New ways of measuring social impact

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The demand for social impact measurement has been growing over the last few years. On one side, different types of organisations took an interest in measuring their social impact to assess the social value of their activity and increase their accountability. On the other hand, funders and policy makers regard social impact measurement as a way to identify and scale effective practices.

However, despite the increasing popularity of the topic, there are important barriers to develop reliable and shared measurement practices, such as the complexity of interventions, that mix qualitative and quantitative components, the fact that impacts should be measured in a long-term perspective, the lack of data and the costs of measurement processes.

This panel aims at bringing together researchers from different backgrounds and disciplines to discuss future perspectives for the theory and practice of social impact measurement.

Particularly, we invite contribution covering the following or related topics:

- Theoretical approaches to social impact: definitions, ontological and epistemological stances, theories and models.
- Methodological issues, methods and tools to assess social impact.
- Empirical research identifying indicators and metrics in specific fields.
- Measuring social impact in different types of organisations (third sector, social enterprises, for profit companies, etc.)

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