

# RFGI Collection: 40+1 years of research in industrial management

## Volume 1: Seminal Works

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### 1. A BRIEF HISTORY

The *RFGI - Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* (French Journal of Industrial Management) is an international research journal that was first launched in 1982. It aims to explore, publish, and showcase works in all the different areas of Management Science and Industrial Engineering without favouring any particular field, focussing on innovative approaches in terms of new methods and tools, through academic articles and company testimonials. It had been a leading journal in the field of industrial management for over 30 years, and after a 6-year hiatus, it was relaunched in 2021. Since then, five issues have been published, and it is now ranked as an influential journal by the FNEGE (2022 ranking).

The aim of the Editorial Board of the *Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* has been to continue to ensure that the journal is a leading research publication in the field of industrial management in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As a result, the main focus has been to preserve the journal's scientific research standing, which meets a real need in the field of French-speaking industrial management, whilst at the same time increasing its research reputation via:

- the implementation of a strict Code of Ethics
- an open-access policy, contributing to the universality of research and ensuring that it is accessible to as many people as possible (since 1982, all articles have been available online free of charge)
- widespread recognition with inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- a bilingual journal (in French and English, with the short-term aim of always publishing articles in both languages)
- improved referencing in key databases

Furthermore, the journal's Advisory Board is international in scope, with 40% of its members drawn from international institutions across the different continents (Europe, Africa, North America, Asia).

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After an absence of several years, we are pleased to announce that the *Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* has once again been included in the FNEGE rankings. This result is thanks to the involvement of the research community that has supported us: authors, members of the Advisory Board and other contributors.

Between 2021 and the end of 2023, five issues were published, comprising 24 articles and 4 book reviews (Figure 1).



Figure 1: A chronology of publications since 1982

Since its initial launch back in 1982, the *Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* has published 140 issues, featuring 734 articles and some 132 book reviews.

When Hugues Molet was Editor-in-Chief, the journal included contributions from some very prominent figures, notably Richard Calvi, Nathalie Fabbe-Costes, Vincent Giard, Samir Lamouri, Gilles Paché, and Karine Evrard-Samuel.

This special ‘RFGI Collection’ issue - which coincides with 40+1 years of the journal - draws on its considerable intellectual capital. In addition to paying tribute to the many contributors who have played a part in forging its reputation, the aim is to showcase some of the very best publications from past issues. This special collection is divided into 2 volumes.

## 2. COMPILING THE COLLECTION

To compile this special issue, we set up an Enlarged Research Committee with the following remit:

- To ensure transparency in terms of the selection, assessment, and research validation process of the works
- To participate in the preparation of a retrospective analysis of selected articles

On the initiative of the Advisory Board, high-level, reputable academic experts were contacted, whether long-standing contributors to the RFGI, authors of seminal articles, or researchers from the equally accomplished rising generation.

The following willingly decided to get involved: **Samir Lamouri, Nathalie Fabbe-Costes, Vincent Giard, Salomé Ruel, Laurent Bironneau, Samia Gamoura.**



