



CASC ACÉC

Canadian Association for
Studies in Co-operation

L'Association Canadienne
pour les Études sur la
Coopération



Newsletter Fall/Winter 2017

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President's Report

~ Fiona Duguid

CASC is full steam ahead this autumn pursuing research and teaching activities about co-operation. This edition of the newsletter will highlight some of this work, but we know there is interesting and important work going on that we do not know about. Please feel free to connect with us about your co-operative project.

At the Spring AGM, members elected a new board for this year. This is a great group of



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people from diverse backgrounds of co-operative activities (see profiles in this newsletter). I am so pleased to be working with them.

At the AGM we said goodbye and thank you to Alicia Lake from Cape Breton, who sat on the CASC board from 2015. Her help with conference planning and supporting student and practitioner participation was an important contribution to CASC. Many thanks, Alicia, for your ideas and energy, and best of luck with the Pan Cape Breton Food Hub Co-operative.

We are now in the full swing of conference planning for 2018 at University of Regina in Saskatchewan, May 30-June 1. The call for papers will be coming out very soon, so watch for it in your inboxes, on Twitter, and on the CASC website. We are once again working with ANSER, our sister association, to develop joint sessions and of course the banquet. We will also be working with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives (USask) to run the popular student case study competition and with the Saskatchewan Co-operative Association and Co-operatives First to develop content with and for co-operative practitioners. We

always welcome ideas for improving and expanding our conference; please forward them to a CASC board member.

CASC works to live the co-operative spirit. We have many great partnerships through which we do more and great work in co-operation. We have been collaborating with the Co-operators Centre for Business and Sustainability at Wilfrid Laurier University. It was through this centre that we were able to run the Higher Education and Training Workshop at Ryerson University last Spring. Building on the work done at this workshop, along with other partners—Scaled Purpose, Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada, and the Association for Co-operative Educators—we are moving forward on one of the key action items: compiling resources to help university and college educators insert and develop co-operative content their courses. Stay tuned for more information.

We hope all members, supporters, and friends of CASC have a productive and stimulating autumn and we look forward to connecting with you throughout the year as well as at the conference.



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University of Regina for Congress 2018



CASC/ACÉC May 30-June 1, 2018

The University of Regina comprises a main and historic campus and three federated colleges:

- Champion College, a Jesuit, liberal arts college which provides a unique university experience characterized by a strong sense of community and personalized support;
- Luther College, which focuses on teaching within the faculties of Arts, Fine Arts, and Sciences, and prides itself on its student-centred approach;
- First Nations University of Canada, which offers advanced learning, research, and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people, and explores the history, language, culture, and artistic heritage of First Nations peoples.



The main and historic College Avenue campuses, covering 930 acres, provide an attractive environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The campus is located in the picturesque Wascana Centre, one of the largest urban parks in North America.

Congress 2018 in Regina will be a unique conference. Regina is home to the RCMP Heritage Centre and Depot Division, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, as well as the provincial Legislative Building and the Saskatchewan Science Centre, both of which are located only a short distance from the University's main campus.

Accommodations

The Federation has secured a large number of rooms at a variety of accommodation properties and at varying price points, all with specially discounted rates for Congress attendees. These discounted rates will be available until the rate expiry date is reached or until all rooms in the block have been booked.

You must use the dedicated booking codes and/or websites provided below to access the special Congress rates. Reservations are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, see <https://www.congress2018.ca/plan-your-trip/accommodations>

Staying at an official Congress hotel is not only a convenient opportunity to connect with other Congress attendees, it also helps keep rates as low as possible. In order to secure competitive, special rates, the Federation has committed to fill a set number of guest rooms at each property. An inability to fill these rooms can impact the ability to negotiate affordable rates for future Congresses. By booking a room at one of the official hotels, you are supporting Congress.



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Please note that neither the Federation nor the University of Regina utilize the services of any housing/accommodation vendor(s). **Do NOT make arrangements with any vendors who contact you directly to offer help with booking accommodations for Congress.**

Location	Distance (map)	Congress rate
Kīšik Towers	On campus	\$64
Paskwāw Residence	On campus	\$64
Wakpā Residence	On campus	\$64
Luther College	On campus	\$64
Executive Royal Hotel Regina	2.1 km to campus	\$115
Travelodge Hotel and Conference Centre Regina	2.3 km to campus	\$159.95
Quality Hotel Regina	4.1 km to campus	\$134
Ramada Plaza Regina	4.4 km to campus	\$159
The Hotel Saskatchewan	4.4 km to campus	\$194 - \$204
Holiday Inn Express Downtown Regina	4.5 km to campus	\$149
Wingate by Wyndham	4.5 km to campus	\$149
Delta Hotels by Marriott Regina	4.7 km to campus	\$169
Days Inn Regina Airport West	5.2 km to campus	\$154 - \$159
Home Inn & Suites Regina Airport	5.3 km to campus	\$154 - \$164
Sandman Hotel Suites & Spa Regina	6.4 km to campus	\$109 - \$119
Home Suites Regina East	8.5 km to campus	\$149 - \$159
Best Western Plus Eastgate Inn and Suites	8.8 km to campus	\$174
Days Inn Regina East	8.8 km to campus	\$129 - \$134



33rd Annual CASC/ACÉC Conference

~ Isobel Findlay



Celebrating our 33rd anniversary as part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Ryerson University, Toronto, May 30-June 2, 2017, we shared research and practice related to the theme *From Far and Wide: Envisioning the Next 150 Years of Co-operation*—engaging over 70 academics, co-op practitioners, policy-makers, students and community activists (local, national, and international).

The student case competition coordinated by Darcy Overland and funded by the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and CHS Foundation got us off to a great start on May 30 and 31 and the new cooperativism stream (some joint sessions with ANSER) made for engaging, thought-provoking exchanges throughout the conference.



Other day one highlights included the timely academic keynote address on the Alienated Working Class and the Trump Phenomenon by Peter Ranis of City University of New York; a co-op film panel, sessions on co-op management, credit and insurance alternatives, a roundtable on Co-operatives and Higher Education, and workshop on the CMC Research Framework.

Day two highlighted issues of gender and leadership; women's participation; co-ops and labour; co-ops and social justice; economic, social, and ecological responsibility; social enterprise development, food security, fair trade—always with prospects for the future and questions about what has changed, how much, and what remains to be done.

In addition to the well-attended and most productive University-Co-operative Strategic Engagement Workshop, sessions on day three explored evaluation metrics and credit unions and innovative forms of finance in the social economy (with ANSER) before the lunch and keynote address by Senator Lucie Moncion who has done so much to advance the co-operative cause. We concluded with a roundtable on Co-operatives and Canada at 150 exploring what we have learned that might guide future directions.



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As always, much networking, planning, and collaborating went on at lunches, receptions, and banquet. The reception following the AGM on May 31 was hosted at the Centre for Social Innovation, Regent Park, a real community cultural hub, where we enjoyed excellent food and conversation while tasting the brews of Together We're Bitter Co-operative. The CASC-ACÉC-ANSER awards banquet on June 1 celebrated Jessica Gordon Nembhard's receipt of the **2017 CASC Award of Merit** (see separate story).

CASC/ACÉC AGM

Paul Cabaj, CMC's manager of Co-op Development, announced the **2017 CASC scholarship awards** (see separate story) and acknowledged committee members Catherine Leviten-Reid, Judith Harris, and Marc-André Pigeon.

Board Elections

Four members continue their terms on the CASC Board: **Fiona Duguid, Claude-André Guilloite, Marc-André Pigeon, and Darryl Reed**. Terms were complete for **Judith Harris, Alicia Lake, and Derya Tarhan**. Judith and Derya agreed to stand for re-election and **Jayne Bergeron** had agreed to stand before the AGM. In response to calls for nominations from the floor, **Chris Hancock and Sara Elder** agreed to stand. All were duly acclaimed when no further nominations were received. Isobel Findlay continues as secretary-treasurer. Members thanked Alicia Lake for all her hard work and commitment and wished her well in her work with the Cape Breton Food Hub.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to the organizing committee, Fiona Duguid, Derya Tarhan, and Alicia Lake. We acknowledge with many thanks Interdisciplinary and International Funding from the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences and sponsorships from the following:

- Canadian Credit Union Association/ Association canadienne des cooperatives financières
- Centre for Excellence in Accounting and Reporting, St Mary's University
- CHS Foundation
- Co-operatives and Mutuals Canada
- OnCoop
- Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto
- P&G Centre for Business and Sustainability at Wilfrid Laurier University
- Together We're Bitter Co-operative Brewing (in-kind).

