



UK Society for Co-operative Studies

53rd Annual Conference

Thursday 9th – Saturday 11th September 2021

Submission deadline: 30th May 2021

Inter-cooperation between co-operators and co-operatives

**Call for presentations, papers, panels and practical
activities**

Welcome to the UKSCS 2021 Annual Conference Call

We invite submissions of proposals for presentations, papers, panels and practical activities that focus on inter-cooperation between co-operators and co-operatives. Proposals can be oriented towards generating debates and engaging members, facilitating experiential learning activities or reporting the findings of research studies.

We particularly welcome contributions by practitioners who wish to share developments within their co-operative enterprise and/or network on:

- the emergence of new thinking
- how new thinking has been applied to accounting, management, marketing or governance in co-operatives
- how new practices have impacted on producer, worker and consumer co-operative members, and other organisations who organise as societies for mutual benefit.

Dr Francesca Gagliardi, University of Hertfordshire

Dr Elisavet Mantzari, Birmingham Business School

Inter-co-operation and co-operative learning

Commitment to co-operation among co-operatives is arguably the hallmark of co-operative business enterprise. It is the clearest expression of the co-operative value of solidarity aimed at creating a more sustainable and equitable economic future for all humanity. It is in this spirit that the sixth Co-operative Principle reads: “Co-operatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the co-operative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures”. In joining a co-operative, members are not only helping to build their own co-operatives but the wider co-operative movement. They co-operate with other co-operatives to create wealth for the many. Members benefit

from the actions of their own co-operative but also from the impact of its co-operative engagement and trade with other co-operatives (ICA, 1995).

Co-operatives have a long history of organising local, national and international structures that aid co-operation among co-operatives. Ways of organising have varied across time but also across different political and socio-economics contexts. Against the backdrop of the institutional changes brought about by recent waves of globalisation, in terms of socio-economic development and distributive effects on the standards of living and capabilities of people, it is of relevance to address the response of inter-cooperation between co-operators and co-operatives. Some examples of co-operation among co-operatives at the local, national and international levels are listed below.

Regional inter-cooperation

At the city level, inter-cooperation can be supported by web-based platforms through which co-operators can create co-operative economies.

The Catalan Integrated Co-operative, for instance, illustrates how producers and consumers in a city can create systems for “basic income, education, eco-stores, collective stores, meetings and events” (Manrique, 2012, cited by P2P Foundation, 2015).

Enterprise and individual inter-cooperation

Co-operatives UK has co-ordinated with The Hive at the Co-operative Bank to provide advice to start-up, established and converting co-ops.

Examples of new actors who exist to promote co-operation between co-operators include: Principle 6; Social.coop; Solidfund; FairShares Association.

Equally important for the future development of the co-operative movement and the establishment of inter-co-operation is co-operative learning. Behind collaborative learning lies the logic of co-operation as an aspect of being human, the aspiration to mutually benefit other and future generations (Wilkins, 2011). The very development of the Rochdale model of co-operation and practices, defined as the Rochdale Principles, are the direct outcome of education and learning. Co-operative learning is a collective process, as well as a social intention and core principle that guides the ways through which co-operatives put their values into practice (ICA, 2017). It is both interactive and collective, hence experiential, and is based on principles such as positive interdependence, i.e. the belief that individual success is tied to group success (Roger and Johnson, 1994). The combination of formal and informal learning from practical co-operative experience remains key not only in developing successful co-operative businesses but also in building inter-co-operation between primary, secondary and tertiary co-operatives.

Tracks in the UKSCS 2021 Conference

We call for presentations, papers, panels and activities that advance our understanding of the issues covered in this year’s conference tracks, as described below.

T1 - Inter-cooperation

The first track is focused on the theme of inter-cooperation between co-operatives and co-operators and, among other issues, covers:

1. Characteristics of co-operation among co-operatives;
2. Inter-cooperative structures at international, national and regional levels;
3. Challenges of inter-cooperation for individual co-operatives and co-operators;
4. Inter-cooperation across different co-operative business sectors;
5. Inter-cooperation across different countries;
6. Future challenges and opportunities for inter-cooperation.