Figure 2: Composition of the Enlarged Committee

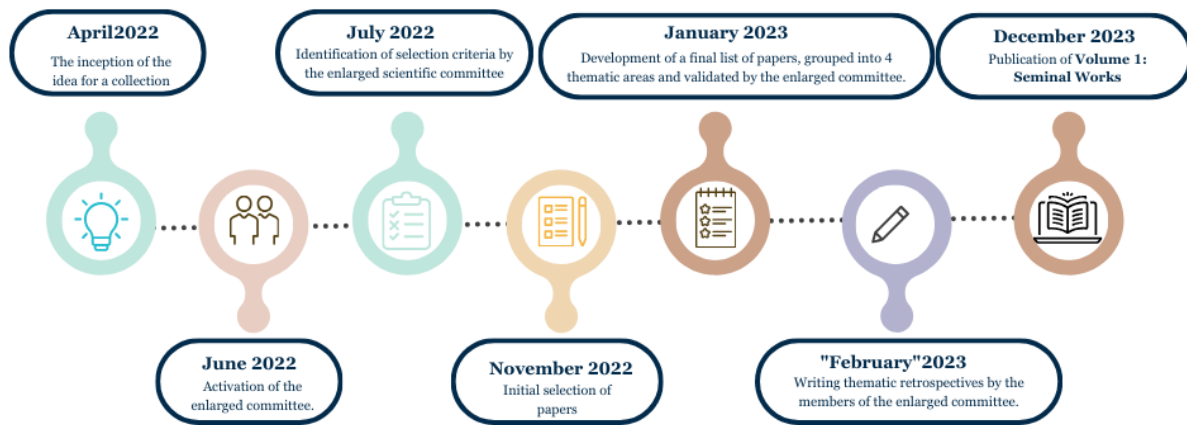


Figure 3: Project timeline for the RFGI Collection

### 3. THE PROJECT IN PRACTICE

The project for an 'RFGI Collection' was conceived in April 2022, with the Enlarged Committee being appointed in June. In July 2022, this Enlarged Committee determined the selection criteria, which led to an initial selection of articles in November 2022. Based on this, in January 2023, the Select Committee drew up a final list of articles, grouped into 4 themes and validated by the Enlarged Committee. The members of this Enlarged Committee then drafted the reviews by theme.

### 4. EDITING THE COLLECTION

The collection is divided into 2 volumes, namely Seminal Works and an Industrial Management Toolbox. Each of these volumes is then organised by theme.

- **Volume 1: Seminal Works**  
Sustainable Development, Integrative Approach, Information & Decision, Lean Management
- **Volume 2: Industrial Management Toolbox**  
Lean Manufacturing, Production Management

Each theme comprises 1 to 4 articles. The first step was to identify the most important contributions of the articles selected from an industrial management perspective or, more broadly, from a management research perspective. Secondly, we determined current knowledge deficit and future prospects. The third, and final, stage involved identifying the most

important challenges facing the selected theme and how to tackle them.

### 5. SELECTION OF ARTICLES

#### 5.1. A four-step methodological approach

In this section, we outline the methodological approach used. There were four main steps: Defining the criteria to be used, Submission of articles by the Enlarged Committee, Analysis of proposed articles, Selection of papers to be retained.

#### **Step 1: Defining the criteria to be used**

For this first step in identifying criteria, we decided on two different and complementary types of classification. The first was a quantitative classification based on the extraction of a list of 710 articles (using Harzing) and the second was a classification based on qualitative aspects.

However, the quantitative method had its limitations as it was unable to reliably identify the most important articles, particularly the older ones, given that the RFGI was not indexed in the databases. With this in mind, we took the initiative of sending a preliminary framework note to the Enlarged Committee. The purpose of this note was to outline our objective and our approach, namely to identify the seminal works of the RFGI. During the round table, we decided on a semi-structured approach. Using this qualitative approach, we identified pertinent and useful criteria, such as the groundbreaking/innovative nature of the articles,

their performance, as well as their appeal and impact for practitioners.

**Step 2: Submission of articles by the Enlarged Committee**

Using the previously determined criteria, the Enlarged Committee reviewed the full list of 710 articles, and then each member put forward articles to be included in the final selection.

**Step 3: Analysis of proposed articles**

After examining the individual proposals from each member of the Enlarged Committee and eliminating any duplication, we pre-selected 25 articles, which were then subjected to an in-depth analysis based on the predetermined criteria.

**Step 4: Selection of papers to be retained**

The Select Committee then chose the 20 papers that were to be retained for final publication. To ensure a rigorous and fair selection, we evaluated each article according to a diverse set of criteria, including Type of Approach, Contextual Relevance, and Renown.

*Table 1: Summary of article selection criteria*

<b>Type of Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conceptual</li> <li>- Applied research</li> <li>- Industry testimonials</li> <li>- Indispensable tool (toolbox)</li> </ul>
<b>Contextual Relevance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significant paradigm shift and tipping point</li> <li>- Pedagogical and easy to understand</li> <li>- Groundbreaking article</li> <li>- Relevance today</li> <li>- Replicability (context/usage)</li> </ul>
<b>Renown</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H-index</li> <li>- Number of citations of article</li> </ul>

**5.2. Selection criteria adopted**

This section outlines the detailed criteria taken into account in terms of ‘Contextual Relevance’ and ‘Renown’ of the articles selected.

*5.2.1. Contextual Relevance*

The contextual relevance of an article is based on its potential impact on research, its ability to inform, as well as its clarity and utility in diverse contexts. This

relevance can be assessed using the detailed criteria set out in the following table.

