Social Innovation, Employment and Migrants/Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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Forced migrations have become a field of highly disputed policy solutions and connected debates in Europe and beyond. Such polarized and polarizing discourses and policy preferences have peaked since the mid-2010s when the number of people fleeing their countries significantly increased due to the war in Syria as well as protracted political, social and economic instability in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

While mainstreaming media and political entrepreneurs tended to focus on the potential security issues raised by increased fluxes of refugees and migrants, civil society activists and local authorities (and in some cases private organisations) have been at the forefront of the provision of humanitarian help as well as in the promotion of integration programs.

Acting sometimes in a policy vacuum or even in defiance of national authorities, such civil society organisations and local or sub-national authorities have deployed a creative spirit of innovations allowing people fleeing from war, persecution and poverty, find a place where to obtain protection and begin a new life through education, training, work and socialising events.

The most effective way to integrate migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (MRAS) in their host countries, and to enable them to contribute to the economic and social development of these societies, is through employment. Jobs that reflect skills provide MRAs with an income as well as with opportunities to be independent from public support and welfare.

This stream aims to gather contributions shedding light on innovative forms of support and integration of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers into employment. It invites papers discussing social innovations having occurred in favouring (or not) the inclusion of MRAs into labour markets.

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