

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 in Energy Transitions: Beyond Power Generation

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Stream description: While SI is increasingly recognised as playing an important role in the current worldwide transition to clean (er) energy, and its study is gaining momentum, it is still an emerging field, and many questions remain. In particular, the extent to which SI is really transformative in the global energy system, in which conventional multinational power companies with no social remit or democratizing intent remain dominant, is uncertain. No government, to our knowledge, has proposed an SI-led or SI-dominated energy transition, and despite the positive rhetoric (particularly in Europe), the assumption almost everywhere is that the transition will be accomplished through business-as-usual shareholder capitalism, or, in autocratic states, by government dictat. At the same time, the research community has mostly focussed on community-owned-or-managed energy generation, while some of the most important challenges for the energy transition relate to energy systems and networks, in particular, ancillary services, energy infrastructure, and energy storage.

To move forward, the study of SI in energy transitions must tackle the big questions of power relations, energy justice and energy democracy and show how SI can play a transformative role beyond the "comfort zone" of local scale power generation. This stream aims to offer a necessary and timely forum for sharing perspectives and case studies from around the world in this complex and emerging theme in order to advance the boundaries of the field. We welcome academics and practitioners from around the world to share their experiences, discuss the methods and models they have used in implementing SI in energy transitions, and describe the impacts that they have seen in societies in transition. We invite contributions which deal with, but are not limited to:

- SI methods and models implemented in energy transitions
- Case studies in emerging or less-well studied countries and regions
- Power relations, (dis)engagement, (dis)empowerment and (in)equity through SI in energy transitions
- Energy justice and Energy democracy

- Quantification of impact of SI in energy transitions
- SI in energy transition for transport
- SI in energy systems (ancillary services, storage, infrastructure)
- SI in energy economics and energy markets
- SI in energy governance
- Scaling up, Scaling out, and deepening SI energy projects

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**