, a new distinguished publication by SAGE Journals (<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ALF>).

As we celebrate 50 years of modern microfinance activities, the special issue aims to underscore how high-quality research continues to shape the landscape of financial inclusion and industry development. As such, we aim to encompass both critical and optimistic perspectives on related phenomena, their manifestations, and record. We encourage submissions covering a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from impact studies to pure banking research, and welcome all types of research methodologies.

Furthermore, with this special issue we invite greater dialogue between alternative finance and microfinance researchers, both introducing the journal to researchers interested in microfinance, and at the same time presenting the breath of microfinance research to the readers of the journal.

Interesting topics include but are not limited to:

Theory and New Developments:

- Theoretical contributions:
 - Repayment risk under competition
 - Balancing the dual objectives of financial inclusion and financial sustainability
- Microfinance and Fintech
- Microfinance and savings and loan groups: Competitors or complements?

Impact Studies:

- Qualitative studies of microfinance impact
- Impact assessment with experiments
- Experiments in microfinance: Methodological issues, measurement of impact
- Longitudinal studies of microfinance impact
- Microfinance influence on entrepreneurial activities
- Microfinance and sustainability goals
- Institutional environment and microfinance evolution and impact

Microfinance as a Business:

- Corporate governance of microfinance institutions
- Qualitative studies of the MFI's balancing of dual objectives
- Mission drift 25 years after
- The microfinance industry: Startups, growth, concentration, exits
- Employee retention and competence in microfinance
- M&A in microfinance

Lender and borrower behavior in microfinance:

- Lender motivations, preferences, and behaviors in microfinance
- Determinants of lender behavior in microfinance
- Comparative studies of institutional versus individual microfinance lenders
- Borrower motivations, preferences, and behaviors in microfinance
- Determinants of borrower behavior in microfinance
- Comparative cross-country studies of microfinance lender and borrower behavior

We welcome submissions on any other microfinance topic, with research quality being the primary selection criterion.

The special issue will be edited by Professor Øystein Strøm and Professor Roy Mersland, two of the most published microfinance researchers globally.

Important Information: To be considered for publication in the special issue, please submit the full manuscript by August 1, 2024. We recommend sending an abstract to the guest editor before the formal submission to ensure relevance and receive preliminary feedback. The anticipated publication date is the second half of 2025.

Manuscript Submission: Authors should submit their manuscripts through the journal's submission system at: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/alf>

Manuscripts should adhere to the author guidelines outlined at: <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/journal-of-alternative-finance/journal203798#submission-guidelines>

All articles will undergo double-blind peer review by at least two anonymous referees. We expect authors to participate in reviewing peers' submissions as part of the submission process.