

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/>

Financing Social Impact

Stream chairs: Mario Calderini & Veronica Chiodo

Contact email: mario.calderini@polimi.it; veronica.chiodo@polimi.it

Stream description: a widely accepted finding concerns the higher difficulties experienced by entrepreneurial organizations with the mission of generating social impact in accessing financial resources. Indeed, their hybrid nature does not fit neatly into either the traditional non-profit model typically supported by the public sector and grant-makers or the for-profit model familiar to commercial financiers. On the other hand, financial practices intentionally deploying capital to generate a measurable and additional social impact has gained popularity and momentum over the last couple of years. However, social impact finance has not yet a proper theorization of its nature and purpose. Therefore, this industry of “the capital for social impact” suffers an issue of misalignment due to blurred conceptualization of the very nature of the phenomenon. In particular, the lack of understanding of the utility function of investors hinders the opportunity to effectively translate the qualifying element into the operationalization of the investment process and meet the need of the social impact organizations. This stream sets out to explore the core distinctive elements of the practice of providing capital to support sustainable activities that generate social impact using an ecosystem approach that considers the needs, features and evolution of both demand and supply side. Thus, we invite empirical and theoretical contributions dealing with, but not limited to:

- *Relationship between (social) financiers and social enterprises*
 - Investment readiness of potential capital recipients
 - Challenges of social ventures in approaching and dealing with different capital providers
 - Investors eligibility and assessment criteria for social enterprises
 - Negotiation of terms and objectives between social financiers and social enterprises
 - Effects of non-financial services provided by investors on investees
- *Sustainable Finance and Social Impact Investing*
 - Structure and performance of SRI and ethical funds
 - Reflections of the utility function of impact investors
 - Measurements and evaluation of social impact generated by impact investors
 - Assessment of social risk and return and integration in the portfolio building methods

- Outcome based/Pay for success financial mechanisms and their effectiveness
- Example of new approaches and mechanisms of different funds providers (e.g. public agencies, private capital, public-private partnerships arrangements, philanthropy) in performing social impact investing
- Empirical studies collecting data on existing practices
- *Alternative finance*
 - Approaches and instruments of the Islamic finance
 - The role of social impact in crowdfunding

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**