

Call for Papers and Panels

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

1st – 3rd September 2020

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

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

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Africa

Stream chairs: Dr David Littlewood; Professor Diane Holt.

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Stream description: Africa is at a crossroads. On one hand, it faces numerous intractable sustainable development challenges, including widespread and persistent poverty, increased competition for resources accompanying major population growth, and the intensifying effects of global climate change. On the other hand, many African economies are growing rapidly, whilst over the last decade significant progress has been made in governance and human development on the continent. In recent times many African cities have also become centres of (social) innovation and entrepreneurship. Indeed, a transformation is occurring in Africa, with external perceptions of it changing to see the continent as an 'opportunity' rather than a 'threat', whilst Africans are also shaping their own destinies and developing local solutions to the sustainable development challenges they face. This stream aligns with this transformation. It aims to provide significant novel empirical and theoretical insights on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa.

Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa has been the subject of growing academic attention. Nevertheless, research has struggled to keep up with rapid developments on the ground and in practice. Scholarship on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa also remains fragmented, with many research questions unanswered. For this reason, we have convened this conference stream. We therefore invite contributions to the stream on the following (non-exhaustive) topics:

- The nature of social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, and similarities and differences in this across and within Africa, and compared to other contexts.
- The characteristics of African social innovators and entrepreneurs, what motivates them, what constrains them, their identities, and how they can be better supported.
- Organising for social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, including but not limited to social enterprises, this would encompass topics of strategy, marketing, operations management, internationalisation, leadership etc.
- Theorising social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, applying new theoretical perspectives to understand these phenomena, as well as building new theory to explain them

- Critical and alternative perspectives on social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa.
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa and government, institutions and policy, how can an enabling environment be created for such innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems in Africa, including the role of universities, hubs, international organisations and wider actors.

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

Abstract and panel proposals submission closes: **7th April 2020**

Decision on submissions notification: **30th April 2020**

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