



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

Circular economy and social innovation

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Description:

Circular economy (CE) is a new production and consumption paradigm which proposes to overcome the traditional linear economic model in favour of a more regenerative and restorative system where products, components, and materials are kept “at their highest utility and value at all times” (EMF, 2015; Geissdoerfer et al., 2017; de Sousa Jabbour et al. 2019). According to this definition, the transition from linear to circular involves societal actors at micro (enterprises and consumers), meso (economic agents integrated in symbiosis) and macro (cities, regions, governments) levels (Kirchherr et al. 2017), thus requiring extensive economic and societal changes. However, whereas the environmental implications and impacts are extensively discussed, the social and institutional dimensions of the transition are far less considered, although acknowledged by scholars and practitioners (Kristensen and Mosgaard, 2020; Moreau et al., 2017). On one side, exploring the social aspects of CE allows enterprises to keep pace with the competitive environment (Kazancoglu et al., 2018). On the other side, understanding the relationship with the way society innovates contributes to promote more inclusive and effective circular development frameworks (Kristensen and Mosgaard, 2020).

Scant literature has considered the plausible relationship between social innovation and CE in promoting new pathways of development based on innovative solutions able to tackle social and environmental issues. We therefore welcome papers in this realm. Contributions are invited on both the role that social innovation may have in supporting the transition to circular economy and the impact that CE may determine over the development of social innovation.

The following are illustrative topics/themes that are consistent with the spirit of this call for papers. Authors will be encouraged to contribute papers with wider perspectives, as long as the papers are in line with the broad topics of the proposed call for papers. Both qualitative and quantitative approach are relevant. Thus, we invite empirical and theoretical contributions dealing with, but not limited to:

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- social enterprises' degree of circularity;
- measurement and reporting of social impact of Circular economy;
- the contribution of circular business model to social innovation;
- social innovation strategies related to CE;
- how the concept of circular economy embraces the social dimensions;
- examination of how circular economy and social innovation jointly work towards sustainability in contexts such as the urban sustainability discourse;
- social development in industrial symbiosis aimed at circular economy;
- efficiency, effectiveness and implementation in CE initiatives;
- social actions to promote a greater degree of circularity among enterprises;
- how to integrate and measure social sustainability in the CE;
- inclusion of social indicators in CE measurement.

References

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Kazancoglu, Y., Kazancoglu, I., and Sagnak, M. (2018). A new holistic conceptual framework for green supply chain management performance assessment based on circular economy. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 195, 1282-1299.

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Kristensen, H., S., and Mosgaard, M.A., 2020. A review of micro level indicators for a circular economy – moving away from the three dimensions of sustainability? *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 243, 1-20.

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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.