

JOURNAL FOUNDATIONS

Aims and Scope

Version 1.0 | Last updated 27 August 2026

The Journal of Institutional Architecture and Continuity is an international scholarly journal devoted to research on the design, structure, governance, persistence, transformation, and continuity of institutional systems.

The Journal provides a specialised forum for work examining institutions as architectures composed of interacting systems of authority, ownership, governance, obligations, records, settlement, institutional memory, decision processes, and mechanisms for continuity across time and disruption.

Its primary aim is to advance the study of institutional architecture and institutional continuity as distinct but interconnected fields of inquiry.

The Journal is particularly interested in research that moves beyond descriptions of institutional performance and examines the structures and mechanisms that determine whether institutions remain functional, governable, enforceable, and intelligible when their operating environment changes.

Core Areas of Interest

The Journal welcomes research addressing subjects including, but not limited to:

- institutional architecture and institutional design;
- institutional continuity and discontinuity;
- governance architecture and allocation of authority;
- ownership systems and continuity of ownership;
- financial infrastructure and institutional infrastructure;
- payment, clearing and settlement architecture;
- institutional records, provenance and historical continuity;
- institutional memory and preservation of institutional knowledge;
- institutional reasoning and decision architecture;
- Continuity Intelligence and related analytical frameworks;
- resilience, robustness, redundancy and adaptive capacity;
- irreversibility, optionality and institutional thresholds;
- institutional failure and mechanisms of institutional collapse;
- institutional recovery, reconstruction and transformation;
- sovereign and non-sovereign institutional systems;
- jurisdictional continuity and cross-border institutional architecture;
- legal structures affecting institutional continuity;

- private governance and autonomous institutional structures;
- trusts, foundations and other long-duration ownership structures;
- intergenerational governance and succession architecture;
- institutional consequences of geopolitical fragmentation;
- infrastructure capable of operating during structural disruption;
- institutional dependence on intermediaries and critical counterparties;
- concentration, dependency and single-point institutional failure;
- technological sovereignty and infrastructure dependency;
- digital identity, records and institutional provenance;
- artificial intelligence in institutional analysis and decision systems;
- AI-supported institutional reasoning;
- accountability and authority in computational decision architectures;
- human oversight of institutionally consequential automated systems;
- institutional architecture for long-horizon decision-making;
- comparative analysis of institutional systems across jurisdictions and historical periods.

Scholarly Orientation

The Journal welcomes theoretical, conceptual, empirical, historical, comparative, legal-institutional, computational, and interdisciplinary research.

Relevant contributions may draw upon institutional economics, political economy, law, governance studies, organisation theory, finance, systems theory, political science, economic history, public administration, computer science, artificial intelligence, and related disciplines.

Interdisciplinarity alone, however, is not sufficient for relevance.

Submissions should make a substantive contribution to understanding the architecture, continuity, failure, adaptation, or decision capacity of institutional systems.

A manuscript need not use the Journal's preferred terminology, nor must it adopt any particular theoretical framework. Work challenging existing assumptions, including assumptions underlying concepts commonly discussed within the Journal, is expressly within scope when the argument is rigorous and relevant.

Institutional Continuity

The Journal treats continuity as a problem of institutional design rather than merely an outcome of organisational resilience.

Research may examine which functions or institutional properties must persist when particular organisational components do not.

These may include:

- authority;
- ownership;
- enforceable rights and obligations;
- governance competence;
- settlement capacity;
- institutional records;

- legal identity;
- decision capacity;
- institutional memory;
- accountability;
- access to critical infrastructure;
- jurisdictional recognition.

The Journal is particularly interested in work distinguishing continuity from adjacent concepts such as resilience, stability, recovery, persistence, robustness, redundancy, and business continuity.

Structural Disruption

Research addressing institutions under conditions of disruption is a central part of the Journal's scope.

Relevant conditions may include:

- financial crises;
- market fragmentation;
- geopolitical conflict;
- sanctions and jurisdictional separation;
- technological displacement;
- infrastructure failure;
- counterparty failure;
- monetary or settlement disruption;
- organisational collapse;
- constitutional or governmental transition;
- succession and intergenerational transition;
- loss of institutional records;
- artificial intelligence and automation;
- major changes in the distribution of institutional authority.

The Journal is interested not only in how institutions respond after disruption, but in how institutional architecture determines the range of actions available before irreversible thresholds are crossed.

Artificial Intelligence and Institutional Architecture

The Journal welcomes research examining artificial intelligence where AI has material implications for institutional structure, authority, reasoning, accountability, memory, or continuity.

This includes research on institutional reasoning systems, computational institutional models, decision-support architecture, institutional state simulation, explainability in institutionally consequential systems, preservation of human authority, and the allocation of responsibility between computational and human actors.

The Journal is not a general artificial intelligence journal. Purely technical AI research falls outside its scope unless it makes a substantive contribution to institutional architecture or continuity.

Financial and Settlement Infrastructure

The Journal welcomes research on financial infrastructure where the principal question concerns institutional structure rather than investment performance or market forecasting.

Relevant subjects include ownership architecture, custody, settlement, clearing, payment infrastructures, collateral systems, asset records, institutional dependency, cross-border settlement, infrastructure fragmentation, continuity of financial rights, and the institutional consequences of changes in monetary or technological systems.

Sovereign and Non-Sovereign Systems

The Journal does not assume that durable institutional architecture exists only within states.

Research may address sovereign institutions, international organisations, private institutional systems, trusts, foundations, family governance structures, decentralised arrangements, contractual networks, autonomous infrastructures, and other institutional forms capable of allocating authority and preserving rights across time.

The Journal is particularly interested in the interaction between sovereign authority and institutional systems operating across, between, or partially outside conventional jurisdictional structures.

What Falls Outside the Journal's Scope

The Journal of Institutional Architecture and Continuity is not a general-interest journal of economics, finance, politics, management, technology, or international affairs.

The following will normally fall outside its scope unless they make a direct and substantial contribution to the Journal's intellectual field:

- general political commentary;
- geopolitical forecasting without an institutional research contribution;
- conventional investment or market analysis;
- corporate management advice;
- descriptive case studies without a broader institutional argument;
- general discussions of sustainability or resilience;
- purely technical artificial intelligence research;
- cryptocurrency or blockchain research centred primarily on price, adoption, or technical performance;
- legal commentary without implications for institutional architecture or continuity;
- policy advocacy unsupported by scholarly analysis;
- commercial or promotional material.

Merely using terms such as governance, resilience, infrastructure, institutions, continuity, or artificial intelligence does not by itself place a manuscript within scope.

The decisive question is whether the work advances understanding of how institutional systems are structured, how they preserve consequential functions across time, how they behave under structural change, or why their architecture succeeds or fails.

Editorial Principle

The Journal evaluates submissions on scholarly merit, originality, rigour, research integrity, significance, and relevance to its defined intellectual territory.

Institutional affiliation, commercial relationships, association with the publisher, and ability or willingness to pay publication charges do not confer editorial advantage.

The Journal is published by Invisible Architecture Press, while editorial assessment and publication decisions are conducted independently from the publisher's commercial functions.

The Journal seeks a deliberately selective publication model.

Its objective is not to increase the volume of published material, but to build a coherent and durable scholarly record in the emerging field of institutional architecture and continuity.