Towards a Multi-Level Social Innovation Measurement Framework

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Stream description: Social innovation relates to new forms of interaction, cooperation, governance and knowledge generation. Compared to commercial innovation, it comprises a broader variety of actors and hybrid business models. Research on social innovation has made progress in recent years. However, the measurement of social innovation is a neglected area and we lack valid indicators and other tools. Such indicators are, however, necessary to allow informed decision making of social innovators, policymakers, investors or other actors who aspire to engage in social innovation.

Basically, social indicators first, must be capable of collecting and making available data at various geographic scales which characterise typical environments for the occurrence of social innovation (e.g. the city, region or state). Second, they must allow to capture the variety of social innovation actors. While some research on personal traits of social entrepreneurs exist, we still lack knowledge on properties of social innovative organisations. A special challenge is the development of tools that can be applied to the diverse cosmos of social innovative organisations. Finally, we have virtually no insights into future and emerging innovation and/or topics that formulate the need for social innovation.

Acknowledging the above, this call for papers attempts to help bridge the social innovation measurement gap. Particularly, we invite papers that address the following questions:

- What are the conditions under which social innovation thrives? Is it most lively where the need is pressing (demand pull in more traditional terms) or is it flourishing where there are a lot of resources including talent (supply push in more traditional terms). Do agents of and for social innovation share common properties?

- Are characteristics of the environment of social innovations and actor traits similar to those identified for business innovation. Or are they specific to social innovation?

- Is there a social innovation foresight process that allows to identify upcoming topics, methods, actors?

We invite for this stream *theoretical papers* that analyse the properties of social innovation and social innovation actors with a focus on measurement, *methodological papers* that present ideas what metrics of social innovation at the distinct levels could look like methodological and empirical as well as *examples* of research that use all kind of instruments to measure social innovative activities of organisations, innovativeness of regions or try to identify upcoming topics for social innovation.

Submission Guidelines

<u>**Paper abstracts**</u> 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

<u>Guidelines for full paper submissions:</u>

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.

<u>**Panel proposals**</u> 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

<u>Deadlines</u>

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**