



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

Orchestrating networks for social innovation

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Description:

Scaling social impact is rarely a process triggered by stand-alone organizations but requires the interplay of a multiplicity of actors operating at different levels in the economic, social and political environment. For example, it is often the case that private and public institutions need to join their efforts on promoting social innovation to tackle longstanding social issues and inequalities. A crucial role is played by intermediary organizations – e.g. incubators, accelerators, government agencies, venture associations, research centers, etc., - that enhance the potential for value creation of multi-stakeholder networks by orchestrating how they work together when searching for suitable solutions to wicked problems.

Prior research documents several examples of intermediary organizations and broadly suggests that, when focusing on commercial innovation, they tend to engage in two main types of activities: the creation of market infrastructures (*bridging*) and the development of business capabilities (*buffering*). Yet, there remains a paucity of research on how the actual processes, resources, and capabilities that would be required to support more socially oriented innovation. While several fragmented insights exist in academic streams like entrepreneurship, institutionalism, and innovation in emerging economies, many questions remain unanswered and we believe it is time to start bringing the conversation together. For this reason, we invite contributions to this stream on the following (non-exhaustive) topics related to the broader theme of orchestrating networks for social innovation:

1. Capabilities, skills, and key resources for orchestrating social innovation, e.g.:

- Key resources to keep the pace of innovation
- Strategies to develop nonreplicable resources
- Skills and capacities needed for technological transfer in non-munificent environments

2. Micro, meso, macro institutional levels, e.g.:

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- Influencing members' emotions towards sustainable performance
- Leveraging institutional environments and/or creating new institutions to operate in developing countries
- The interplay between micro, meso, macro institutional levels in hindering/supporting the implementation of social innovation

3. Intermediaries and ecosystem, e.g.:

- Strategies to build socially sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems
- How organizations shape and are shaped by socially sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems
- Enabling members to expand and strengthen socially sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems

4. Challenges in orchestrating social innovation

- Institutional barriers faced by intermediary organizations
- Financial sustainability of intermediary organizations
- Legitimacy threshold for intermediary organizations and legitimacy transfer to member organizations

5. Categories and interactions between intermediaries

- What strategies can be effective when multiple intermediary organizations collaborate?
- Challenges in competition among intermediary organizations
- Public intermediary organizations Vs private intermediary organizations: effectiveness and financial sustainability

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Guidelines for submission

It is possible to contribute to the conference by submitting article abstracts or proposals for panel sessions, in line with the following rules:

A. Paper abstracts

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

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.