CALL FOR ABSTRACT

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Supply chain management and wholesale trade
Research gaps and innovation requirements

Although wholesale trade is an economic giant, it remains a research lightweight. It invests only about 0.1% of its total revenues (at least in Germany) in research and development, underscoring both its limited innovation intensity and academic potential. The result is a significant gap in innovation and competence especially among the important branch of wholesale SMEs with direct and negative consequences for the depth of value creation in this most significant industry.

The German Research Association for Wholesale Trade (ForveG) and the Chair of Logistics and Supply Chain Management at the University of St. Gallen are planning a high-quality anthology that will draw attention to these gaps and highlight the need for scientific and economic action. We invite established and early-career researchers to contribute their perspectives on the research and innovation gap in wholesale trade to our anthology. We will also give a voice to representatives from industry and NGOs.

Relevant topics	Distribution, warehouse and transport networks, supplier resilience and supplier management, risk and resilience management, supply chain visibility and transparency, demand forecasting and volatility management, sustainability and circular economy, digitalization and data governance, finance, accounting and controlling, AI-based decision support, robotics and automation, software applications, economic perspectives, communication, international comparisons, inventory and current asset management, organization and competencies.
Call for abstracts	• Max. 2500 characters • Deadline: March 3rd, 2026 • The abstract should cover your topic and the general line of argumentation, as well as the aim of the paper.
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