Special thanks to Brooke Yaschyshyn who performed multiple roles so ably this year: note and minute taker, formatter of newsletter, and so much more. Our continued gratitude to the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives for its support for the case competition and ongoing funding of the Secretariat and our research assistant Brooke.



2017 CASC Award of Merit



Jessica Gordon Nembhard, receiving the 2017 CASC Merit Award from Isobel Findlay

The 2017 CASC Award of Merit recognizes an individual's outstanding leadership and contributions to the field of co-operative studies, their mentorship of students and others in understanding the intricate workings of co-operatives, and acknowledges their ongoing support of CASC. The 2017 winner, Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, co-operative researcher, author, ambassador, activist, educator, and developer, is exemplary in her commitment to co-ops, her ongoing contributions to CASC, to community-based asset building and approaches to justice, and in her determination to address social and economic inequality.

Jessica Gordon Nembhard is a Professor of Community Justice and Social Economic Development in the Department of Africana Studies at John Jay College, City University of New York (CUNY). In the early 2000s she was an Assistant Professor in the African American Studies Department at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and a co-founder of the Democracy Collaborative there. She was also a founding board member of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 2008-09 she was a visiting scholar at the [Centre for the Study of Co-operatives](#) at the University of Saskatchewan where she continues to be a Centre scholar. Since 2007, Jessica has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE). In May 2016, Jessica was recognized as a co-op movement leader when she was inducted to the Cooperative Hall of Fame—the highest award given by the cross-sector U.S. cooperative community.

Jessica is author of the path breaking book *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2014). Building on her work over a number of years, the book tells the story of the co-operative economic struggles of African Americans, underlining how co-ops have been key social justice tools. In the process the book adds powerfully to the fields of co-operative studies and African American studies.

A co-founder of the [U.S. Federation of Worker Co-ops](#) and active member of the [Grassroots Economic Organizing](#) Newsletter collective, Jessica's groundbreaking research on the worker co-op sector has positioned worker co-ops as tools for economic and social justice. She is a member of the board of directors of [Green Worker Cooperatives](#). In 2011, she received the Cooperative Advocacy and Research Award from the Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy; in 2014 she received the "ONI Award" from the International Black Women's Congress.

A long-time supporter of the [Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund](#), Jessica has been a key resource for the organization with which she is working on a draft pilot co-op curriculum for [Tuskegee University](#) that, it is hoped, will encourage other universities to recognize the value of adding co-ops to their business curriculum. A member of the [Southern Grassroots Economies Project](#) (SGEP), a regional network dedicated to building a robust co-op economy in the U.S. South among marginalized communities, she is also engaged in planning [CoopEcon](#), an annual SGEP conference held at the Federation's Rural Training and Research Center in Epes, Alabama.

In addition to these diverse academic, administrative, and activist roles, Jessica is president of the board of directors/shared leadership team of [Organizing Neighborhood Equity \(ONE\) D.C.](#) and was recently named to the Council of Cooperative Economists committed to providing information to the cooperative community, policymakers, thought leaders and other stakeholders, acting as a forum for best-in-class cooperative economists and other experts to explore ideas internally.

Renewed congratulations to Jessica Gordon Nembhard.



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2017 CASC Scholarship Awards

Paul Cabaj acknowledged funders for their ongoing support, CMC for administration, and committee members (Judith Harris, Marc-André Pigeon, and Catherine Leviten-Reid) before announcing the winners of the 2017 awards.

Applicants for each award must either undertake studies at Canadian universities or university-equivalent colleges (regardless of citizenship) or are Canadian citizens or landed immigrants studying at such institutions outside Canada.

The Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation established the **Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship** in recognition of the outstanding contribution these two leaders made to the development of the credit union movement and the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation. Tim, a retired scientist from the National Research Council, and Amy, who passed away in 2010, had a strong commitment to co-operatives, education and research. Both served as local directors on a number of organizations. Amy was the first woman elected to the board of directors of Credit Union Central of Ontario and served for 22 years.

The award, currently valued at \$3,000, is available to graduate students only. The award will be based on the applicants' academic records and on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad. To be eligible to receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded.

- The 2017 Amy & Tim Dauphinee winner is **Derya Tarhan**, working on his PhD in Adult Education and Community Development at OISE, University of Toronto. His project focuses on renewable energy co-operatives and energy democracy in Ontario.

Louis Lemaire, a co-operative pioneer, dedicated much of his life to organizing co-operatives in Saskatchewan and willed part of his estate to the

Co-operative College of Canada (now the Canadian Co-operative Association) to support co-operative studies.

Available to both undergraduate and graduate students, the **Lemaire Co-operative Studies Award** is intended to encourage students to undertake studies and research which will help them contribute to the development of co-operative in Canada or elsewhere. These awards are also intended to support students who have been involved in co-operatives, preferably in leadership positions as volunteers or employees.

Eligible candidates will have been involved with co-operatives, must demonstrate reasonable knowledge and understanding of co-op principles and their application, and be able to indicate how the proposed studies and research will contribute to the co-op movement.

Full-time or part-time students, taking full- or partial-credit courses at any university or university-equivalent college are eligible to apply. Eligible candidates must take a minimum of one course about co-operatives. The bursaries will be awarded in multiples of \$1,000 to a maximum of \$3,000. The amount of the awards will be proportional to the significance and contribution of the studies to the advancement of co-operatives. To be eligible to receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded.

There are three 2017 Lemaire winners:

- **Madison Hopper**, Master's of Environmental Studies, Business and the Environment, York University, whose project is about the influence of mission-driven social enterprises on the institutional fields within which they operate.
- **Kristy Milland**, Master's in Work and Society, McMaster University, whose project is to explore a theory of labour and co-operative platforms as a solution to growing inequality.



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- **Heather Hale**, Master of Arts, Community Development, University of Victoria, who will explore change management, partnership development, and exit strategies for the Canadian Co-operative Association.

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada established the **Laidlaw Fellowship** to honour Dr. Alexander Fraser Laidlaw, the father of the non-profit co-operative housing movement in Canada. An outstanding Canadian adult educator and co-op leader, Dr. Laidlaw served the cause of the co-operative movement for over 40 years. Author of *Cooperatives in the Year 2000*, Laidlaw fostered the social purpose of the co-op movement while always advocating sound business methods for co-operative organizations.

The Laidlaw Award, valued at \$1,000, is available to graduate students only. The award is based on the applicant's academic record, as well as on the importance of the proposed research activities to the development of the co-op movement in Canada or abroad. To be eligible to receive the award, recipients must undertake their proposed study within one calendar year of the fellowship being awarded.

- The 2017 Alexander Laidlaw Fellowship winner is **Mohammed (Moe) Sadeghi Esfahlani**, PhD, Communication, Media and Film, University of Calgary, who will work on an annotated filmography for films about co-operatives related to current challenges facing the co-op movement in Canada.



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Introducing New CASC/ACÉC Board Members



Jayne Bergeron holds a Master's in Public Administration, International Development, from the School of Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University. Her research interests include gender, governance, small-scale agriculture, and co-operative development. She is the 2014 recipient of the CASC Amy and Tim Dauphinee Scholarship and has volunteered with the Canadian Co-operative Association as a Gender Advisor for the INVEST Co-op project in Mongolia. Jayne currently works with the Agriculture and Food Security Program at Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa.



Sara Elder is currently a Mitacs Canadian Science Policy Fellow at the British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture researching opportunities for improved agricultural resilience to climate change. Sara has a PhD in Resources, Environment and Sustainability from UBC. Her research examined the governance of agrifood supply chains in Nicaragua and the consequences for smallholder farmer co-operatives and households. Sara also holds an MA in Resource Management and Environmental Studies, in which she studied the effects of Fair Trade certification on the livelihoods of Rwandan coffee producers, and a BA in International Relations from UBC. Sara's professional experience includes international development work with communities in Canada, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, and Bolivia, and policy and technical work at the International Labour Organization in Geneva.



Chris Hancock arrived at MacEwan in 1984 after teaching in the public school system. His first appointments were as a contract academic staff member at several post-secondary institutions. After many years as a sessional member, he became a Continuing Faculty member that taught, developed curriculum, and did service. He is currently President of the Faculty Association. His strength is listening to faculty concerns and coordinating people with the resources needed to resolve the issues.

