

Call for Papers and Panels
11th International Social Innovation Research Conference
The Yunus Centre for Social Business and Health, Glasgow Caledonian University
September 2-4, 2019
Conference Website: <http://www.isircconference2019.com/>

Alternative economic organising for social innovation: Ecologies of context and relations

Chairs: Micaela Mazzei, Pete North and Joanne McNeill

Email: Micaela.Mazzei@gcu.ac.uk, P.J.North@liverpool.ac.uk, J.Mcneill@westernsydney.edu.au

Successive crises have exposed the vulnerability of national economies to fluctuations in global financial markets, widening the fissure of wealth that separates rich from poor in countries throughout the world (OECD 2015¹). In the wake of the Global Financial Crisis a wide array of actors question the credibility and viability of business as usual. The post-GFC environment has raised the profile of many efforts to articulate an 'alternative'—social and solidarity economy, de-growth, circular economies, new economies, next economies, among others. While this general desire for alternatives is heartening many of these formulations become stranded at an abstract 'monolithic' level, which is potentially disengaging for those with passions and capacities to act.

Drawing on diverse economies scholarship, we propose a panel focused on how social, cultural, political and environmental concerns can be addressed through economic practices that go beyond imperatives for profit maximisation. This approach uses empirical investigation to identify diverse forms of economic organisation and their attendant material and cultural conditions of possibility. Economies once understood as uniformly capitalist are re-read as the site of many different organizational forms, labour practices, mechanisms of finance and exchange, and forms of ownership to make visible a shared condition of interdependence (Gibson-Graham 2006²). Examples of activities that have typically been considered 'alternative' and innovative that have garnered the attention of researchers in this new field include (but are not limited to): local currency systems (LCS) such as LETS (local exchange trading systems), credit unions, co-operatives, social enterprises and barter networks (Leyshon, Lee, and Williams 2003³), and also emerging social procurement practices. The power of these practices and their capacity to be alternative is dependent upon a broader ecology of enabling social relations.

This panel seeks to bring together researchers taking inspiration from diverse economy concepts to explore the multiple ways in which context - geographical, cultural, political - shapes, constrains and enables diverse economic practices. As these forms of economic organizing become increasingly well-known and discussed in varied fora, how can researchers contribute to improving perceptions of their efficacy and validity within these contextual framings?

¹ <http://www.oecd.org/social/inequality.htm>

² Gibson-Graham, J. K. 2006. *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It) a Feminist Critique of Political Economy*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

³ Leyshon, Andrew, Roger Lee, and Colin C. Williams, eds. 2003. *Alternative Economic Spaces*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Ltd.

Papers may cover the following or related topics:

- Are 'alternatives' different in different contexts? In what ways do contextual factors enable and/or constrain diverse economic practices?
- What are the practices that underpin alternative economic organising? And who are the carriers of these? In what ways can they be supported and enabled?
- What role for research in strengthening the viability, longevity and spread of diverse economies activity? What examples might inform scholars in this endeavour?
- How do we frame a 'language politics' to communicate across sectoral boundaries about the potential for alternative economic organising?

Chairs: Micaela Mazzei (GCU/Yunus Centre), Pete North (University of Liverpool) and Joanne McNeill (Western Sydney University). Send 300 words abstracts specifying this stream to:

isirc2019@gcu.ac.uk

Guidelines:

Paper abstracts must be maximum 300 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.

Optional full paper submission for consideration in best paper awards is due no later than 31st July 2019.

A maximum of two abstracts may be submitted per presenter (joint papers to be presented by coauthors will also be considered).

All paper abstracts must be submitted to isirc2019@gcu.ac.uk. On abstract submission please ensure you advise the conference stream.

Panel proposals must be 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 to the panel.

All panel proposals must be submitted to isirc2019@gcu.ac.uk.

Abstract and panel proposals submission: Closes 28th February 2019

Decision on submissions: Notification by 31st March 2019

Full papers submitted for consideration in best paper awards due: 31st July 2019

Enquiries about conference administration and technical issues related to online submission should be directed to the conference administration team at isirc2019@gcu.ac.uk