



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

## Regional and geographical aspects of social innovation

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### ***Description:***

This conference stream is focused on the intersections between social innovation and matters of geography. Thinking geographically about social innovation means taking seriously questions of space, place, scale and proximity. Different types of social innovation can be realised at different scales – from an individual working on a singular concern, through to social movements working on issues of profound significance for whole societies. Thinking geographically also draws attention to the nature of the ‘social’ in social innovation. In particular, the ways in which social connections, places and activities are brought into being through processes of innovation.

There are also wider topological implications of these different kinds of social innovation as each is stimulated, created and operationalised by various configurations of people and organisations, in different geographical contexts. These issues have been brought into sharper focus by the constraints of Covid 19.

One unexamined aspect of this is proximity: the need for social innovators to be physically close to mentors, funders, resources (material or pecuniary), and those they seek to help. In a digital (and Covid) age, the question about proximity takes on an added importance: to what extent is social innovation still ‘placed’ or is proximity less a matter of physical closeness and more about how many clicks?

Thinking geographically, therefore, calls attention not only to the genus, scale and limits of social innovations and questions the extent to which they can be transferred into other places, but the role

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Conference administration team’s email: [isirc2021@unicatt.it](mailto:isirc2021@unicatt.it)



that proximity plays in enabling social innovations to flourish and implement change. This stream, therefore, invites papers that: 1) Critically examine the role that proximity and place play in social innovation; and 2) assess the role of place and proximity in social innovation as the Covid crisis drives many societal functions online.

This stream calls for contributions on the following themes:

- How is social innovation incubated by communities in place, including marginalized communities or regions?
- What is the importance of proximity in social innovation?
- What opportunities and threats for social innovation are offered by the rush to digital delivery in a Covid and post-Covid world?
- How can social innovation be scaled up or scaled down?
- How does scale influence social innovation?
- How does the digital alter the relationship between social innovation and place?
- How does the digital influence social innovation including how social innovations are designed and hosted and how they are scaled?
- What has the Covid crisis taught us about the geography of social innovation?
- What critical tools and concepts does the discipline of geography bring to enhance our understanding of social innovation?

#### 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](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.