Chris has held several leadership roles at the university in committee and governance work including Vice-Chair of Academic Governance Council. He is active in leadership development through his committee work on and off campus. In addition to this, he is devoted to professional development by facilitating Instructional Skills Workshops (ISWs) and mentoring faculty.

Having a business background enables him to teach computerized accounting, integrated systems, strategic management, project management, finance, and leadership for the School of Business. Chris likes to remain current in his field by coordinating business projects for organizations through their growth and development. His current scholarship is on leadership risk and the impact it has on the co-operative business model.

Chris is active outside MacEwan as a volunteer within his community (Community League Past President and Water Co-operative President) by providing leadership to non-profit organizations while serving as an executive member over the last 25 years.

Research Profile

Prison Education, Continuity and Co-op Options

~ *Judith Harris*



In 2011, Ann Hoyt, Professor of Consumer Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was undertaking research in northern Italy and with the assistance of EURICSE had planned interviews over a two-week period at Kaliedescopia, La Giotto, and Le Coste co-operatives for justice-involved men and women. When I met Ann, I had made the trip to Trento to satisfy my long-time interest in socially-embedded economics and I knew that Italy was central to my research. Ann invited me on her tour of co-op-based programs for incarcerated people and those transitioning from prison. Most firmly etched in my memory was La Giotto, a prison in Padua that Ann had visited previously. She told me to watch for something unique. Instead of dull grey, the walls were lined with murals of leading Italian artists. That was the first indicator that this was a different kind of prison. The facility had the atmosphere of a busy shop floor like an old-time factory. Prisoners were keenly engaged—building bicycles, producing luggage, fine-tuning watches and in one room lined with booths sat a team of telephone surveyors. I was most impressed by the chefs in their *toque blanche* and prison co-op members in white chef's jackets. We were told that the market for the dainties that filled their industrial refrigerators were five-star tourist hotels.

We were informed that the recidivism rate for those who were members of prison co-ops averaged between 1% and 5%. (Hoyt, 2011).

Ann summarizes the lessons learned from this study tour (Hoyt, 2011) as follows:

- Take the time to build good relations with the jail (director, service providers, guards)
- Don't criticize conditions at the jail
- Have good management capacity
- Understand potential markets
- Be sensitive to social problems
- Choose appropriate activities for workers
- Assure job satisfaction and success
- Believe in the rehabilitation path
- Believe in the power of the group

Italy, Sweden, Ethiopia, Bolivia, and the UK have all invested in the development of prison co-operatives. In Italy, under Law 381 (1991), Type A social co-ops deliver social services and Type B provide work to those who face barriers to employment; both have been growing in numbers. Whereas the bakers at the Co-op Sociale Giotto in Padua are paid the going rate in the sector, currently women who bake at the Women's Correctional Centre (WCC) at Headingley, Manitoba, where we are offering university courses, are paid \$4 a day.

In 2013, Findlay, Popham, Ince, and Takahashi interviewed women from the Pine Grove Correctional Centre in Prince Albert, SK. The following are some of the benefits identified by participants: access to educational programming; opportunity to work together with others; involvement in co-op decision-making; options for success outside; supports during sentence through to integration; empowerment through increased capabilities; expanded social bonds among women with similar life experience; and more effective coping strategies. The John Howard Society, in a paper published that same year, observed that "prisoner involvement in the design and operation of the co-operative is not



only a principle of co-operatives but also an asset to correctional objectives” (John Howard Society, 2013, p. 31).

In the Walls-to-Bridges (W2B) prison education course, “Community Development and Co-operative Alternatives,” that I have offered for four years at the WCC at Headingley, the students’ grasp of key concepts is profound, understood as it is through the exercise of designing a social co-operative. Canada’s W2B Program, like the American Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, brings campus-enrolled students together with incarcerated students inside the prison walls to study university and college courses for credit. Inside and outside students, and society at large, all benefit from this revolution in the classroom—an approach that can “turn education inside out” (Pompa, 2013). Inside-Out and its W2B counterpart give expression to the human right to education. Lori Pompa (Temple University) collaborated with Paul Perry, an inmate at Graterford Prison to establish the program that is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Dr. Simone Davis brought the concept to Canada in 2009, working with Dr. Shoshana Pollack of Wilfrid Laurier (Faculty of Social Work) and Peter Stuart, a correctional educator, Grand Valley Institution for Women.

W2B at the University of Winnipeg has offered five accredited courses to inside (incarcerated) and outside (campus-enrolled) students at the WCC since 2014. Davis and Roswell’s 2013 publication, *Turning teaching inside out*, presents a comprehensive explanation of the approach. Below is a set of fundamental guidelines that begin to explain the strategy (Walls-to-Bridges, 2014, pp. 10-13):

- Establishing the circle of trust
- Trusting the process
- Creating safety and creating choices
- Getting there together
- The instructor as bass player, not rock star
- Attending to the force that ambivalence exerts

- Instructor awareness, self-reflexivity and transparency
- Learning with our whole selves

John Dewey (1938) believed that experiential education “if it arouses curiosity, strengthens initiative and sets up desires and purposes, will carry a person over dead spaces in the future” (p. 38). Two foundational principles of an educative experience, according to Dewey, are continuity and interaction. W2B pedagogy is experiential in its emphasis on continuity and interaction. The approach is complementary to co-op principles and values.

In the courses we teach at the WCC, we employ circle pedagogy and emphasize co-learning. Our curriculum integrates subject matter that is within the scope of the learner’s life experience (Dewey, 1938, p. 45), aided by interviews with our students in advance of the school term.

One inside student in her convocation address expressed the students’ transformative experience and vision of a future path: “The opportunity took our moments of grey and gave us colours of hope” (Harris, 2017). Here is clear evidence of the opening created for shifting worldviews and connecting in ways that build self-esteem.

In Inside-Out pedagogy, group process and collaborative problem solving are designed to bring two diverse groups together. Wagon wheels, triad discussions, and tableaux deepen internal and external, longitudinal and lateral, student-to-student, and past-present-future interaction and understanding.

Dewey (1938) observed that it is often “collateral learning in the way of formation of enduring attitudes” (p. 48) that is most important to educative experience, rather than the subject matter per se. Classes that prioritize interaction, create trust, and focus on social justice issues present an opportunity for students to consider the structural causes of poverty in relation to their own experiences. In this context, inside students come to realize that an environment of violence and social exclusion in some part has likely predetermined their path into prison.

Collateral learning helps them to come to terms with the present and plan for the future. Outside students realize that there have been similar factors at work in directing their lives and they may become more aware of conditions of privilege and oppression, inclusion and exclusion.

We find that the integration of co-op education in this course highlights values and points to opportunities that are essential for those who face an uncertain economic environment whether they carry the label of “offender” or are facing a rapidly changing job market. Co-op values of self-help, self-responsibility, and solidarity are underscored in classic readings in the orientation of W2B classes: Palmer (2004) reminds us that a circle of trust provides space where we confront and correct ourselves by listening to our inner teacher and Little Bear (2000) emphasizes relationship and reciprocity. The first half of the course provides a critique of capitalism and presents community-based development as an alternative. Collaborative problem solving plants seeds of social capital among the students. In the second half, we shift into fundamentals of co-op concepts and structures. I have developed two co-op booklets that serve as a resource. Students brainstorm co-op ideas using a template based on an All4Each

handout (Kerr, Ontario Co-operative Association, 2012).

Our classes at the WCC are run “technology-free” which presents an opportunity in many ways for an escape from this distraction. It is also a challenge since we require a level playing field for inside and outside students in regard to sources that can be used for assignments. Our answer is to bring in two types of resources: co-op advisors and materials for the construction of business plans in the form of “Zones.” The group assignment is to develop a business plan for a co-op. Students meet in their groups, finalize their concept, and begin to make decisions on the form of the co-op. Co-op advisors visit on two occasions to present on their own co-op history and then sit with the groups individually to answer questions and advise on the structure of each co-op.

Support for students interested in post-secondary education once they are released is another important component of the W2B program. Our ultimate vision is that some of the co-op business plans eventually become a realistic option, providing work for people facing overwhelming barriers when they are released from prison.



