

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 Crime & Desistance

Chairs: Beth Weaver and K'adamawe K'nife

Email: beth.weaver@strath.ac.uk; kadamawe.knife@uwimona.edu.jm

Internationally, crime and violence persist, often as a consequence of systemic and socio-structural disadvantage; similarly, persistent re-offending, and responses to it represent an impediment to both social cohesion and social integration. This has far-reaching implications for the wider society and can, in turn, impact economic growth and social development.

While mainstream, top-down policies and one size fit all prescriptions favour “hard” strategies (e.g. enforcement, incarceration, etc.), they provide short-term security concerns rather than sustainable safety outcomes, and they often come at increased social and economic costs. In most cases, they fail to have meaningful and transformational impacts, failing to tackle the root causes of crime and violence. The result generally gives rise to social exclusion and recidivism.

By contrast, studies of desistance argue for innovative and sustainable means of supporting the development of human and social capital, and for the re-conceptualisation of the role of service users, families and communities in rehabilitation (Armstrong and Weaver 2013; Weaver 2011, 2015). As processes of desistance and recovery require the often elusive development of social capital, the mechanisms for achieving this extend beyond the operations of public services; rather supporting such change requires collaborative multi-sectoral approaches (Roy et al., 2017; Weaver 2011, 2015). Across Europe, policies promoting the involvement of service-users, communities and third sector agencies in justice services further accord with contested concepts of a) co-production, (emphasising greater citizen and third sector engagement in and co-production of public services (Pestoff 2012), considered central to their sustainability (Osborne et al., 2016)) and b) social innovation (a distinct and effective response to address unmet needs motivated by a social purpose which enhances social assets and capabilities (Sinclair et al., 2018)). Social innovation, in its various guises, is heralded as a means to tackle complex social problems, address the limitations of public services, and co-produce more responsive services and better outcomes.

Socially innovative strategies may prove effective in alleviating several social ills utilising “soft” strategies (e.g. mutual aid, work generation, and integration initiatives, among others). These strategies, which may combine bottom-up and top-down strategies, can have a significant impact at the local level, fostering more inclusive communities, integrating and reintegrating disadvantaged groups that are isolated from the mainstream systems.

This stream seeks contributions that evidence the role of socially innovative strategies as a mechanism to tackle crime and violence, empower and re-socialise vulnerable groups and facilitate social integration and social cohesion. It invites papers discussing social innovation through co-production and co-creation; other preventive initiatives developed to tackle social exclusion, crime,

and recidivism, that acknowledges the interconnected nature of the potential solutions to these issues.

References

Armstrong S and Weaver B (2013) 'Persistent Punishment: Users Views of Short Prison Sentences'. *The Howard Journal of Criminal Justice* 52(3): 285-305

Osborne, S. P., Radnor, Z., and Strokosch, K. (2016) Co-production and the co-creation of value in public services: A suitable case for treatment? *Public Management Review*, 18 (5) pp.639-653

Pestoff V (2012) Innovations in Public Services: Co-Production and New Public Governance in Europe in Botero A, Paterson A and Saad-Sulonen (Eds) Towards peer production in public services: Cases from Finland. Aalto University publication series Crossover 15/2012. Helsinki, Finland accessed online at: http://p2pfoundation.net/Co-Production_and_New_Public_Governance_in_Europe

Roy, M. J., Lysaght, R., & Krupa, T. M. (2017). Action on the social determinants of health through social enterprise. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 189(11), E440-E441. 10.1503/cmaj.160864

Sinclair S., Mazzei, M., Baglioni S., and Roy, M. J., (2018) Social Innovation, Social Enterprise, and Local Public Services: Undertaking Transformation. *Social Policy and Administration*.

Weaver, B (2011) Co-Producing Community Justice: The Transformative Potential of Personalisation for Penal Sanctions. *British Journal of Social Work*: 41 (6):1038-1057.

Weaver, B., (2015) *Offending and Desistance: The Importance of Social Relations*. Oxon, Routledge.

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