Call for Papers and Panels for the Social Innovation and Complexity Stream

9th International Social Innovation Research Conference

In partnership with Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research Conference and EMES
December 12-14 2017
www.isircconference.com
#ISIRC2017

At Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia

ISIRC 2017: Beyond Boundaries? Organisations, Systems and Social Innovation

Social innovations are often presented as solutions to wicked social problems, operating across sectors, and disrupting traditions of policy and practice. Social innovations - including social enterprise, design-led service creation and citizen co-production – are initiated within, between and beyond the bounds of established organisational forms. Redefining boundaries creates new opportunities for combining wisdom and resources for progressive social change. Yet, critical scholars have observed that many popularised social innovations are limited in their focus on systemic change, and subject to isomorphic pressures from government and commercial interests. Others have argued that individual social innovations are limited in their effectiveness without wider systems-thinking in the design of social innovation policy and practice.

The ninth annual International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC 2017) will explore social innovation within and beyond the organisation. It invites research-led reflection on the organisational boundaries recast by social innovation, the systemic imperatives of a growing focus on social innovation, and the cross-cutting implications of these for theory and practice. Empirical, conceptual and practice-informed research contributions are encouraged.

The conference organisers invite abstracts for papers and panel proposals for the Social Innovation and Complexity stream.

All paper abstracts and panel proposals must be submitted via the conference website at www.isircconference.com. Where references are included, all proposals should adopt the Harvard referencing system.

A maximum of two proposals may be submitted per presenter for the conference (joint papers to be presented by co-authors will also be considered)

Paper abstracts must be maximum 400 words, excluding references. They should articulate: the research objectives or questions 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 themes.

Panel proposals must be a maximum of 1000 words. 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.

From a **complexity perspective**, social innovation has been described 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, p. 104). 'Systemic innovation' that incorporates an understanding of complexity and complex adaptive systems has been recommended as the most appropriate form of social innovation for addressing wicked problems (Davies, et al., 2012). Systemic Innovation is defined as 'a set of interconnected innovations, where each is dependent on the other, with innovation both in the parts of the system and in the ways that they interact' (Davies, et al., 2012, p. 4).

This stream is particularly interested in exploring the role of complexity theory for social innovation beyond boundaries. For example (but not limited to): managing the entanglement between formal administration system structures and complex adaptive system dynamics, research at the intersection of Western and Indigenous worlds, and beyond traditional discipline boundaries.

There is the possibility that selected papers from this stream will be published in a Special Issue of the journal Emergence: Complexity and Organization.

Key dates:

Paper abstract and panel proposals due: **March 10, 2017**
Decision of submissions to be advised by: **April 30, 2017**
Early-bird registration closes: **July 25, 2017**
Full papers submitted for consideration in best paper awards due: **September 10, 2017**

Inquiries:

Inquiries about submissions to specific the Social Innovation and Complexity stream should be directed to the stream co-chairs: Sharon Zivkovic sharon@communitycapacity.com.au and Christine Woods cr.woods@auckland.ac.nz)

Inquiries about conference administration and technical issues related to online submission should be directed to the conference secretariat at csiswin@swin.edu.au

All other inquiries should be directed to the conference secretariat at csiswin@swin.edu.au

Davies, A., Mulgan, G., Norman, W., Pulford, L., Patrick, R. & Simon, J. (2012), *Systemic Innovation*, Social Innovation Europe.

Goldstein, J. A., Hazy, J. K. and Silberstang, J. (2010), 'A Complexity Science Model of Social Innovation in Social Enterprise', *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 1 (1), pp. 101-125.