Dear Nicholas,

We are writing to extend an invitation for a contribution to *The SAGE Handbook of Business in Society.* In this Handbook we set out to explore the changing role of business in society that has occurred over the past decades, in management research and practice. We invite some of the world’s most insightful management scholars from across the world and from across the career spectrum to help us provide a state of the art of ‘what do we know today, and what do we still need to understand better, about business as implicated in societal challenges and advancement’.

As you may know, SAGE Handbooks offer major retrospective and prospective overviews of a field that frame, assess and synthesize the work in that field and thus help to define and shape its current and future developments. We want this Handbook to capture the positive and negative roles that businesses have played (the past and present) and can or must play (the future) for the development of a global world that is oriented to advancing both business and society. In total, we expect to collect about 40 chapters on a wide range of topics related to business in society.

Recognizing your notable and broad expertise, we believe your insights would be invaluable to this project, helping to elevate the quality and scope of our collective endeavor. We therefore invite you to participate in this project; we envision your chapter addressing the topic of **biodiversity**.

This chapter is meant to be included in the section on [Environmental and Health Themes]. This section contains chapters that discuss the ability of corporations to respond to the challenges in their physical environment, which has become a key contributor to many businesses’ successes. This section will serve as an essential guide to the key themes, issues and debates surrounding these changes such as climate change, health and non-human animals. We believe that a chapter on **biodiversity** is crucial in understanding the role of business in society because it is vital for ecosystem stability, human well-being, and economic prosperity. Understanding its importance in the context of business involves recognizing the interdependence between business activities and ecosystem services, highlighting the need for businesses to integrate biodiversity conservation into their operations to mitigate risks, enhance resilience, and contribute positively to global sustainability goals. This chapter hence will also connect to several other chapters, both in this section and in other sections such as the one on systems thinking. In this light we would appreciate if your chapter 1/ offered an overview of the past and present relevance of biodiversity for the field of business in society, and 2/ discusses how biodiversity may or should inform future research and practice in this field.

Our suggestion is meant to be a starting point for, or an orientation on, developing this chapter. We are, therefore, open to discussing with you how you believe such a chapter could best be written.

Please note that by contacting you, we do not mean to imply that your chapter should be single authored; you are very welcome to collaborate with one or more colleagues of your choice in developing the chapter (and we can think along with you to suggest potential co-authors, in case you would find that helpful). All authors will receive an electronic copy of the Handbook.

Hence, we approach this as a three-step process: by 31 May 2024 (or as much earlier as is convenient for you), we would like to hear whether you are willing to participate in this project and commit to writing a chapter on the proposed theme. Then, by 31 August 2024 (or as much earlier as is convenient for you), we would like to receive a proposal of about 1,000-1,200 words that sets out a blueprint for the structure and argument of your chapter. We will provide feedback, offer suggestions and formally decide on the fit with the overall project. Finally, you (and potentially your team) submit the chapter by 31 December 2024. This chapter will be sent out for one round of anonymous peer review and then can be revised.

Please find below the submission guidelines and timeline:

* Proposal length: 1,000-1,200 words (please indicate if you intend to include one or more tables and/or figures, as they bear on the word count).
* Deadline for proposal submission: 31 August 2024.
* Chapter length: 7,000-8,000 words, including references, tables, figures, etcetera (tables and figures count for 425 words per page as per Sage standards).
* Deadline for first chapter submission: 31 December 2024.
* Reviews returned to chapter authors: 31 March 2025.
* Deadline for final chapter submissions: 30 June 2025.
* Formatting requirements: APA.
* Review process: the proposals are reviewed by the editorial team. The full chapters will be reviewed (double blind) by at least 2 reviewers.
* Submission of the full manuscript to Sage: 15 October 2025.
* Plus: Biographical note for each author of about 250 words max., including ORCID.
* Plus: List of 25-30 suggestions for index entrees.

Writing a chapter in a Handbook like this is not just another publication: we see this project as a coming together of the wider business and society community. Next to the Handbook, we aim to develop several moments of interaction, e.g., by way of presentations (online) and in-person meetings at conferences, such as AOM 2025 in Copenhagen. Your participation in this Handbook promises not only to enhance its prestige but also provides a notable avenue to make a significant impact on our field.

Should you have any inquiries or require further information, please feel free to contact us – our email addresses are listed below.

Thank you for considering this invitation. We earnestly hope you will grace us with your expertise and contribute to shaping the future of our field through this Handbook.

Warm regards, on behalf of the editorial team,

Frank de Bakker

Editorial team for the *Sage Handbook of Business in Society*

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