

## Call for Papers and Panels

12<sup>th</sup> International Social Innovation Research Conference 2020,  
Sheffield University Management School, Centre for Regional Economic and Enterprise  
Development

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

**Theme:** *'Social innovation and enterprise for more prosperous, fair and sustainable societies'*

**Conference website:** <https://isirconference2020.com/>

## Sustainability and Social Innovation in a Time of Climate Emergency

**Stream chairs:** Fergus Lyon, Irene Garnelo-Gomez and Rafael Ziegler

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**Stream description:** At time of climate emergency and rapid biodiversity loss, there is a need for transformation to a more sustainable economy and society. The rapid change needed requires social innovations of different types and at different scales. This theme will examine how social innovation and social entrepreneurs can contribute to this deep transition, and the challenges facing social innovation.

The need for more research in this area is increasing rapidly as some governments call for net zero emissions and citizen movements campaign for greater acceleration of change. Innovations to address the climate emergency range from technological solutions via changes in consumption and pro-environmental behaviour to more directly political forms of social innovation. Such a transformation also requires different ways of thinking about the economy and growth, with social innovations focusing on living well within planetary boundaries. This challenges the assumptions of endless economic growth but also requires the scaling up of beneficial innovations and transitions in many sectors. The climate emergency requires a greater understanding of innovation that breaks down the silos of thinking between social and environmental goals, and that also bridges the worlds of academia, practice and policy.

We welcome papers in the following topics as well as others related to the theme:

1. Bringing the social and environmental together to research innovation
2. Social innovation research in large and small organisations, as part of organizational strategy and corporate social responsibility
3. Forms of building resilience and adaptation to climate change and biodiversity loss, including managing the commons and building natural capital
4. Post growth, de-growth and growth agnostic approaches to understanding the economy and social change
5. The scaling of impact of those particular sectors that are relevant to tackling climate change such as transport, food, fashion and energy
6. Niche restoration of sustainable but often marginalized forms of living with the natural environment

7. Social innovation and activism by NGOs, individuals, lawyers and other businesses
8. Democratic innovations for sustainability
9. Legitimacy building, certification approaches and other regulatory systems for the climate emergency
10. Community based innovations for sustainability
11. Investment and divestment for the climate emergency and biodiversity loss
12. Policy approaches for social innovation for the climate emergency
13. Raising awareness about sustainability: social innovation teaching in schools and higher education

## **Submission Guidelines**

**Paper abstracts** must be a maximum of 300 words, excluding references. They should articulate: the research questions or objectives being addressed; the conceptual or theoretical perspectives informing the work; where appropriate, the methodology utilised; and the contribution of the paper to knowledge in light of the conference theme.

A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted per presenter (joint papers to be presented by co-authors will also be considered).

Paper abstracts should be submitted to [isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk)

On abstract submission please ensure you **advise of the conference stream**.

Optional full paper submission for consideration in best paper awards is due no later than **31st July 2020**. Submit full papers to: [isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk)

### 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 5000 and 8000 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.

**Panel proposals** must be a maximum 400 words, excluding references. They should include: the panel purpose and its relationship to the nominated conference stream; details of (minimum) three and (maximum) four papers and paper presenters to be included in the panel; and the expected contribution of the panel.

Panel proposals abstracts should be submitted to [isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk)

On panel proposal submission please ensure you **advise of the conference stream**.

Enquiries about conference administration and technical issues related to submission should be directed to the conference administration team:  
[isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:isirc2020conference@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **Deadlines**

Abstract and panel proposals submission closes: **7<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Decision on submissions notification: **30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

Full papers submitted for consideration in best paper awards due: **31st July 2020**