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

Migrants' economic, social, and political inclusion: What role for social innovation?

Chairs:

SIMONE BAGLIONI
University of Parma
simone.baglioni@unipr.it

DANIELA BOLZANI
University of Bologna
daniela.bolzani@unibo.it

FRANCESCA CALÒ
Open University
francesca.calo@open.ac.uk

Description:

International migration has become a field of highly disputed policy solutions and connected debates in Europe and beyond (Geddens & Scholten, 2016). For instance, in Europe, such polarized and polarizing discourses and policy preferences have grown since the mid-2010s when the number of people fleeing their countries significantly increased due to the war in Syria as well as protracted political, social and economic instability in the Middle East, Asia and Africa (e.g. The Times, 2018).

While mainstreaming media and political entrepreneurs tended to focus on the potential security issues raised by increased fluxes of refugees and migrants, civil society activists, private companies, and local authorities have been at the forefront of the provision of humanitarian help as well as in the promotion of integration programs (Caló et al., 2019; Freudenberg & Halberstadt, 2018). Acting sometimes in a policy vacuum or even in defiance of national authorities, such civil society organisations, companies, and local or sub-national authorities have deployed a creative spirit of innovations allowing people fleeing from poverty, war, and persecution, find a place where to obtain protection and begin a new life through education, training, work, entrepreneurship, and socialising events (Bolzani et al., 2020; Garkisch et al., 2017). These innovations became even more important during the Covid-19 pandemic (Patuzzi, 2020).

Although numerous contributions have tackled this area of research, much ground remains to be covered. This stream therefore aims to gather contributions shedding light on such innovative forms of support and integration of migrants, among which refugees and asylum seekers, across a range of aspects, including economic, social or political dimensions. It invites papers discussing social innovations having occurred in the broad field of migration, either as first help or more long-term integration-seeking programs and actions, not only focused on host-country but also on transnational and multi-sited initiatives.

We therefore invite contributions to the stream on the following (non-exhaustive) topics:

- Civil society led social innovation in economic, social and political inclusion of migrants (including refugees and asylum seekers), during and after Covid-19 pandemic;
- Collective action and social movements in support of migrants' needs and voice;
- Private businesses' engagement in social innovation initiatives fostering economic, social and political inclusion of migrants;
- Social innovation through the support of (social) migrant entrepreneurship and social enterprises;
- Social innovation actions targeting public opinion's perception of migration, and in particular innovative forms of communication about migration;
- Policy provision and welfare state models in the promotion of migrants' integration dynamics;
- Social innovation and social policy for migrants', refugees and asylum seekers inclusion;
- Social innovation and labour market integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers;
- Social innovation in performing arts, culture and leisure initiatives aiming at migrants' social inclusion.

The chairs are currently considering options for a Special Issue in an international peer-reviewed journal, with the aim of collecting the best full papers submitted to the track.

References

Bolzani, D., Marabello, S., & Honig, B. (2020). Exploring the multi-level processes of legitimacy in transnational social enterprises. *Journal of Business Venturing*, *35*(3), 105941.

Caló F., Montgomery T., & Baglioni S. (2019). United Kingdom: Civil Society Barriers and Enablers in Numerato D., Čada K., Hoření K., 2019. Civil Society Barriers and Enablers. WP4 Report SIRIUS Project. Available at: https://www.sirius-project.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/Civil%20society%20enablers%20and%20barriers%20D4.1.pdf

Freudenberg, J., & Halberstadt, J. (2018). How to integrate refugees into the workforce–different opportunities for (social) entrepreneurship. *Problemy Zarządzania*, (1/2018 73), t. 2), 40-60.

Garkisch, M., Heidingsfelder, J., & Beckmann, M. (2017). Third sector organizations and migration: A systematic literature review on the contribution of third sector organizations in view of flight, migration and refugee crises. *VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations*, 28(5), 1839–1880.

Geddes, A., Scholten, P. (2016). *The Politics of Migration and Immigration in Europe*. Second edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Patuzzi (2020). *Driving Migrant Inclusion through Social Innovation. Lessons for cities in a pandemic*. Brussels and Rome: Migration Policy Institute Europe and International Organization for Migration.

The Times (2018). Migration crisis could break Europe, warns Merkel. 28 June 2018. Available at https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migration-crisis-could-break-europe-warns-merkel-n5cx8zq36, accessed 20 September 2018.

Guidelines for submission

To contribute to the conference, it is possible to submit both paper abstracts or proposals for panel sessions, according to the following submission instructions:

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