

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://isircconference2020.com/>

Critical Perspectives on Social Innovation

Stream chairs: Professor Rory Ridley-Duff, Dr. Mike Bull & Tim Curtis

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Stream description: We would like to highlight upfront that the 'critical' in the stream title is not intended to be directed at alternatives which social innovation might replace. The rest of the conference has sufficient space for papers critiquing bureaucratic public policy, dependency cultures perpetuated by philanthropy or business as usual. Instead, this stream turns attention towards the social innovation emperor and seeks to critique him (and it is usually him) for wearing no clothes. Social Innovation, by (most) definition(s), involves meeting new social needs and/or developing new solutions to social problems. What possible reason(s) could there be to develop a stream focusing on critical perspectives on social innovation for more prosperous, fair and sustainable societies? Well here we offer just three: First, and perhaps most obviously, critical perspectives might focus on the hidden ideas and ideologies underpinning social innovation discourses. That is, not so much what social innovation is for, but rather what it isn't for. Who pushes social innovation discourses and policies and why? Which alternative approaches to meeting social needs for prosperous, fair and sustainable societies are 'squeezed out' by social innovation? Second, critical perspectives might interrogate social innovation less as an outcome and more as a process which involves bringing different groups together to devise new solutions to particular problems. Who are the winners and losers in such a process? Is there any evidence to show such a process 'works'? Thirdly, what are the benefits of returning to sociological understandings of the social – and an economy of enrichment? What are the problems with fictitious commodification? Sentiment versus efficiency? Intimacy versus market? Economizing versus socializing? Importantly, however, the aim of this stream is not to direct people in how to perform critique. Instead, we seek innovative and thought provoking papers in any format that challenge popular understandings and taken for granted perspectives, of social innovation.

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**