

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/>

Theoretical & Methodological Futures for Social Innovation

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Stream description: The field of social innovation research has been enriched by the application of different disciplinary approaches including technology, innovation studies, management, public administration, economics, and sociology. Up to this point methods have been predominately qualitative, and range from macro-studies of policy ecosystems to ethnographies. Early work derived from Tarde’s sociological focus on society as an increasingly networked economy whose interconnectedness led to the proliferation of new production techniques or innovations (Tarde, 1899). A separate stream of work focused more on the social consequences of innovations (Hoggan 1909). The concept entered mainstream sociological theory in the 1980s as Gershuny (1983) theorised how innovation might shape society in the future. Towards the turn of the millennium a wave of technology and innovation studies sought to understand how technological innovations diffuse as a consequence of the transformation of social relations (Aicholzer 1998). Geographers such as Moulaert (2005, 2007) view social innovation as a set of radical practices that together led to greater social inclusion and social justice via the changing of existing social (and particularly power) relations and subsequent social inclusion of previously marginalised groups. This conceptualisation focused on social relations, not only as leading to (social) innovation, but also as a consequence of innovation – the social inclusion of marginalised groups. Management Schools arrived late to the study of social innovation, with one school of thought deriving from Schumpeter, conceptualising social innovation as a process of dynamic change involving the reconfiguring of cooperating groups (or forms of social relations) (Tapsell and Woods 2008), while another school characterises social innovation as any innovation which leads to positive social change (Phills et al 2008). Today we see signs that these different approaches are learning from each other and blurring disciplinary boundaries such that social innovation is becoming a more unified concept (Ayob et al 2016), paving the way for exciting interdisciplinary conversations but also risking blunting its radical edge.

This stream explicitly seeks contributions that address the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary social innovation research. How can different disciplines continue to learn from each other, and what are the dangers of such collaboration? How can theories from one discipline be applied across different paradigms? Is it helpful to conceive of social

innovation as a new paradigm, or rather is it better conceptualised as an area of study best approached from different disciplinary perspectives? How can we develop 'gold standard' methodological approaches such as Randomised Control Trials to the study of social innovation? Alternatively, does the study of social innovation better lend itself to 'new' methods and methodologies better suited to our understandings of the social world?

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**