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Profiling CASC Scholarship Winners



Travis Reynolds, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Saskatchewan

Winner of the 2016 Amy and Tim Dauphinée Award established by the Ontario Credit Union Charitable Foundation

Whether because of legislation or “best practices,” co-operatives are increasingly adopting corporate governance practices originally intended for investor-owned firms (IOFs). The problem is that these practices may be unsuitable for member-owned organizations. Much of the legislation and best practices treat all organizations as if they were the same—governance policy becomes “one-size-fits-all.”

However, if organizations differ in meaningful ways, then governance systems designed for one type may not automatically fit another. Misfitting governance mechanisms may do more harm than good, decreasing board effectiveness and hampering firm performance.

Effective governance recognizes the influence of context. Different organizational types may require different governance mechanisms. In other words, what’s good for an IOF might not be good for a co-op. With financial support from the Amy and Tim Dauphinée Scholarship and the Hartley and Margaret Fredeen Scholarship, I have been examining both IOF and co-operative governance.

Data allowing for a meaningful comparison between co-ops and IOFs are not available, however. Instead, what I’m doing is looking at how types of co-ops vary in terms of structure and governance. The logic is simple. If co-ops differ amongst themselves in terms of their needs and practices, then any “one-size-fits-all” governance system (regardless of the organizational type it was originally designed for) might be inappropriate.

The Co-operative Business Study (CBS) serves as the basis for my research. The CBS was conducted by researchers from the University of Wisconsin’s Center for Cooperatives, and is unique in that it provides insight into board behaviours. Most governance research draws connections between board composition and firm performance, without considering what directors actually do.

When board behaviour is looked at, the variables of interest are usually proxies. For instance, CEO tenure has been used as a stand-in for CEO influence—longer serving chief executives are theorized to exert greater influence, and therefore play a greater role in selecting board members. The CBS, on the other hand, explicitly asks CEOs and board chairs the degree to which the chief executive influences director selection.

Preliminary analysis of the CBS has revealed some interesting differences between types of co-operatives. For instance, boards of producer co-ops appear to be less involved in strategic planning than consumer co-op boards. Part of this difference may be due to varying levels of diversification. Producer co-ops tend to be more diversified in the services they offer members, or the companies that they own. Diversification has been shown to have a negative association with board participation; as a firm becomes more diversified, its board becomes less involved in strategic planning.

Low levels of involvement may also indicate that directors are unfamiliar with the co-ops they oversee, or that a board lacks a wide-range of skills and expertise. Determining whether diminished involvement is a function of a co-



operative's structure (i.e., its level of diversification), or deficiencies on its board, is important. To effectively guide and challenge management, directors need to understand what their co-ops do. There also needs to be a variety of opinions, skills, and expertise on the board.

Homogenous boards, or boards that don't possess the necessary skills, are more likely to leave management unchecked. And if managers are able to do whatever they want, there's an increased chance they'll act in their own interests, and not the interests of members. Producer co-ops may be well-served to examine the skillsets of their directors, to see if there are deficiencies. They may also be well-served by increasing the number of female directors that sit on their boards.

According to the CBS, 27 percent of consumer co-op directors are female. For producer co-ops, the percentage is only seven. Greater board diversity has been linked to more effective problem solving, increased creativity and innovation, and better corporate leadership. Female directors may offer a new ideas and opinions, and help boards avoid unquestioningly following management.

Nevertheless, consumer co-ops should not blindly trust they have the right mix of director skills and demographics. All co-operatives should try to ensure their boards have the expertise and diversity of opinion to guide management and protect member interests.

Update from the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

~ Nora Russell



The beginning of fall term is always an exciting time at a university, and this fall has brought two particular highlights to the Centre—the week-long Co-op Governance School for Emerging Researchers and the launch of our online course, Governance in Co-operatives, developed in collaboration with Co-operatives First. Combine these with ongoing research, the annual Co-op Case Study Competition at the CASC conference, the launch of our Co-op Data Portal, the third annual MacPherson Talk, and a successful SSHRC application, and you’ve got a Centre buzzing with activity. We’ve also had a lot of changes in staff, student researchers, and visiting scholars in the past few months. Find the details below or go to our [website](#) or our blog, [Contemplating Co-ops](#).

Saskatoon Co-operative Association Consulting Contract

The goal of this project is to create a dynamic framework for member engagement and effective decision making that enshrines the uniqueness of the co-op identity. Phase one identified trends and issues to consider in governance and included a comparison of six different governance models used by large urban consumer co-ops as well as an analysis of member participation and AGM attendance. Phase two, currently underway, includes a literature review and analysis of motivations for

member engagement in large co-operatives and a framework for thinking about the process of decision making on boards and the characteristics that help lead to success. The final report is scheduled to be delivered at the end of October.

Co-op Case Study Competition

Nine students participated in the third annual case competition held during this year’s CASC Conference at Ryerson University in May. We had participants from the universities of York, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Waterloo, Humboldt, Germany, and Oklahoma in the US. The three teams provided excellent analyses of the case—“Fedore Cooperative: Effective Conflict Resolution and Decision Making”—and gave strong presentations. Judges Sonya Novkovic (St. Mary’s), Paul Cabaj (Co-operatives and Mutuels Canada), and Claude-André Guillotte (Sherbrooke) chose Michael Kenny (York), Deepak Santhanakrishnan (U of S), and Carla Dohmwirth (Humboldt, Germany) as the winning team.

The Co-op Data Portal



We launched the [Co-op Data Portal](#) during the summer of 2017. Through interactive maps, charts, and graphs, the portal provides a wealth of co-operative statistics and information gleaned from the Co-operative Innovation Project in a visually stimulating way. Here, co-op researchers and practitioners can discover data patterns and obtain information on co-ops and communities in three areas:

- The [Registered Co-ops](#) section provides information on location, sector, and registration date; click the button to begin exploring
- Community Statistics (in progress) will show demographics, education,



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housing, income, labour, and business statistics

- Community Survey Results (also in progress) will have details on community needs, business capacity, and social capacity

There is also a detailed [User Guide](#) to help visitors make the most of their explorations.

Third Annual MacPherson Talk



Dionne Pohler presented this annual seminar, 2 October 2017, as part of the Co-op Governance School for Emerging Researchers (see below). Titled “Credit Unions in Canada: Six Design Principles for Greater Co-operation,” her thesis was that the Canadian credit union system is facing unprecedented challenges, and credit union leaders are struggling with how to structure their governance arrangements, not only within their own organizations but also at the system level. Credit unions need to find a way to co-operate if they are to remain strong and effective organizations. Dionne outlined a number of principles that could help guide the process. Click [here](#) to see the video.

SSHRC Connections Grant and Co-op Governance School for Emerging Researchers

The Centre is thrilled to announce the success of its Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Connections Grant application for funding to support the four-day Co-operative

Governance School for Emerging Researchers that took place in Saskatoon in early October.

Governance is key to meeting the challenges and realizing the opportunities that co-operatives face today, and the School tackled all of them head on. A half-day session with practitioners educated participants about the issues and challenges currently facing co-operatives. Subsequent days gave participants a mix of theoretical frameworks with which to understand co-op governance, a dataset to help them find relationships between governance characteristics and outcomes, as well as a series of case studies designed to illustrate how the key conceptual issues play out in practice. Our hallways were filled for a week with students from around the world and the atmosphere was charged with the excitement of intellectual exchange, a resounding success by all accounts.

The School featured academic presenters from Canada, the US, Spain, and Germany, and practitioners from Federated Co-operatives Limited, MEC, the Canadian Credit Union Association, the United Farmers of Alberta, and St. Mary’s, Affinity, and Conexus credit unions. It attracted participants from Canada and the US as well as Argentina, Greece, Germany, Slovenia, Brazil, Turkey, China, India, Senegal, and Ghana. The success of the Connections Grant meant we were able to offer travel support to all the international participants.

2-5 October 2017 / Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Centre for the Study of Co-operatives

Co-op Governance School for Emerging Researchers

Join experts from Canada, the US, and Europe for four days of stimulating engagement and interaction.

