Regional and Geographical Aspects of Social Innovation

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This conference stream is focused on the intersections between social innovation and matters of geography. Thinking geographically about social innovation means taking seriously questions of space, place, and scale. Different types of social innovation can be realised at different scales – from an individual working on a singular concern, through to social movements working on issues of profound significance for whole societies. There are also wider topological implications of these different kinds of social innovation as each is stimulated, created and operationalised by various configurations of people and organisations, in different geographical contexts, sometimes through trans-spatial connections. Thinking geographically, therefore, calls attention to the genus, scale and limits of social innovations and questions the extent to which they can be transferred into other places. This stream, therefore, invites papers that 1). explore the specificity of social innovation; and 2). critically examine the difficulties in replicating social innovations across wider geographical contexts.

This stream calls for contributions on the following themes:

What is the geography of social innovation?

- Are some regions or countries more inclined to / successful at social innovation than others?
- How do the politics, culture and society of a locality, region or country impact social innovation?
- How can social innovation be scaled up or scaled down? How is social innovation incubated in place?
- At what scale can social innovations operate most successfully?
- Is it possible to imagine a global social innovation?
- What critical tools and concepts does the discipline of geography bring to enhance our understanding of social innovation?

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