*Table 2: Detailed criteria for Contextual Relevance*

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Description</b>
<i>Significant paradigm shift and tipping point</i>	Assessment of the relevance of the article in terms of its significant impact on the field in question and its determining role in the development of the history on the subject.
<i>Pedagogical and easy to understand</i>	Analysis of the article’s clarity and accessibility for a wide audience, as well as its ability to serve as an educational reference promoting understanding of the subject.
<i>Groundbreaking article</i>	Assessment of the importance of the article, either as a first publication on a related topic or as a major influence on existing research in the field.
<i>Relevance today</i>	Assessment of the continued relevance of the article over time, based on the frequency with which it is cited or discussed, even years after publication.
<i>Replicability (context/usage)</i>	Analysis of the reproducibility of the results presented in the article within other studies, or of the use of these ideas in other fields.

*5.2.2. Renown*

The justification for renown is based on two widely recognised criteria that assess the impact and relevance of an article: the H-index, and the number of citations. Although these indicators are not the only indicators of quality, they remain important measures. The H-index assesses a researcher’s productivity and impact by considering the number of articles published and the number of citations received. Similarly, the number of citations an article receives is a key indicator of its renown, attesting to its credibility and importance in the field. A high citation rate also increases the article’s visibility among researchers in the same field.

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## 6. STRUCTURE OF THE RFGI COLLECTION

### VOLUME 1: SEMINAL WORKS

The first volume is devoted to the seminal themes in industrial management that have emerged since 1982, with 10 papers selected and divided collectively and consensually into 4 different themes, with 1 to 3 papers in each theme. Volume 1 covers four themes:

#### 1. **Sustainable Development**

This focusses on the environmental, social, and economic challenges of sustainable development in the field of Industrial Management. It deals in particular with waste management, eco-design, and CSR. The articles included within this theme also explore the levers of sustainable logistics, highlighting the importance of the circular economy and proposing measures of economic, environmental, and social performance. Finally, the importance of reverse logistics is emphasised, particularly as an essential link in sustainable development.

#### 2. **Integrative Approach**

This deals with how companies integrate the different functions and processes to ensure alignment with their strategic objectives in a coherent way. To achieve this, several approaches can be used, such as inter-functional integration and inter-organisational integration. Inter-functional integration involves harmonising the activities of the different functions within the company, such as purchasing and transport. Inter-organisational integration, on the other hand, encourages effective and efficient collaboration between the various players in the supply chain. Furthermore, the pooling of logistics resources maximises efficiency and reduces costs. By combining these approaches, companies can leverage the synergies between different functions and partners to effectively achieve their strategic objectives.

#### 3. **Information & Decision**

This looks at the role of information systems in industrial management decision-making.

Topics covered include total supply chain traceability systems and the role of information technology in collaborative decision-making. Specific areas covered include Reverse e-Auctions as a new form of supplier relationship in B2B today, and the economic benefits of information sharing in the supply chain. These subjects are still relevant for the evolution of industrial management towards Industry 4.0.

#### 4. **Lean Management**

This explores Yasuhiro Monden's contribution to the Toyota Production System (TPS) and the introduction of the 'Lean' concept in France. The initial impact of the TPS and its challenges in the context of the western world are analysed, providing a critical review of the foundations of the system. It also explores the extent to which 'Lean' has been adopted in French industry, identifying Monden's early contributions, reviewing the challenges of adapting TPS to such contexts, and highlighting some present-day questions.

We really hope you enjoy reading this Volume.

We would like to convey our sincere thanks to the members of the Enlarged Committee for their time and precious contributions.

**Please remember** that a journal cannot survive in the long term without financial resources, so don't hesitate to join the RFGI association, *ARFGI - Amis de la Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* (Friends of the French Journal of Industrial Management) via the website or by sending back the membership application form which is on the last page of this issue.

As a final word, we are active on various social networks, so follow us to make sure you don't miss any of our latest news.

: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/arfgi/>  
: <https://twitter.com/AmisRFGI>

## 7. REFERENCES

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## 8. BIOGRAPHIES



**Ridha Derrouiche** is a research-active faculty member at EM Strasbourg Business School and a member of the HuManiS Research Center. He holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering from the University of Lyon.

His research focusses on the field of Collaborative Supply Chain. He is particularly interested in the creation and sharing of value between Supply Chain partners. His works have been featured in various international journals, including the *Journal of Cleaner Production*, *Logistique & Management*, *International Journal of Production Planning & Control*, *Supply Chain Forum: An International Journal*. He has been Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Revue Française de Gestion Industrielle* since 2021.



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