Growing and Scaling Impact

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The Schumpeterian concept of "innovation" covers three stages. Invention – innovation – diffusion. So the very concept of innovation pushes towards scaling/growing. Is it the same with social innovation?

Social innovators want to make a difference. And quite often they are tackling social problems that exist not only in the place where the social innovators start to work. So for them, it seems quite natural to spread the solutions found over society.

Politicians and funders are fascinated by the idea to roll out solutions over the country. So it seems natural that social innovations have to be scaled, have to grow to become mainstream. But while in business innovations it seems quite evident that the innovators themselves are the agents of the scaling process this is not so clear in social innovation. What is to gain by scaling? And what are the risks included?

Experience so far teaches a lesson. It is not an easy task to make things work under different conditions. And that is a precondition of scaling. Especially small single purpose organisations might be confronted with serious problems while growing and spawning offshoots. Finally, you need additional resources and partners for growing. Those might bring in their own ideas and change social innovations direction.

Growing – so it seems – is a multidimensional process. It is not just a matter of getting bigger but the structure of the organisation, the role of individuals and even the social innovation itself are changing.

This stream is for people that are interested in questions connected to the growth of social innovations. Papers are invited on any element of scaling and growing but particularly on

- Methods and toolkits for scaling and growing
- Resources and capabilities required for growing
- Strategies to finance growth
- The skills and staffing needed for growth
- Balancing social and financial objectives in growing organisations
- Balancing collaboration and competition
- Balancing control, risk, and responsibility
- The institutional contexts that support growth and scaling
- The seductive lure of becoming mainstream

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