- Gain an in-depth understanding of co-operative governance
- Explore the underlying conceptual models of governance
- Use qualitative and quantitative methods to understand governance relationships
- Network with Canadian co-op practitioners and academics from around the world

For co-op employees, postdoctoral fellows, research assistants, and graduate students interested in the governance of co-operatives and social economy organizations

Enrolment is limited; not all applicants can be accepted

For more information, contact darcy.overland@usask.ca or call 306.966.8502

JOHNSON SHOYAMA UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN



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Governance in Co-operatives — An Open Online Course



Paul Thompson, a School of Public Policy student, joined us in early 2017 to work on the creation of a massive open online course (MOOC) on [governance in co-operatives](#). MOOCs are free online courses aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. The project is a collaboration between the Centre and [Co-operatives First](#). Course content is based on a model of co-op governance developed at the Centre by Murray Fulton, Brett Fairbairn, and Dionne Pohler. It focuses on the three key elements of successful governance: cognition, strategic interdependencies, and legitimacy. The course began 16 October with 277 participants from around the world. It runs for six weeks, hosted by the Canvas Learning Management System. The six modules, shown below, are based on case studies hand-picked and prepared especially for the course.

- What Is Governance?
- Governance in Business
- Governance in Co-ops and Nonprofits
- Working Together
- A View of the Future
- Legitimacy

Staff and Student News

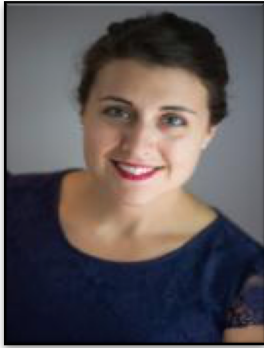
- Danielle Potter, who joined us in November 2016 to help establish the Centre's new blog, left at the end of June 2017 for new pastures. Danielle provided invaluable help with the blog, Twitter, and Facebook posts to promote the Centre, and in setting us up on LinkedIn, which will provide the Centre

with a large professional network of like-minded researchers.

- Alejandro Lomeli Viramontes, a MITACS student from Mexico, spent three months with us as a research assistant working on various projects with Murray. Alejandro is in his final year of a BA in international relations at the Monterey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico. Mitacs is a nonprofit research organization that funds research and training programs for students in partnership with universities, industry, and government in Canada.
- Centre Research Co-coordinator Yawen Luo left us as a full-time employee in September to become a PhD student at the School of Public Policy. She continues to work for the Centre on a part-time basis.
- Aasa Marshall, an MPP student at the School of Public Policy and Centre research assistant for several months, left us in August for a position with Co-operatives First.
- Amanda Sampson, a student researcher involved with the Saskatoon Co-op Association governance review project, left the Centre in September to begin an eight-month internship with the Department of Agriculture in Regina.
- Two new young scholars have joined us for the fall term. Esther Schmitt, from Mannheim, Germany, is a PhD student in social economics at the University of València in Spain. She is with us to work on the governance aspects of her dissertation. Danilo Ianckievicz Vasconcellos is working on a master's degree in co-operative management at Pontificia Universidade Católica do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil. He is at the Centre extending his knowledge of credit risk in financial co-operatives.



Update from St. Mary's University



Erin Hancock
 Manager of Promotion and Partnership
 Co-operative Management Education
 Saint Mary's University

Co-operative Management Education

1. Upcoming 3-day Course - **Enhancing Business Performance through Co-operative Management Practices: How to Strengthen Identity, Loyalty and Participation**

Co-operative Management Education at Saint Mary's University has been offering both online and in-person Executive Education courses for the past number of years focused on optimizing the cooperative business model for the benefit of members and overall impact. This course is offered for co-operative and credit union leaders (management, directors, and keen employees). This is a dynamic course that is based on a number of case studies that has proven to provide participants with new tools and insights to better lead their businesses.

Options:

January 16-18, 2018 in Winnipeg, Manitoba OR

March 5-7, 2018 in London, UK

If this interests you or members of your team, register now! *Some subsidies are available. More information, as well as registration details, are found on this [website](#). If you would like any additional information, please contact Erin Hancock at [\(902\) 802-7897](tel:902-802-7897) or cme@smu.ca.



2. CanadaDE (Credit Union Development Education program)

Join us in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the CanadaDE program. Co-operative Management Education has partnered with CaribDE (an established Caribbean credit union professionals program) for this week-long, full immersion program. Credit Union professionals from around the world will develop a renewed appreciation for the co-operative principles and values and how they bring the philosophy of "People Helping People" to the forefront of credit union relevance and growth.

June 3-8, 2018 in Halifax

More details here: <http://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/canada-de.html>



Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC)

1. CEARC appoints Research Fellow

The Centre of Excellence in Accounting and Reporting for Co-operatives (CEARC) appointed Dr. Fiona Duguid as its first Research Fellow. The Research Fellow's main responsibilities include:

- Contributing to the research program of the Centre
- Attending CEARC conferences
- Helping to identify qualified researchers for specific topic areas
- Advising on research design
- Helping to develop new research projects and identify emerging topics

In her work as the Research Fellow for CEARC, she co-leads the Co-operative Performance Index project, which is a participatory action research project to advance social, environmental, and co-op impact assessment.

2. **Journal of Co-operative Accounting and Reporting** - Submission Deadline Extended to October 31, 2017 More details can be found at <http://www.smu.ca/academics/sobey/cearc-jcar.html>



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News from IRECUS

The beginning of a new school year has brought a couple of exciting projects and activities to IRECUS. Our second full-time MBA program with a focus on co-operatives and mutuals started in August. Students are attending classes with specific co-op and mutual content and are currently working in partnership with two regional organizations, namely Promutuel Vallée-du-St-Laurent (an insurance mutual) and Coop Alentour (a natural and organic food co-op). Students will complete a strategic diagnosis and elaborate recommendations according to partner issues and priorities. This experiential learning activity aims to integrate all the content from classes and to use it in real-life situations.

Another great project has started at IRECUS, in partnership with SOCODEVI (an organization created by the Québec co-op movement and working with co-ops in countries in development). So this year, IRECUS will travel several times to Vietnam in order to give training for trainers in co-op management and governance. A first mission has already been completed and the team is looking forward to sharing even more with the co-op movement in Vietnam.

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Institut de recherche et d'éducation
pour les coopératives et les mutuelles
de l'université de Sherbrooke

IRECUS ENSEIGNEMENT RECHERCHE SERVICES PUBLICATIONS VEILLE NOUVELLES CONTACT ACE

40 ans
pour la coopération
[en savoir plus](#)

À la une



Dans le cadre du 60e anniversaire de la Faculté d'administration (maintenant École de gestion), une série de vidéos sur les chaires et groupes de recherche ayant eu des impacts sur l'amélioration de la gestion des affaires et dans la société ont...

[EN SAVOIR PLUS](#)

A Request to CASC Members: Teaching Resources for a Higher Education Portal

I may have met you at the CASC conference at Ryerson earlier this year. I helped contribute to the June 2nd workshops on the last day of the conference regarding how to better integrate co-op content and knowledge across three areas: post-secondary curriculum, experiential education, and innovation.

A focal point of conversation across all workshops that day was the need for a central resource hub for learning and engaging about co-operatives. Thankfully, that need is now in the process of being filled!

The Association for Cooperative Education (ACE) had come to conclusions about a similar need earlier in the year and is currently in the development phase of CENet – the Cooperative Educators Network. This comprehensive platform will provide the co-op community and those new to it with a centralized tool that will walk users through the variety of content, resources, and libraries that currently exist in a number of different locations. It will be designed by “learning paths,” whereby content will be organized based on the relevance to specific types of users (ie. Housing board members, front-line credit union staff, business professors, newly interested enthusiasts, etc.). An initial working version of this website is intended to be online by March 31, 2018.

I am leading the development of the “Higher Education Portal,” which is designed for professors interested in teaching about co-operatives. This will host a variety of teaching tools (ie presentations, case studies, videos, and example syllabi), resource lists, and guides/advice about best teaching practices.

I am reaching out to you in hopes for some help in moving forward with this. I am mainly curious about two things: 1) If you'd be interested in sharing any content that you've already created; and 2.) If there are any particular resources you wish you had, but may have had difficulty attaining.

I'd love to set up a time to chat on the phone if you are interested in contributing in any way at all. Please email me at asolmes@gmail.com and let me know how you're able to help this important project get off the ground.

Thanks and look forward to hearing from you,

--Amanda Solmes

A New Film Explores the Transformative Power of the Co-operative Model

[A Silent Transformation](#) sets out to explore the history of co-operation in Canada and the innovative self-help efforts taking place in contemporary communities across the Province of Ontario: London, Guelph, Toronto, and Campbellford. From markets and housing to movie theatres and credit unions, by addressing the needs of their members collectively, co-operatives are helping to regain the radical vision of co-operation. In these communities are the seeds of economic democracy, global solidarity, and a new popular movement to transform society!

