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/

Design Thinking & Beyond

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Stream description: Over the last ten years, design thinking has exploded into the social impact space and within social innovation research and higher education. What arose as a methodology for product and service innovation (mostly in design firms and social enterprises in the global north) has evolved in different contexts across the globe as ways of addressing social, political and environmental challenges. Many embrace the practical tools to spark social innovation and help solve intractable societal problems. The design squiggle, "Yes, And!" mind-sets for brainstorming, and rapid prototyping are ubiquitous in our social innovation vernacular. Design thinking models (such as the Stanford "d.school" of "empathize, define, ideate, prototype and test") are widely recognizable, even as they are being superseded by greater emphasis on cultivating authentic design attitudes and skills. As its popularity has grown, organizations and individuals are reworking the models, training methodologies, and theories. New language to communicate the value of design is arising. Critical design scholars, especially from the global south, call for "decolonizing" design, challenging the approach as embodying white privilege and corporate values and being alienating to key audiences.

This stream will investigate the practices and dynamics of design thinking in the field of social innovation. We offer space for presenting new formulations and theories, as well as lessons from applications for social innovation. We invite attention to the risks of spreading certain models and practices of DT and its unintended consequences. We invite contributions that investigate a range of practical experiences, theoretical stances, and critical perspectives, for example:

- Best practices and advancements in design thinking broadly
- Tools that foster design thinking, mindsets, and practices for social innovators
- Examples of co-creation and participatory design in community settings
- New applications across organizations of various sizes, sectors, and profit orientations
- Adaptations in the process and approach to meet a variety of conditions
- Other processes and methodologies being replaced and enhanced by design thinking
- Theories, comparisons and advances in design thinking methodologies and

frameworks
- Limits/blind spots of design thinking; situations where design thinking should be avoided
- Experiences in translating (global north) design processes into other socio-cultural contexts
- Circumstances when design thinking actually curtails innovation, and other unintended consequences.

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**