

CALL FOR PAPERS

Cooperation in a Changing Economy: The Role of Social Innovation and Collective Entrepreneurship

2011 Annual Conference of the
Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation (CASC)

Conference Theme

The nature of the economy – both the domestic and international economy – has been dramatically altered over the past three decades due to technological advances, changes in the organization of firms, and the liberalization of domestic economic policies and the international trade and finance regimes. In the new globalizing economy which has emerged as a result of these changes, cooperatives, like other businesses, are coming under increased competitive pressures in their traditional markets and facing new opportunities to expand into national and foreign markets. In this environment, innovation and entrepreneurship become increasingly important organizational capabilities. In trying to develop and employ such capacities in response to this new environment, cooperatives and related social economy enterprises face particular challenges. In contrast to conventional for-profit firms, they are not only constrained by their legal status – which imposes restrictions on their organizational form, ownership structure and business practices – but perhaps even more fundamentally by the cooperative principles and values to which they aspire.

The theme of this year's annual general meeting has been chosen to draw analytic attention to the ways in which cooperatives and other social economy enterprises are proactively taking up the challenges and opportunities in the new economy, as well as the (possible) policy responses which help to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship in these organizations. It also raises questions about the relative importance of specific cooperative values, such as cooperation among cooperatives, and even the need to recognize new potential cooperative values, such as sustainability.

Conference Topics

We invite conference participants to submit abstracts that in some way reflect on processes of social innovation and collective entrepreneurship as they relate to cooperative practice. Possible topic areas include the following:

- Innovation in Management Structures and Practices
- Innovation in Ownership and Governance Structures and Practices
- Innovation in Business and Marketing Strategies
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Youth and Student Cooperatives
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Social and Solidarity Cooperatives
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Inter-cooperation between Cooperatives
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Aboriginal Communities
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Fair Trade, Poverty Reduction and Local Development Strategies and Practices
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Green Production
- The Role of Education in Promoting Innovation and/or Entrepreneurship
- The Role of Research in Promoting Innovation and/or Entrepreneurship
- The Role of Public Policy in Promoting Innovation and/or Entrepreneurship

Submission Guidelines

We invite researchers, students, and practitioners to submit any of three types of proposals:

- (1) **Individual Papers** – Proposals should include: a) your name, title, affiliation and email address; b) a short (two-line) biographical note; c) title of the paper; d) a 100 word abstract (to be printed in the program), and; e) a 500 word summary of the argument, which should include the relationship of the paper to the literature, the research question, methods and, where applicable, findings. Proposals for both empirical and theoretical papers are invited.
- (2) **Panel Proposals** – Proposals should include: a) the title of the panel; 2) a 250 word description of the issue or theme that the panel investigates and how the individual papers relate to the theme/issue; 3) the names, affiliations and contact information for all panel participants, and; 4) 250 word descriptions of all panel presentations. Panel proposals should include 3 or 4 presentations (of 20 and 15 minutes respectively). Proposals for joint sessions with the Association for Nonprofit and Social Economy Research (ANSER) are also welcomed (and should conform to the guidelines above).
- (3) **Proposals for Roundtables** – Proposals should include: a) the title of the roundtable; 2) a 500 word description of the issue or theme that the roundtable investigates and how the appropriateness of the individual members for participating the roundtable; 3) the names, affiliations and contact information for all panel participants, and; 4) a short description of the key points/areas that the members of the roundtable will cover. Participants are not expected to deliver formal papers.

All abstracts and proposals for panels and roundtables are due on **January 24th, 2011**. They may be submitted either in English or French (in either Word or Rich Text Format). They should be sent by email to casc.acec@usask.ca. A total of two presentations per person will be permitted.

All proposals (for individual papers, panels and roundtables) are subject to peer review. Applicants will be informed of acceptance by February 15th, 2011. A directory of conference delegates will be published in the CASC 2011 Conference Program; if you do not want to have your name, contact information and institutional affiliation published, please notify us when you submit your abstract.

Conference Information

This year's CASC conference will be held from June 1st to June 3rd, 2011 during the Annual Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) 2011 at the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Participants in the CASC Conference should register through the website of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences (<http://congress2011.ca/>). Early registration, which includes a price reduction, ends on March 31, 2011. Fees for the conference include both Congress Registration and a one-year membership in CASC. There is an additional fee for those wishing to attend the Annual CASC Banquet, which is a joint affair held in collaboration with ANSER. The Congress website also includes information on accommodation, discounts for travel, and local information.

For more information on CASC and the general meeting, including updates about keynote speakers, plenary panels, banquet details and the other news, please consult the CASC website (www.coopresearch.coop) or e-mail us at casc.acec@usask.ca.

2011 CASC Program and Conference Committee

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