



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

Critical perspectives on social innovation

Chairs:

MIKE BULL

Manchester Metropolitan University

email: m.bull@mmu.ac.uk

TIM CURTIS

University of Northampton

email: tim.curtis@northampton.ac.uk

JANETTE HURST

Sheffield Hallam University

email: j.hurst@shu.ac.uk

Description:

We would like to highlight upfront that the ‘critical’ in the stream title is not intended to be directed at alternatives which social innovation might replace. The rest of the conference has sufficient space for papers critiquing bureaucratic public policy, dependency cultures perpetuated by philanthropy or business as usual. Instead, this stream turns attention towards the social innovation emperor and seeks to critique him (and it is usually him) for wearing no clothes.

Social Innovation, by (most) definition(s), involves meeting new social needs and/or developing new solutions to social problems. What possible reason(s) could there be to develop a stream focusing on critical perspectives on social innovation for better futures? Well here we offer just three: First, and perhaps most obviously, critical perspectives might focus on the hidden ideas and ideologies underpinning social innovation discourses. That is, not so much what social innovation is for, but rather what it isn’t for. Who pushes social innovation discourses and policies and why? Which alternative approaches to meeting social needs for better futures are ‘squeezed out’ by social innovation?

Second, critical perspectives might interrogate social innovation less as an outcome and more as a process which involves bringing different groups together to devise new solutions to particular problems. Who are the winners and losers in such a process? Is there any evidence to show such a process ‘works’?

Thirdly, what are the benefits of returning to sociological understandings of the social – and an economy of enrichment? What are the problems with fictitious commodification? Sentiment versus efficiency? Intimacy versus market? Economizing versus socializing?

Importantly, however, the aim of this stream is not to direct people in how to perform critique. Instead, we seek innovative and thought provoking papers in any format that challenge popular understandings and taken for granted perspectives, of social innovation. A space for the counter and little narratives to “go beyond the present narrative representation [...] trying to think what is currently unthinkable inside of or in the centre of the grand narrative” (Dey and Steyaert, 2010, p. 87).

Conference Website: www.isirc2021milano.com

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



References

Dey, P. and Steyaert, C. (2010), "The politics of narrating social entrepreneurship", *Journal of Enterprising Communities, People and Places in the Global Economy*, Vol. 4 No. 1, pp. 85-108.

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.