The co-operative movement was built by people who took on the responsibility for their collective well being in the face of government neglect, economic exclusion and cultural discrimination. As the modern economy increasingly denies vast sectors of the population basic amenities for decent life, this co-operative spirit is as critical as ever. [A Silent Transformation](#) offers to bring the vision and understanding of a co-operative world to broad audiences outside of the co-op sector.

[A Silent Transformation](#) is an autonomous and independent project made possible by the support of a community of stakeholders. After three years in production AST is ready to be seen! Whether you are an educator, co-op practitioner or community organizer, by bringing [A Silent Transformation](#) into your classroom or community you can spark the conversation about a movement towards economic democracy!

Please visit our website to learn more about the film and contact us at cooperative@powerlinefilms.com if you would like to book a screening.



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Upcoming Conferences

2018 Social Innovation Summit @ Mount Royal University

As follow up to a conversation initiated at the Ashoka U Exchange in New Orleans in 2016 - we would like to advise that Mount Royal University (MRU) is preparing to host the inaugural Social Innovation Summit in Calgary, Alberta July 3, 4 & 5, 2018. And yes, in case you are wondering, it is right before the Calgary Stampede!

Our goal is to build Canada's Social Innovation community and provide a cross sectoral platform for social innovators, academics, practitioners and thought leaders to come together to share learnings and imagine possibilities.

While there is much work to be done, the first step is to build the Canadian network and confirm contact information along with areas of interest you and your colleagues may wish to explore over the 3-day period. As a result, we would ask that you circulate this email broadly to individuals who are working, teaching and/or associated with Canada's social innovation ecosystem. At this juncture we are planning a conference in which academics as well as non-academics, practitioners and thought leaders can interact, share best practices and explore the unexpected. We envision a combination of delivery modes including: round tables, panel discussions, poster & research presentations, in addition to a wicked question galleria, a disrupter's design emporium and lightning talks.

The plan is to host the summit at the University and we are currently assessing on site accommodation as well as in Calgary's downtown core. If you are interested in learning more about the conference, helping us to organize, participating on one of the many committees, or simply want to be kept informed please complete the form below.

In the meantime, should you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Catherine Pearl at cpearl@mtroyal.ca or 403 440 5508.

ICA Global Conference & General Assembly



COOP
International
Co-operative
Alliance

coop

**Global Conference
and General Assembly**

Co-operatives: Putting people
at the centre of development

14 to 17 November 2017
Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Preliminary programme

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ICA2018 Research Conference



ICA2018 Research Conference

Cooperatives in a rapidly changing world



ICA2018 Research Conference The Netherlands

In 2018, the ICA Research Conference will be held in The Netherlands. In a cooperative effort, five Dutch universities and the Netherlands Cooperative Council (NCR) will organize this annual event for scholars, representatives of cooperatives and policy makers. The main theme of the research conference is:

Cooperatives in a rapidly changing world: innovation in enterprise and community

Global trends like shifts in geo-politics, climate change, advances in ICT, and crises in democracy are presenting citizens and businesses with new challenges. How can cooperatives, at local, regional and international level respond to these challenges? What is the sustainability and resilience of the cooperative model? Can cooperatives re-invent themselves, given the new demands from members and other stakeholders?

Based on these developments and questions the conference will deal with a wide range of topics, including:

- Strengthening member commitment
- Innovations in internal governance
- Resilience of the cooperative model
- The future of democratic decision-making
- Educating current and future leaders

Location: Wageningen, The Netherlands

Venue: Hof van Wageningen Conference Centre

Date: 4 – 6 July 2018

More information: www.wur.eu/ica2018 | ICA2018.mst@wur.nl



The Eighth International Conference on ECONOMICS & MANAGEMENT OF NETWORKS

International Conferences on Economics and Management of Networks - EMNet



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HAVANA, Cuba

The eighth international conference on ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT OF NETWORKS will be held in cooperation with the **Universidad de La Habana** from **November 15th – November 17th, 2018**, in Havana, Cuba. The purpose of the conference is to provide an international discussion forum for research in economics and management of networks.

Theoretical, conceptual and empirical papers from all fields in economics and management of networks (**franchising, retail and service chains, cooperatives, financial networks, joint ventures, strategic alliances, licencing, clusters, public-private partnerships and new network forms in digital economy**) are welcome.

Additional workshops will be organized: (1) A panel focusing on research on public network management and governance and (2) SPECIAL WORKSHOPS with an interdisciplinary focus in Spanish.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- April 30, 2018: Abstract submission
- September 1, 2018: Payment of the conference fees
- October 31, 2018: One COPY of the paper via email to Josef Windsperger (josef.windsperger@univie.ac.at)
- November 10, 2018: Final program available- emnet.univie.ac.at/emnet2018/

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Calls for Papers



COOPERATION AS THE INSTITUTION OF THE COMMON

“PRAKTYKA TEORETYCZNA” 1(27)/2018

CALL FOR PAPERS – 1/2018

Language: English

Editors: Bartłomiej Błesznowski, Mikołaj Ratajczak

Text submission deadline: December 15, 2017

Planned date of publication: March 2018

The era since the 2008 financial crisis has witnessed a return to the idea of cooperation. This has been the case in the US, Western Europe and more recently, in post-socialist countries such as Poland. Indeed, newly established cooperatives grounded in an older, grassroots democratic tradition have received a great deal of media coverage while academic interest in the cooperative movement and the ideas that underlie it continues to grow.

Along with the return to cooperativism and the ideas around it, historical tensions have re-emerged and old debates become urgent once more, albeit in new circumstances. Among these is the issue of the cooperative movement’s relationship to class division and struggle. Since at least the Rochdale Pioneers, cooperatives were viewed as vehicles for working class emancipation. Created by artisans, industrial workers, and later by peasants, their aim was the removal of the shackles of ostensibly “free” labour. soon followed.

These conflicts and tensions were also clearly perceptible in Poland, during the interwar period in particular. “Społem”, the leader of consumer cooperative union that took leadership of the movement emergent from a Warsaw union founded in 1911, took a “neutralist” stance upon them. This was plainly expressed by one of the movement’s early leaders, Romuald Mielczarski and later reiterated by the longtime “Społem” leader Marian Rapacki. Conversely, a rival “class” cooperative movement brought together by the Union of the Workers’ Cooperative Associations, advocated cooperation with socialist and communist parties. While these two movements united in 1926 under the “Społem” banner, the controversies prevailed. What relationship does the idea of cooperativism have to the wider anticapitalist movement today?

At its origins in industrial England, the conscious cooperative movement was a piece with the workers’ movement, alongside trade unions and political parties, even if this relationship evoked discord and polemic from the outset. Inspired by various streams of pre-Marxist social movements and later developed by European advocates of cooperatives – Charles Gide among them – was the Rochdale Principle of political and religious neutrality. In Gide’s view, the cooperatives had to form an independent movement that would gradually transform the economic system by peaceful means. With time cooperatives became attractive to more radical anticapitalist streams of thought. For instance, the first cooperative bakery was established in Belgium by members of the socialist party and since then, cooperatives – along with the well-known People’s Houses – formed part of left movements. While Marx himself seemed to view cooperatives as a temporary measure which had no means to bring an end to capitalism. Yet many Marxists embraced cooperatives, especially workers’ cooperatives seeking state support. An interest in cooperatives among right-wing corporatist circles in search of alternative principles of national integration

Neither poor factory workers, nor peasant or stateemployed officials, but an urban middle class or impoverished but educated precariat seems to form the basis of a reborn cooperative movement, from Kiev to Detroit. This situation appears to resemble the conundrum faced by many new social movements on the left. The question is no longer whether cooperatives are to be open to members of other classes or to holders of other worldviews and ideologies. Instead, the reverse is the case: how are cooperatives and the ideas attendant to them to be open to majority views forms the current looming question. The issues of class, neutrality or political engagement and the relationship with the state are return once again, albeit in an entirely different light. At issue in the question of who cooperates is no longer a homogeneous and self-conscious class. In this context, the insights of the leaders of the pre-war



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movement, in the case of Poand for instance of Romuald Mielczarski and Marian Rapacki from the „Społem” association that “cooperation is common and as such is a class”, might form an important launchpad for a new debate about both cooperative practice and anti-capitalist politics. Indeed, the tradition of cooperatives and political thought concentrated on the idea of cooperation and mutual aid may be essential to theorising class struggle in a period when social cooperation has become the central force driving the social factory and the main source of surplus value.

