

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 and Purpose-Driven Innovation In Post-Communist Societies

Stream chairs: Dr Sergej Ljubownikow, Prof Jo Crotty, Dr Irina Krasnopolskaya

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Stream description: Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many countries with communist economic and political systems have embarked on the transition toward liberal and market democracies. Under Communist rule, it was the state that was meant to take care of everything, addressing and solving any social problems. Nevertheless, citizens of these countries relied heavily on informal approach to solving social and economic problems such as food shortage. Political and economic transition has generally meant a withdrawal of the state from many of the activities it engaged in in the past. Addressing and solving social problems has now become the purview of a variety of actors. This was taken up by non-profit organisations in the early days of post-communism. However, more recently, ideas of social entrepreneurship and purpose-driven business activities have taken hold across post-communist contexts. Both individual actors and to a varying degree, states, have embraced this as a way of addressing wide reach social problems. This has, on the one hand, led to the emergence of new, socially-focused entrepreneurial activities, aimed at finding innovative ways to address social challenges. On the other hand, business organisations addressing social problems are not a new idea to post-communist societies. In the communist economic system, businesses and firms had assumed not only a production and employment function but also a welfare function. This means that such organisations were effectively responsible for maintaining social infrastructure as well as welfare provision. In light of these developments and historic legacies, this conference stream aims to explore social innovations, new social practices and activities that meet social needs, and the drivers for them in post-communist societies. We, therefore, invite contributions to the stream on the following (non-exhaustive) topics:

- How and what type of social and purpose-driven innovations emerge in post-communist societies?

- How has the political and economic transition and transformation shape social problems and social and purpose-driven innovations in post-communist societies?
- How do social innovations differ across organisational actors and what role do cross-sector collaborations play in social innovations in post-communist societies?
- What role and influence does the institutional context have on social and purpose-driven innovations in post-communist societies?

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**