Public Policy and Social Innovation stream

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Persistent social and environmental problems, embedded institutional interests, divided communities, competing demands and shrinking resources can constrain, rather than liberate, social innovation in our communities. Collaborative policy responses to social inequalities are increasingly necessary, but challenging.

This stream focuses on bringing diverse groups together to challenge conventional thinking about research, policy-making, and collaboration in social innovation. Transformative or disruptive changes happen through collaboration, rarely in isolation. Social innovation collaborations often take the form of multiple stakeholders working together outside of traditional 'silos': thinking, creating, implementing and measuring new ideas and techniques to respond to systemic problems. Such boundary-spanning activities bridge different 'worlds', unblocking how we approach policy-making that addresses social inequalities through innovation.

We invite submissions that contribute to one or more of the following themes below:

- How are different disciplines/industries/ sectors and communities identifying and responding to shared problems through transdisciplinary research? What is the role of collaboration and networks in bringing these combinations together? What are the critical challenges? What are possible bridging tools/mechanisms/approaches?
- What are the new or adapted methods and techniques for studying social innovation? How are these designed and tested? Which techniques arise from the nexus between scholarly and practitioner 'worlds'?
- What impact is social innovation policy evaluation having on social inequalities? How do we better facilitate research through the policy and practice nexus?
- What evidence explains how social innovation research can be translated to practitioners, especially to communities and policy-makers? What gets 'lost' in translation? Where are the 'boundary-spanners' in this process, and what do they do?
- How does research and practice from the Global South (i.e. Africa, Asia, and Latin America) challenge, transform or disrupt social innovation policy discourses?

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