This is the starting point for our inquiry: what is the relation between the history of cooperative movements, the ideas developed by cooperativists and contemporary class struggle? Could the relation between the politics of cooperativity and class struggle be developed beyond the dialectic of a sovereign political entity and an unconscious collective, beyond the division between citizen and consumer, once more retracing the boundary between the economic and the political? For instance, cooperativism may be revisited through the idea of „multitude” – a set of subjectivities always present, without representation, yet outside the market and state calculation. This would be a “practical subject” embodying the common condition of precarity. The basis for such a political and philosophical perspective could be found in the recent writings of many post-Operaist authors: the institution of the common. Developed recently by Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, the concept of the institution of the common envisages a democratic cooperation aimed at creating material and immaterial wealth for all to share – but one that does not cease to be an antagonistic, constituent power directed against both capitalist and state forms of oppression. This perspective is not far from the tradition of cooperativism – and indeed it paves the way for a vision of class struggle based first of all on the institutionalization of cooperation.

What would be its strategic and theoretical gains? We invite submissions engaging with the wide set of topics addressing the relationship between the cooperation, cooperative movement and the various forms of contemporary institutions of the common. Authors seeking to shed light on the problem both in the historical context and in respect to present debates are equally welcome.

Suggested problems and areas of inquiry:

- History of cooperativism and cooperative movements in the context of contemporary political philosophy.
- History of the ideas of cooperation and mutual aid

as political concepts.

- Cooperativism as an institution: cooperation and mutual aid as constituent power and a political institution.
- Cooperation of the multitude: cooperativism as a perspective for projects of radical politics.
- Cooperation and the common: reciprocal relations between the tradition of cooperativism and post-Operatist critique of contemporaneity.
- Cooperation as minor politics: post-structuralist critique of political subject as a theoretical inspiration for cooperative politics.
- Cooperativism and the State: opposition, synergy, difficult coexistence?
- Cooperativism and workers’ movement: natural allies, historical enemies, possible cooperation?
- “Realizable utopia”: cooperativism in relation to utopian socialism, syndicalism, anarchism and communism.
- Archeology and genealogy of cooperativism: philosophical and conceptual roots of cooperativism in Antiquity, Middle Ages, and Early Modernity and their actuality.
- Cooperativism and the critique of political economy
 - (1): cooperativism and Marxist critique of political economy.
 - (2): economy of cooperatives
 - (3): economy of affects and mutual aid.
 - (4): cooperativism, p2p and sharing economy.
 - (5): the question of basic income.
- Modern feminism, the struggle for women’s rights and cooperative movement.
- Post-feminist critique of political economy, contemporary visions of post capitalists politics and the question of cooperation.
- Contemporary forms of cooperativism as examples of uproot organization and resistance.
- Cooperativism and cooperative forms of praxis as an alternative to predominant visions of social and economic organization.
- How to invent the future on the basis of cooperation and mutual aid?

We invite you to send abstracts for consultation with the editors before submitting the final draft of the text. However, this is not a requirement, and you may also submit the text for the reviewing process without prior consultations.

Please see our [guideline for authors](#) and send texts to:

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Facultad de Ciencias Económicas

Red Latinoamericana de
Investigadores en Cooperativismo



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X ENCUENTRO DE INVESTIGADORES LATINOAMERICANOS EN COOPERATIVISMO

“Las cooperativas como constructoras de inclusión”

Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Cooperativismo
2 y 3 de agosto de 2018, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas

El tema de la convocatoria

Con motivo de la celebración del Día Internacional de las Cooperativas de las Naciones Unidas en 2017, la Alianza Cooperativa Internacional ha propuesto centrarse en el tema de la inclusión, al considerar que “las cooperativas aseguran que nadie se quede atrás”. El tema refleja el interés de enfocarse en las personas por parte de las empresas cooperativas y subraya los principios cooperativos de membresía abierta y democrática, control democrático y participación económica de los miembros. Se destaca así que las cooperativas proveen un espacio donde todas las personas, sin importar la raza, género, cultura, origen social o circunstancias económicas, pueden responder a necesidades y construir comunidades mejores.

El desafío se asocia también a la necesidad de adoptar la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en vigencia desde el 1 de enero de 2016-, poniendo la dignidad y los derechos de las personas en el centro de las políticas y las decisiones de los gobiernos. Dicha agenda establece que las alianzas eficaces para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible requieren el involucramiento de los gobiernos, el sector privado y la sociedad civil, y se construyen sobre la base de principios y valores, una visión compartida y objetivos comunes que otorgan prioridad a las personas y al planeta, y son necesarias a nivel mundial, regional, nacional y local. Desde esta premisa, la agenda considera las actividades que intervienen como grandes motores de la productividad, el crecimiento económico inclusivo y la reacción de empleo, contemplando la diversidad del sector privado, en el que incluye a las cooperativas.

En este marco, la Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Cooperativismo convoca a la realización del X Encuentro estableciendo como temática central: “Las cooperativas como constructoras de inclusión”, tema de significativa importancia para la investigación de aquellas iniciativas en que las cooperativas intervienen.

Sobre la Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Cooperativismo

Los Encuentros de Investigadores en Cooperativismo promovidos por la Red Latinoamericana constituyen el evento científico multidisciplinario más significativo en el campo de la investigación sobre cooperativas. Desde su inicio en el año 2000 han estimulado la reflexión sobre las problemáticas del cooperativismo en la región y promovido la generación de un debate crítico sobre el quehacer cooperativo estableciendo vínculos de colaboración para la investigación e incentivando el fortalecimiento de relaciones entre el ámbito cooperativo y el ámbito académico. La red se encuentra abierta a todas aquellas personas interesadas en compartir la investigación sobre el modelo cooperativo de empresa y busca integrar los esfuerzos de un grupo de investigadores e instituciones vocadas al estudio del cooperativismo bajo un espíritu colaborativo para estimular y promover el conocimiento en estas temáticas.

La Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Cooperativismo invita a todas aquellas personas que deseen participar en el X Encuentro Latinoamericano de Investigadores en Cooperativismo: “Las cooperativas como constructoras de inclusión” a enviar propuestas para presentar trabajos en los siguientes ejes temáticos:

- Iniciativas cooperativas promotoras de inclusión y desarrollo sostenible
- Alianzas estratégicas del cooperativismo para promover proyectos de inclusión
- Políticas de financiamiento inclusivas
- Inclusión: políticas públicas y cooperativas
- La inclusión en la historia y la doctrina de la cooperación
- Posibilidades y límites para la inclusión económica y social
- Iniciativas cooperativas ante desafíos particulares de exclusión, desigualdad y formas de discriminación de jóvenes y mujeres, grupos étnicos y migrantes
- Cooperativas y diálogo para la paz

Criterios para la presentación de resúmenes y ponencias

El resumen deberá tener como máximo una extensión de 400 palabras. Debe enviarse por e-mail en formato Word e indicar:

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Título de la ponencia:

Autor/es:

E – mails:

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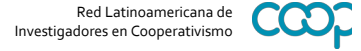
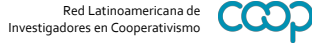
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Criterios para la presentación de resúmenes y posters

Está prevista la exhibición de posters donde se sinteticen los resultados de investigaciones realizadas o en curso. Los mismos estarán expuestos durante el Encuentro y sus autores podrán comentar los alcances de su trabajo en un horario a determinar.

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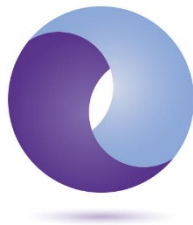
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Co-operative College Vocabulary Request



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The Co-operative College UK and Manchester Metropolitan University are inviting entries for their **vocabulary of co-operative keywords**. They want these to be the product of co-op research. Follow the link below to learn more and submit your entries:

<http://www.co-op.ac.uk/2017/04/co-operative-keywords-call-conributors/>



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Worth Reading This Winter

The Oxford Handbook of Mutual, Co-operative and Co-owned Business



A new book edited by **Jonathan Michie**, University of Oxford (UK), **Joseph R. Blasi**, Rutgers University (USA), and **Carlo Borzaga**, University of Trento (Italy) is now available. The handbook analyses, describes, and explains the complex world of organisations that assign ownership rights and governance control to stakeholders other than investors. The complexity of this set of organisations results both from the different degree of control exerted by stakeholders in each typology, and from different legislative and regulatory frameworks that govern these organisational forms.

