



**ISIRC 2018**

**»Bridging Social and Business Innovation**

#### KEY DATES

**30 March 2018**

Paper abstracts &  
panel proposals

**25 May 2018**

Decision of submission

**10 August 2018**

Full papers

#### GUIDELINES

All contributions must be submitted via the conference website.

A maximum of two proposals may be submitted per presenter.

**Paper abstracts** shall not exceed 400 words including references. They should articulate the research question(s) addressed, the conceptual/theoretical perspectives informing the work, and where appropriate the methodology utilised as well as the papers contribution the conference themes.

**Panel proposals** shall not exceed 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.

#### CONTACT

Conference secretariat  
info@isircconference2018.com

## Call for Papers and Panels

### 10th International Social Innovation Research Conference

Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg  
September 3-5, 2018

Social innovation has clearly gained momentum over the past decade, spurred notably by the growing interest in theory, practice and policy. Manifested in new ways of doing things, distinct social relations, changes in perceptions or novel solutions, social innovations are often presented as an alternative to business (profit-oriented) innovation to cope with societal challenges at hand. While major progress has been made in understanding social innovation trajectories, drivers and barriers, business models and institutions, significant work is still required to position the distinct (disciplinary) analytical, conceptual and theoretical contributions in the 'classical' innovation research. On the other hand, social innovation has largely been overlooked by the majority of innovation literature, with the mainstream of research traditionally focusing on technological innovation, or more generally, business innovation.

The tenth annual International Social Innovation Research Conference (ISIRC 2018) strives to bridge the as yet largely unrelated research fields of social and business innovation and invites theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions drawing on different disciplines. Planned streams are:

→ **Expanding Theory** (Stream chair: Dieter Rehfeld)

We invite papers that contribute to a deeper understanding of the theoretical base of social innovation studies. In particular we are interested in (1) the normative base of social innovation studies (e.g. social innovation as normative or analytical concept, contributions from welfare economy), (2) the contribution of social theory for a better understanding of social innovation (e.g. social process theory, conflict theory, multiple modernity) and (3) the relationship between social innovation and welfare state (e.g. new division of labour between state, civil society and economy, social innovation in the context of multilevel governance).

→ **Future Prospects for Social Innovation Measurement** (Stream chairs: Judith Terstriep & Georg Mildemberger)

Despite its complexity, funders, social entrepreneurs, policymakers and other actors are keen to better assess social innovation's impact and/or value as well as innovation capacities at organisational, regional, and national level. While well-established metrics exist for technological innovation, only few attempts have been made to fill this gap for social innovation (cf. Krlev, et al., 2014; Unceta et al., 2016). Forasmuch, this conference stream centres on the future prospects of social innovation measurement. We invite theoretical, conceptual and empirical papers drawing on different disciplines that explore social innovation measurement from micro-, meso- or macro-level perspective.

→ **Critical Perspectives on Social Innovation** (Stream chair: Simon Teasdale & Benedetta De Pieri)

We would like to highlight upfront that the 'critical' in the stream title is not intended to be directed at alternatives which social innovation might replace. The rest of the conference has sufficient space for papers critiquing bureaucratic public policy, dependency cultures perpetuated by philanthropy or business as usual. Instead this stream turns attention towards the social innovation emperor and seeks to critique him (and it is usually him) for wearing no clothes. Social Innovation, by (most) definition(s), involves meeting new social needs and/or developing new solutions to social problems. What possible reason(s) could there be to develop a stream focusing on critical perspectives on social innovation?

📄 Special Call for Papers

→ **Hybridity, Governance & Organising Social Innovation** (Stream chairs: Bob Doherty & Roger Spear)

By examining the influence of diverse missions and conflicting institutional logics on social enterprise management and governance this conference stream calls for papers at the organisational or interorganisational level.

📄 Special Call for Papers

→ **Financing Social Innovation & Social Investment** (Stream chair: Alex Nichols)

Text to be inserted.

→ **Social Innovation and Complexity** (Stream chairs: Sharon Zivkovic & Christine Woods)

In line with this year's conference theme, the Social Innovation and Complexity Stream is particularly interested in papers that explore the role of complexity theory for social innovation that draws on the use of complexity theory in the fields of management and organization studies.

📄 Special Call for Papers

→ **Social Innovation and Sustainability** (Stream chair: Rafael Ziegler)

Much recent social innovation research situates social innovation as a force for sustainable development or even transformative sustainable development. This raises a number of conceptual and empirical issues: What is the normative aspect of such social innovation research? What is the theory and evidence for or against such pro-sustainability claims (does social innovation sometimes also reproduce unsustainability and inequality)? What are inter- and transdisciplinary approaches that foster a culture of social innovation for sustainability?

📄 Special Call for Papers

→ **New Ways of Planning & Policy Production** (N.N.)

coming soon

→ **Social Innovation & Food** (Stream chair: Alex Murdock)

The panel welcomes a diversity of papers around the core concept of food which demonstrate innovation with a social focus. Papers which explore the nature and operation of innovation across sector boundaries and thorough links in the value chain are especially welcome. Papers which explore social innovation which links food to other social issues (such as sustainability, education and health) are also encouraged.

📄 Special Call for Papers

→ **Social Innovation and Forced Migration** (Stream chair: Simone Baglioni & Francesca Calò)

This stream aims to gather contributions shedding light on such innovative forms of support and integration of refugees and asylum seekers. It invites papers discussing social innovations having occurred in the broad field of forced migration, either as humanitarian first help or more long-term integration-seeking programs and actions.

[↗ Special Call for Papers](#)

→ **Health & Wellbeing** (Stream chair: Michael Roy)

We welcome papers exploring the role of social innovation on the health and well-being and citizens and communities, at the level of individuals, communities or systems. This could range from the social impact of new technologies focused on a particular health issue, to community-led interventions focusing on addressing vulnerabilities in the social environment that we know impact upon health and health equity.

→ **Digital Social Innovation** (Stream chair: Cédéric Gossart, Müge Özman & Matt Stokes)

We invite abstracts for papers and panel proposals that investigate the emerging phenomenon of Digital Social Innovation (DSI). DSI is a phenomenon which uses digital technologies to increase the capacity of civil society, citizens and government to engage stakeholders, empower people and tackle challenges in areas as diverse as education, healthcare, democracy, transparency and accountability, migration, inequality, social exclusion and environment. Examples include civic crowdfunding, citizen science, social use of geographic information systems, online time banks and digital democracy platforms.

[↗ Special Call for Papers](#)

→ **Social Innovation in rural and/or deprived Regions** (Stream chairs: Manfred Perlik, Carla Barlagne & Gillian Sullivan Mort)

coming soon

→ **Design for Social Innovation for Place and Community** (Stream chair: Arianna Mazzeo)

Design for social innovation focuses on how design can be used to explore and raise discussions about societal challenges. It does so both research through design based projects and learning activities. In particular experimental ways of learning, beyond the problem solving, and design ethnography interventions. Exploring community and place, designing for city making also at digital level, with citizens, policy makers and the public space, we're co-design sustainable ecosystem based on real people needs in the city, foster a resilient attitude toward the social change.

→ **Social Innovation in Education** (Stream chair: Ekkehard Thümler)

Education reform has already been the object of a lot of scholarly attention. However, this research is typically not focused on innovative processes per se. Hence, the contributions to this stream will circle around the following topics: lessons to learn from innovation research and practices, systemic change, processes and structures facilitating exchange between research and practice.

[↗ Special Call for Papers](#)

→ *Suggestions for further streams are welcome.*