

**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/>

## **Social Innovation and Complexity**

Chairs: Sharon Zivkovic and Max French

Email: [Sharon.Zivkovic@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Sharon.Zivkovic@unisa.edu.au), [Max.french@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:Max.french@northumbria.ac.uk)

The Social Innovation and Complexity Stream invites abstracts for papers and panel proposals that explore and provide evidence on the role of complexity theory for social innovation. From a complexity perspective, social innovation has been described as the shift from an original attractor which represents business as usual, to a new attractor which represents the social innovation (Goldstein et al., 2010).

The Social Innovation and Complexity Stream is particularly interested in proposals that align with the theme of the 2019 ISIRC conference: 'Social Innovation: Local Solutions to Global Challenges'. Many Global Challenges are wicked problems (Krawchuk 2008, p. 69). Examples of wicked problems include: terrorism, environmental degradation, poverty (Krawchuk 2008, p. 69), ageing populations, energy security, affordable healthcare (Ho 2008), climate change, obesity (Australian Public Service Commission 2007) and active citizenship (Day, 1997, p. 421). While these examples seem quite diverse, they all share the characteristics of wicked problems: they have no clear solution; they have many interdependencies; they are often multi-causal and have conflicting goals; they are difficult to define with different stakeholders having a different understanding of what the problem is; attempts to address them often leads to unforeseen consequences due to their multi-causality and interdependency; they are often not stable as the problem and the context of the problem evolves as attempts are made to address them; and they are socially complex, often changing their behaviours which requires stakeholders to coordinate their approaches (Australian Public Service Commission, 2007).

'Systemic innovation' that incorporates an understanding of complexity and complex adaptive systems has been recommended as the most appropriate form of social innovation for addressing wicked problems (Davies, et al., 2012). Systemic Innovation is defined as 'a set of interconnected innovations, where each is dependent on the other, with innovation both in the parts of the system and in the ways that they interact' (Davies, et al., 2012).

### **References**

Australian Public Service Commission (2007), *Tackling Wicked Problems: A Public Policy Perspective*, APSC, Canberra.

Davies, A., Mulgan, G., Norman, W., Pulford, L., Patrick, R. & Simon, J. (2012), *Systemic Innovation*, Social Innovation Europe.

Day, D. (1997), 'Citizen participation in the planning process: An essentially contested concept?', *Journal of Planning Literature*, ISSN 08854122, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 421–434.

Goldstein, J. A., Hazy, J. K. and Silberstang, J. (2010), 'A Complexity Science Model of Social Innovation in Social Enterprise', *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 1 (1), pp. 101-125.

Ho, P. (2008), "Governance at the Leading Edge: Black Swans, Wild Cards and Wicked Problems", *Ethos*, No. 4, pp. 74-79.

Krawchuk, F. T. (2008), "Collaborative Strategic Planning and Action: A New Approach", *Parameters*, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp: 67-78.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:isirc2019@gcu.ac.uk)