



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)

September 8-10th, 2021

Conference stream: Call for Papers & Panels

Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa

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Description:

Africa is at a crossroads. On one hand, it faces numerous intractable sustainable development challenges, including widespread and persistent poverty, increased competition for resources accompanying major population growth, the intensifying effects of global climate change, and the social and economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, many African economies are growing rapidly, whilst over the last decade significant progress has been made in governance and human development on the continent. In recent times many African cities have also become centres of (social) innovation and entrepreneurship. Indeed, a transformation is occurring, with external perceptions of Africa changing to see the continent as an ‘opportunity’ rather than a ‘threat’, whilst Africans are also shaping their own destinies and developing local solutions to the sustainable development challenges they face. This stream aligns with this transformation. It aims to provide significant novel empirical and theoretical insights on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa.

Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa has been the subject of growing academic attention. Nevertheless, research has struggled to keep up with rapid developments on the ground and in practice. Scholarship on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa also remains fragmented, with many research questions unanswered. For this reason, we have convened this conference stream. We therefore invite contributions to the stream on the following (non-exhaustive) topics:

- The nature of social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, similarities and differences across and within Africa, and compared to other contexts.
- The characteristics of African social innovators and entrepreneurs, what motivates them, what constrains them, their identities, and how they can be better supported.

Conference Website: www.isirc2021milano.com

Conference administration team’s email: isirc2021@unicatt.it



- Organising for social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, including but not limited to social enterprises, this would encompass topics of strategy, marketing, operations management, internationalisation, leadership etc.
- Theorising social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, applying new theoretical perspectives to understand these phenomena, as well as building new theories to explain them.
- Critical and alternative perspectives on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa.
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa and government, institutions and policy, how an enabling environment can be created for such innovation and entrepreneurship. Political perspectives on social innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in Africa, including the role of universities, hubs, international organisations and wider actors.
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa and the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges and responses.

Guidelines for submission

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