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/

Social Impact Measurement: Challenges and Promising Pathways

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Stream description: Nowadays, social impact measurement is an enabling and necessary tool for the evolution of the social ecosystem. The debate concerning the measurement of social impact is topical as it is complex and sees the participation of all the actors (social entrepreneurs, decision-makers of social, hybrid and non-profit enterprises, financiers, investors, policymakers and academics).

On one side, different types of organisations are increasingly showing interest in measuring their social impact to assess the social value of their activity and increase their accountability. On the other hand, funders and policy makers regard social impact measurement as a way to identify and scale effective practices.
However, despite the increasing popularity of the practices, there are important barriers. Some examples are:
- the presence of different epistemological approaches to the impact concept and the social impact concept as well,
- the interlink between the different epistemological concept and the measurement methods
- the challenge of developing shared measurement practices,
- the debate about the possibility of reporting through a qualitative or a quantitative approach,
- the difficulty in assessing impacts that have effects in the long-term,
- the lack of social impact data and the costs of measurement processes,
- the management of impact measurement practices and results,
- the usage of social impact objectives and metrics as a managerial decision making instrument in social impact organizations.

This panel aims at bringing together researchers from different backgrounds and disciplines to discuss promising pathways for facing these challenges.

Particularly, we invite contribution covering the following or related topics:

- Theoretical approaches to social impact: definitions, ontological and epistemological stances, theories and models.
- Methodological issues, methods and tools to assess social impact.
- Empirical research identifying indicators and metrics in specific fields.
- Management of social impact in different types of organisations (third sector, social enterprises, for-profit companies, etc.)

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**