

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 Innovation & Complexity

Stream chairs: Dr Sharon Zivkovic; Dr Max French

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Stream description: For addressing wicked, intractable social issues, social innovation is a complex process involving multiple actors and dynamically changing contexts (e.g. Davies et al. 2012; Kania and Kramer, 2011). The complexity sciences are therefore highly relevant in researching social innovation and related areas like social entrepreneurship and social enterprise.

In the inaugural Journal of Social Entrepreneurship, social innovation was described from a complexity perspective as the shift from an original attractor which represents business as usual, to a new attractor which represents the social innovation (Goldstein et al. 2010). Research has advocated complexity as a framing for understanding social innovation and entrepreneurship (e.g. Rhodes and Donnelly-Cox 2008), and for developing tools and methods for innovating in a complexity-informed way (e.g. Davies et al. 2012; Zivkovic 2018).

While a complexity-informed perspective may have much to offer social innovation scholarship, it has faced criticism as a fractured and inconsistent approach, lacking clear direction for practice (Pollitt 2006). Researchers might adopt complexity to describe either the social innovation process, or the context in which it is embedded (Greenhalgh and Papoutsis 2018). Some scholars understand complexity as an inalienable feature of the world, while others consider complexity a perceived phenomenon (Schlindwein and Ison 2004).

The Social Innovation & Complexity Stream invites contributions which extend our understanding of the implications of complexity for social innovation, entrepreneurship and related theories. This includes the following (non-exhaustive) list of topics:

- How can complexity and related sciences extend social innovation and entrepreneurship theory? How does complexity compare with other theories or conceptualisations and approaches which are attached to social innovation?
- What does complexity imply for how social innovations emerge, embed, or scale?
- Which methods, models or tools informed by complexity theory can benefit social innovation research and/or practice

- How might complexity inform how we measure and evaluate social innovation?
- What are the implications of complexity for practitioners and policymakers engaging with social innovation?

There is the possibility that selected papers from this stream will be published in a Special Issue of the Social Enterprise Journal.

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**