T2 - Co-operative Learning

The second track covers issues on co-operative learning theory and practice, such as:

1. Current thinking and practices on co-operative learning;
2. Different approaches to co-operative learning in different sectors and cultures;
3. Nature and scope of co-operative learning across different co-operative contexts;
4. How to generate, process and share co-operative learning;
5. The interplay of technology and co-operative learning.

T3 - Co-operative Knowledge Sharing through Media, Archives and Publishing

This year is the 150th Anniversary of Co-op Press. For this reason, the conference has a separate track dedicated to debate the challenges and co-operative practices of media, journalism and publishing co-operatives, and the potential creation of new co-operative publishers. We welcome contributions on issues, such as:

1. What best practices can be found in real life media co-operatives?
2. What works in (and for) media co-operatives?
3. How might we (re)apply Rochdale Principles in the context of media co-ops?

T4 - Open Track

Proposals for presentations, paper panels or practical activities that do not fit naturally into one of the above tracks/themes, should be submitted to the Open Track. This will give maximum flexibility to make a presentation, discuss work or arrange impromptu discussion throughout the conference.

Fees

The conference is free of charge for paid up members. Conference fees for non-members will be moderate and will be confirmed when registration opens.

Fee waivers for unwaged delegates

We are pleased to be able to offer a small number of fee waivers to support unwaged delegates (including PhD students). Please write to membership@ukscs.coop to apply for a fee waiver to cover conference registration fees.

Accommodation options

This year's conference will be online, so there are no accommodation suggestions.

How to make submissions to the UKSCS 2021 Conference

We welcome proposals from both scholars and practitioners engaged in the study of co-operative movements. Please create an abstract (maximum 750 words) that proposes a presentation, paper, panel or practical activity and submit it by **30th May 2021**.

Submissions are made online at:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=2021ukscsconference>

- If you have submitted previously, login with the same account details.
- If you are submitting for the first time, click 'Create an account' and follow the instructions to confirm your account.
- After logging in or registering your account, choose 'Enter as an author' to make a conference submission.

Fill out the contact details for presenters/authors, provide a title, abstract and keywords. At least one presenter/author will need to register for the conference for the submission to be accepted. Please do not submit a proposal if you have no plans to attend the conference.

Key Dates

Deadline for Proposals (Abstracts): 30th May 2021

Notification of Acceptance: 1st July 2021

Opening of Registration: 1st July 2021

Final Registration Date: 6th September 2021

Abstract format (suggested):

Please organise your proposal/abstract so that it provides details that can be peer-reviewed (maximum 750 words):

- Title (for your presentation, paper, panel or practical activity)
- Corresponding author
- A short statement about the issue/question your submission addresses
- A summary of the approach you are taking to study the issue/question you raise
- A summary of your findings and/or contribution to knowledge
- References to previous papers/studies (max 6)

If you wish to upload a full paper with your abstract, please set the filename to:

UKSCS2021-FirstAuthorName-StreamNumber-SubmissionType.pdf

Examples

UKSCS2021-Green-T2-Paper.pdf

UKSCS2021-Plum-T3-Presentation.pdf

Indicative programme (UK time)

Day 1 - Thursday 9th September

Welcome/Introductions

14.00 - 15.00 Keynote Speaker

15.00 - 15.15 Coffee Break

15.15 - 17.00 Stream 1

Day 2 - Friday 10th September

14.30 - 16.00 Stream 2

16.00 - 16.30 Coffee Break

16.30 - 17.30 Stream 3

17.30 - 19.00 Meal Break

19.00 - 20.30 Evening Debate/Panel

Day 3 - Saturday 11th September

10.00 - 12.00 Stream 4

12.15 - 12.45 Open Debate

12.45 - 13.30 Lunch Break

13.30 - 15.00 Stream 5

15.00 - 15.30 Coffee Break

15.30 - 17.00 Stream 6