



13<sup>th</sup> 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 8-10<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

Conference stream: Call for Papers & Panels

## Sustainability and social innovation in pandemic era

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### **Description:**

The global outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) has taken a toll on several aspects of individuals life and challenged organizations and economic systems. Social distance, masks, and quarantine have profoundly changed the way we work and interact with others, generating both positive and negative impacts for environmental, social, and economic sustainability (Barbier & Burgess, 2020). On the one hand, the outbreak gave rise to feelings of fear, due to the huge amount of human life loss and employment instability. The radical shift to online meetings became a wake-up call for managers and entrepreneurs, who have suddenly seen their employees disappear from corporate offices. Likewise, the pandemic has been a challenge for working parents, who had to find creative ways to manage work at home. On the other hand, the natural environment benefited from lockdown and travel restrictions in terms of air and water quality (Amankwah-Amoah, 2020).

All these aspects highlight the interconnectedness of social, environmental, and economic dimensions and how none of them should be forgotten. The future of human well-being may be seriously compromised if all three sustainability's dimensions are not properly safeguarded (Folke et al., 2010). New practices and innovative solutions have been developed by individuals, group of individuals, businesses, and governments to tackle with emerging social, economic, and environmental concerns. Given this global persistence of coronavirus pandemic, questions arise about the positive and negative impacts of COVID-19 at micro (individuals and single organizations), meso (industry and sectors) and macro (institutional contexts).

The purpose of this stream is thus to facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas across disciplines, to understand: how COVID-19 outbreak affected individuals, organizations and systems as well as to explore what kind of innovative solutions have been implemented to overcome the pandemic and foster resilience. We invite scholars to reflect, theorize and apply rigorous methodological approaches answering to material questions on sustainability and social innovation in pandemic era. Example of questions to be addressed are the following:

- how the COVID-19 outbreak affected individuals work-life balance?
- how the COVID-19 changed business leader's decision making?
- how individuals reimagined their work due to COVID-19 outbreak?

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- how the organizations built up and strengthened resilience during the COVID-19 outbreak?
- which innovative solutions have been developed because of the COVID-19 outbreak?
- which innovative solutions have been developed by financial institutions because of the COVID-19 outbreak?
- which innovative solutions have been developed by higher education institutions because of the COVID-19 outbreak?
- how organizations relying on one specific industry collaborated to tackle with COVID-19?

These questions are suggestive and not exhaustive. We welcome a wide variety of perspectives and methodological approaches.

## References

Amankwah-Amoah, J. (2020). Stepping up and stepping out of COVID-19: New challenges for environmental sustainability policies in the global airline industry. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 271, 123000.

Barbier, E. B., & Burgess, J. C. (2020). Sustainability and development after COVID-19. *World Development*, 135, 105082.

Folke, C., Carpenter, S. R., Walker, B., Scheffer, M., Chapin, T., & Rockström, J. (2010). Resilience thinking: integrating resilience, adaptability and transformability. *Ecology and Society*, 15(4).

## 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.

All paper abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted by email to: [www.isirc2021milano.com](http://www.isirc2021milano.com)

Abstract and panel proposals submission due: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Notification of decision on submissions: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Optional full paper submission for consideration in best paper awards: 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.