



13th International Social Innovation Research Conference

“Enabling the change! Social innovation and enterprises for a better future”
ALTIS-Graduate School Business & Society, E4Impact Foundation
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan)
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Conference stream: Call for Papers & Panels

Social impact measurement: challenges and promising pathways

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Description:

Social impact measurement is an enabling and necessary tool for improving the human condition. Effective measurement of social impact is complex and involves the participation of many actors (social entrepreneurs, decision-makers of social, hybrid and non-profit enterprises, financiers, investors, policymakers and academics). Different types of organisations are increasingly showing interest in measuring their social impact to assess the social value of their activity and increase their accountability. Funders and policy makers regard social impact measurement as a way to identify and scale effective practices. Despite the increasing popularity of the practices, there are important barriers. Some examples are:

- conflicts of different epistemological approaches to the impact concept and the social impact concept as well,
- lack of clarity in the interlink between the different epistemological concept and the measurement methods,
- challenges of developing shared measurement practices,
- debates about whether qualitative or quantitative approaches should be used,
- difficulty in assessing long-term impacts
- lack of social impact data and high costs of quality measurement processes,
- difficulties in management of impact measurement practices and results,
- lack of guidelines for usage of social impact objectives and metrics as managerial decision-making instruments.



This stream aims to bring together researchers from different backgrounds and disciplines to discuss promising pathways for facing these challenges. Particularly, we invite contribution covering the following or related topics:

- Theoretical approaches to social impact: definitions, ontological and epistemological stances, theories and models.
- Methodological issues, methods and tools to assess social impact.
- Empirical research identifying indicators and metrics in specific fields, sectors or industries.
- Management of social impact in different types of organisations (third sector, social enterprises, for-profit companies, etc.).
- Social impact measurement in relation to progress on Sustainable Development Goals.
- Perspectives from other disciplines (e.g. psychology, sociology, computation sciences, etc) related to social impact measurement.
- Perspectives from approaches to social impact from Developing Economies,
- Use of new technologies (e.g. blockchain technologies, satellite imagery) to improve, scale or systematize social impact measurement.
- Relationships between social impact measurement and the behaviour of social hybrids (e.g. balancing of social and financial objectives, mission drift).
- The use of social impact measurement in certifications (e.g. B corp, Fair trade)

References

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Guidelines for submission

To contribute to the conference, it is possible to submit both paper abstracts or proposals for panel sessions. Following details about the submission:

A. Paper abstracts

Must be maximum 400 words, excluding references (Font: Times New Roman 12-pt, double spaced, 2.5 cm margin all around).

They should articulate: (1) the research objectives or questions being addressed; (2) the conceptual or theoretical perspectives informing the work; (3) where appropriate, the methodology utilised; and (4) the contribution of the paper to knowledge in light of the conference themes.

A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted per presenter (joint papers to be presented by co-authors will also be considered). To enable anonymity, the authors' names should not appear. Instead, a cover page giving the title of the paper and full identifying information of the author(s) (name, address, telephone and e-mail address) should be included as a separate Word or PDF document. On abstract submission please ensure you advise the conference stream.

B. Panel session proposals

Must be maximum 400 words, excluding references.

They should include: (1) the panel purpose and its relationship to the nominated conference stream; (2) details of (minimum) three and (maximum) four papers and paper presenters to be included in the panel; and the expected contribution to the panel.

On panel submission please ensure you advise the conference stream.

Process and deadlines

All paper abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted by email to: www.isirc2021milano.com

Abstract and panel proposals submission due: 28th February 2021

Notification of decision on submissions: 31st March 2021

Optional full paper submission for consideration in best paper awards: 15th July 2021

Enquiries about conference administration and technical issues related to online submission should be directed to the conference administration team at isirc2021@unicatt.it

Guidelines for full paper submissions:

Papers must be written in English and should be sent in Microsoft Word or PDF format.

Papers should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length including tables, figures and references.

Tables and figures should be incorporated into the paper. Each table and figure should be given a title.

Please include an abstract and four to six key words.



To enable anonymity, the authors' names should not appear. Instead, a cover page giving the title of the paper and full identifying information of the author(s) (name, address, telephone and e-mail address) should be included as a separate Word or PDF document.

Harvard is the preferred referencing style.