

Dr Laura A. Colombo, FHEA, PhD

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Personal Profile

I joined the University of Exeter Business School in 2014 as a visiting scholar, having been awarded a studentship from the University of Bologna, to research the discourse of eco-innovation in the European Union's Horizon 2020 funding programmes. In 2015, I was awarded a fully funded PhD scholarship from the University of Exeter Business School to research the scaling strategies of social agricultural cooperatives. I became a Lecturer in the Department of Management in 2019 and joined the Sustainable Futures group in Penryn in 2021. Since 2021, I have served as a Programme Director for the BSc Business and Environment, a pioneering interdisciplinary programme built on the three pillars of sustainable business, environmental science and environmental justice. Since 2022, I have also served as an Associate Editor at the Academy of Management Learning and Education (AMLE) Journal and as an External Examiner at the University of York. My work has been published in leading international journals such as AMLE, Organization and Journal of Management Studies. My educational, research, and scholarly efforts are at the forefront of advancing management education, moving towards a social-ecological approach that challenges and expands the boundaries of traditional thinking in the field.

Academic positions

Senior Lecturer in Management Studies, University of Exeter Business School	Nov 2022 – present
Lecturer in Sustainable Futures, University of Exeter Business School	Aug 2019 – Nov 2022
Assistant Lecturer in Management Studies, University of Exeter Business School	Aug 2016 – Jul 2019

Additional roles/membership

Associate Editor at Academy of Management Learning and Education	Jul 2023 – present
External Examiner for the MSc Sustainable Business: Leadership, Innovation and Management (University of York)	Jan 2022 – present
Programme Director BSc Business and Environment (University of Exeter)	Apr 2020 – present
Co-founding member of the MEND (Management Educators Navigating Degrowth) Collective	Apr 2020 – present
Research Fellow at EURICSE	Nov 2020 – July 2023

Education and qualifications

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice PCAP (Dean's Commendation), University of Exeter, UK	Awarded in 2021
Fellow of the Higher Education Academy	Awarded in 2021
PhD in Management, University of Exeter Business School, UK	Awarded in 2020
ASPIRE Associate Fellowship	Awarded in 2018
Certificate in Advanced Study: Learning and Teaching in Higher Education	Awarded in 2018
Certificate in European Project Planning and Project Design Techniques, Parma, Italy	Awarded in 2014
MSc in Social Economy (110/110 cum laude), University of Bologna, Italy	Awarded in 2013
BSc in Political Science with International Relations (103/110), University of Milan, Italy	Awarded in 2011

Awards

Research Excellence Award (2024). Awarded by the University of Exeter, Management.

Best Article Award (2024). Awarded by the Academy of Management Learning and Education.

Santander Postgraduate Research Award (2015). Awarded by Santander Bank.

Publications

- Manolchev, C, Watson, DJ, **Colombo, LA**, Vandeventer, JS (2025). *A Means to an End? The Role of Technology in Growth and Post-growth Futures of Agrifood Work in a European Context*. In MacLeavy, J and Pitts, FH (Eds) *The Handbook for the Future of Work*, Routledge.
- Colombo LA** (2024). Transforming Management Education: Insights from Social-Ecological Systems and Social Innovation Research. *Journal of Management Studies*.
- Colombo LA**, Bailey A and Gomes M (2024). Scaling in a post-growth era: Learning from Social Agricultural Cooperatives. *Organization*, 31(6), 907-928
- Larson, B, Moser C, Caza, A, Muehlfeld K, **Colombo LA** (2024). Critical Thinking in the Age of Generative AI. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 23(3), 373-378.
- Colombo LA**, Moser C, Muehlfeld K, Joy S (2024). Sowing the Seeds of Change: Calling for a Social–Ecological Approach to Management Learning and Education. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 23(2), 207-2013.
- Colombo, LA** (2023). Civilize the Business School. For a Civic Management Education. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, 22(1), 132-149.
- Boehm, S, Sandover, R, Pascucci, S, **Colombo, LA**, Jackson, S, Lobley, M (2022). *Circular food systems: a blueprint for regenerative innovations in a regional UK context*. In Sage CL (Ed) *A Research Agenda for Food Systems*, Edward Elgar.
- Sforzi, J and **Colombo, LA** (2020). New opportunities for work integration in rural areas: the 'social flavour' of craft beer in Italy. *Sustainability*, 12(16), 6351
- AColombo, LA**, Pansera, M and Owen, R (2019). The discourse of eco-innovation in the European Union: an analysis of the Eco-Innovation Action Plan and Horizon 2020. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 214, 653-665.