



INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL INNOVATION RESEARCH CONFERENCE

SOCIAL INNOVATION:
RECONFIGURING MARKETS, BLURRING
SECTOR BOUNDARIES, AND CHALLENGING
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

14-16 SEPTEMBER 2009

AT

SAID BUSINESS SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
PARK END STREET
OXFORD
OX1 1HP

Introduction

The current global financial crisis presents social innovation - conceived here as actions expressed in social entrepreneurship and social enterprise - with both new challenges and unique opportunities. Social entrepreneurs and social enterprise are already skilled at addressing failed markets, exploiting *bricolage* in resource constrained contexts, and using social innovation to tackle intractable 'wicked' problems. But the key question is how far can social innovation help forge a new global order that is more sustainable, responsible, and humane than what has gone before? In sum, what can it contribute to the new markets, sectors, and institutions of disrupted late modernity?

Social entrepreneurship and social enterprise research has now reached a stage of maturity where it is important to go beyond increasingly monological questions concerning definitions and look instead for new perspectives and disciplinary analyses that focus on more complex and contingent questions. This event aims both to broaden the discussion concerning social innovation and to foster and propagate a new wave of high quality critical research on the topic. It will bring together scholarly traditions considering the role of innovation in social businesses, social movements, not-for-profits, state actors, and the broader social economy.

This conference unites two established events for the first time in Oxford: the Social Enterprise Research Conference (SERC) and the International Social Entrepreneurship Research Conference (ISERC). The aim is to combine their two traditions in an exciting new hybrid: in the case of the former, a strong focus on social enterprise in the UK with significant practitioner-driven content; in the case of the latter, an international academic conference centred on multi-disciplinary social entrepreneurship research. The three day conference will have one day dedicated to UK-based research and two days of more international papers. There will be a separate stream running throughout for practitioner work and for work in progress and doctoral research.

For the purpose of this conference social innovation is conceived as the outcome of any individual, group, organisational, or network activity that combines a distinct social or environmental mission with innovation around process, outcomes, or context and a clear market orientation. The latter includes social enterprises that generate profit but also co-operatives, not-for-profits, charities, voluntary organizations, and state actors that demonstrate a performance-driven, competitive, and outward looking strategic approach to their mission objectives.



Guide Topics

We are seeking both empirical and conceptual/theoretical papers from scholars interested in social innovation as a global phenomenon and encourage submissions that apply different perspectives and theoretical lenses. The following topic areas would be appropriate for this conference, but the conveners are open to consider any others:

1. **Logics of Social Innovation:** What are the competing logics that underpin the discourses of social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise? What are the economic, socio-political, or institutional logics that inform social innovation action and build its legitimacy?
2. **Social Innovation:** What types of social innovation are evident at the field level? How are they implemented?
3. **Performance Measuring and Reporting:** How are social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise measured and reported? How does this relate to performance management? What are the possibilities and limits of approaches such as the social return on investment (SROI) analysis? How can reporting impact enhance accountability and performance?
4. **Social Investment:** Is there a need for distinct financing mechanisms and institutions to support social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise? What are the implications of the emerging social investment institutions?
5. **Networks and Support Structures:** What networks sustain and support social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise? How can effective ecosystems be developed? What is the role of social capital?
6. **The Role of the State:** How do social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise interact with the state in different contexts? In what ways can public policy facilitate or hinder social innovation? Is the state a source of social innovation?
7. **Governance and Accountability:** How accountable are social entrepreneurs and social enterprises? What governance mechanisms ensure the success of mission objectives in social innovation?
8. **Sustainable Development:** How can social innovation, social entrepreneurship, and social enterprise play a role in sustain-able development? What are the underpinning values of social innovation?

Paper Submissions

There are two tracks for submission. In each case please submit to one of the two conveners (see below) by **Friday June 26th**:

Full papers. Full papers should be **no longer than 8,000 words** including references. Papers will be selected based on a double blind, peer review process. Full papers will be required for all the main streams of the conference. Participants will be informed about acceptance by **Friday July 31st**.

Abstracts. Abstracts should be no longer than one page and will also be selected on a double blind, peer review process. Abstract only papers will be presented in a special stream focused on work in progress, praxis-oriented case studies, or early stage doctoral research. Participants will be informed about acceptance by **Friday July 31st**.



Publication

There will be **three** potential publication paths for full paper submission accepted for this conference. In each case an additional round of peer review will be required.

- A new collected volume on *Social Innovation* to be published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2010/11
- The first edition of the new *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship* to be published by Routledge in 2010
- A special edition of the *Social Enterprise Journal* to be published by Emerald in 2010

Paper Review Board

Dr Alex Nicholls - University of Oxford
Professor Alex Murdock - London South Bank University
Professor Pete Alcock – University of Birmingham
Associate Professor Kai Hockerts – Copenhagen Business School
Professor Fergus Lyon - Middlesex University
Professor Johanna Mair - IESE Business School
Professor Marthe Nyssens - Catholic University of Louvain
Dr Jeffrey Robinson - Rutgers Business School
Professor Roger Spear – Open University
Professor Alfred Vernis – Esade Business School
Dr Marc Ventresca – University of Oxford
Meng Zhao – University of Oxford

Registration

Registration for the conference will be open from mid May. Please check the Skoll Centre website for further updates www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/skoll

Conveners

If you have any queries please contact either:

Dr Alex Nicholls, University of Oxford: alex.nicholls@sbs.ox.ac.uk

Professor Alex Murdock, London South Bank University: alex.murdock@lsbu.ac.uk

For general enquiries please contact Pippa Hichens: pippa.hichens@sbs.ox.ac.uk