The handbook **investigates all kinds of ‘member-owned’ organizations**, whether consumer cooperatives, agricultural and producer cooperatives, worker cooperatives, mutual building societies, friendly societies, credit unions, solidarity organizations, mutual insurance companies, or employee-owned companies. The owner of such organisations can be the consumers, the producers, or the employees – whether through single-stakeholder or multi-stakeholder ownership.

Renewed interest in member-owned

Thus, 2012 was designated by the United Nations as the ‘Year of the Co-operative’. And various documents delivered by European Union Institutions have pointed to the key role played by non-investor owned enterprises in European

societies. Decisive steps forward in recognizing the contribution of co-operatives to societal well-being have been made by the ‘Europe2020’ strategy, and in particular by the European Commission’s recently launched ‘Social Business Initiative’. [1]

This renewed interest in member-owned organizations has paved the way for a wider recognition of the importance of corporate diversity. For example, the 2012 Report delivered by the UK Commission on Ownership advocated a greater degree of corporate diversity, with a stronger member-owned and employee-owned sector. Another example is the UK’s 2010-15 Coalition Government’s commitment – evident in its Coalition Agreement – to strengthening the cooperative and social economy sectors, in part to create a more resilient financial services sector in reaction to the global financial crisis of 2007-2008, which is generally seen as having been created by the excesses of privately- and shareholder-owned banks and other financial institutions.

54 international contributors to the Handbook

The Handbook is international in scope, includes contributions from **54 leading academics and practitioners**, and covers various disciplinary aspects, including economics, finance and accounting, management and business, law, politics, history, organisational studies, psychology, public policy, and industrial sociology. The editors ensured that the collection is interdisciplinary in approach. The chapters reflect the latest academic research and thinking on each topic and report on the relevant policy debates. The strengths and weaknesses of the various alternative corporate forms are explored, with failures analysed as well as successes.

Euricse’s contribution to the Handbook

Carlo Borzaga is one of the editors of the Handbook and 9 authors are either researchers or fellows of Euricse: **Chiara Carini, Maurizio Carpita, Sara Depedri, Antonio Fici, Giulia Galera, Michela Giovannini, Silvio Goglio, Pier Angelo Mori, Ermanno C. Tortia, and Marcelo Vieta.**



The Shifting Terrain: Non-profit Policy Advocacy in Canada



Canadian advocacy has evolved over the past few decades. A core function of the nonprofit sector, advocacy endures in an unsympathetic neoliberal landscape – one dominated by a rise in government surveillance, ongoing government funding cuts, and confusion over what activities are permissible.

Exploring the unpredictable and fluid nature of public policy advocacy work carried out by nonprofit organizations across Canada, *The Shifting Terrain* sheds light on the strictures and opportunities of this crucial aspect of the voluntary sector. Authors from diverse backgrounds, including academics, activists, practitioners, and legal experts, illustrate what the shifting course of advocacy means in philosophical, theoretical, political, and practical terms. Offering a critique of advocacy practices directed at the nonprofit-provincial/territorial government interface and beyond, this anthology outlines regulatory changes made by the Canada Revenue Agency, exposes the conflicted internal structures and processes of advocacy work, challenges “permissible advocacy activities,” presents provocative thinking about alternative ways forward, and proposes recommendations for improvement.

A comparative historical study and a contemporary examination, *The Shifting Terrain* invites readers to contemplate the implications of advocacy for public participation, the shaping of public policy, and Canadian democracy.

Nick J. Mulé is associate professor in the School

of Social Work and the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at York University.

Gloria C. DeSantis is assistant professor in the Justice Studies Department at the University of Regina.

Contributors include: François Aubry, Laboratoire de recherche sur les pratiques et les politiques sociales; Myrle Ballard, has a post-doc in environmental health at the University of Manitoba; Anna Burrowes, MPA from the School of Policy Studies, Queen’s University and currently works for the BC public service; Peter Clutterbuck is the academic coordinator, The Chang School on Continuing Education at Ryerson University; Mark D’Arcy is a community activist who has worked on environmental issues in New Brunswick with Friends of the UNB Woodlot and the Fredericton Chapter – Council of Canadians; Suzanne Dudziak, School of Social Work at St Thomas University; Peter R. Elson, the Institute for Community Prosperity at Mount Royal University and adjunct assistant professor, School of Public Administration, University of Victoria; Lyle Fabian, member of K’at’lodeeche First Nation, founder of KatloTech Communications Ltd., supporting First Nations communities in wireless or fibre technology; Christa Freiler former director, The Child Poverty Action Group, board member of Legal Aid Ontario; Heather E. Hudson, Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska, Anchorage; Rachel Laforest, School of Policy Studies at Queen’s University; Carol Liao, Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia; Rob McMahon, Faculty of Extension at the University of Alberta; Bonnie Morton, Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry; Adam, Faculty of Law at Western University; Kathleen Thompson, principal researcher at TomKat Communications and the Cannabis Regulatory Research Group as well as research director, International Human Rights Association for American Minorities. Yves Vaillancourt, professor emeritus, School of Social Work, Université de Québec à Montréal and also member, Laboratoire de recherche sur les pratiques et les politiques sociales and of Centre de recherche sur les innovations sociales.

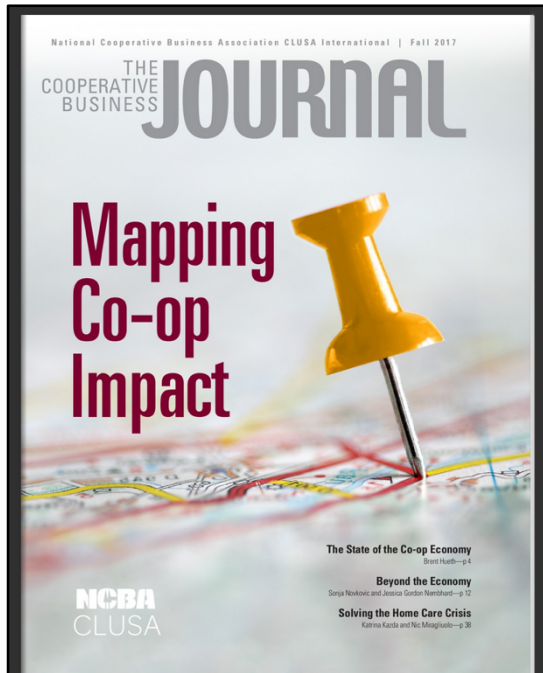


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UK Society for Co-operative Studies Journal



Journal of Co-operative Studies 49 No 3 (148) Winter
 Editorial - Winter 2016 49(3)

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Journal of Co-operative Studies Vol 50 No 1 (no 149)
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Author information

The Journal of Co-operative Studies is a peer-reviewed international academic journal, which aims to promote knowledge, research and innovation within the co-operative sector. The Journal is published by the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in Manchester, England, a city strongly associated with the co-operative movement since the days of the Rochdale Pioneers. It is distributed in Canada in partnership with the Canadian Association of Studies in Co-operation.

The editors welcome contributions on most aspects of co-operation, co-operative management, governance and leadership, and related subject areas, in relation to a range of co-operative sectors. This includes worker, consumer, retail, housing, credit, insurance, information technology, environmental and other forms of co-operative endeavour; international co-operation; and other sectors within the social economy, including mutual businesses, co-operative banks and building societies, community businesses, and member-based non-profits. The Journal also accepts submissions on agricultural co-operation, but it conscious that there are other co-operative journals more relevant to this sector.

While one role of the Journal is the dissemination of the results of research, we are keen to ensure that its contents should also reflect the role of the UK Society for Co-operative Studies in acting as a bridge between theory and practice ways of contributing:

- Articles of 4,000-7,000 words**, which either by reporting the results of empirical research or through developing theoretical perspectives will contribute to knowledge about co-operation and related subject areas. These articles will be subject to anonymous peer review by two specialist referees. They should be preceded by a title page with name(s) of the author (s), and a short abstract of up to 200 words. Authors are invited to submit an outline proposal for discussion. They should be submitted electronically in MS Word format to the editors.
- Shorter articles, generally of around 2,000 words** are assessed on the basis of their general interest and readability. Such articles are not subject to formal peer review although the editor may seek comments and suggestions from members of the Editorial Advisory Board, which would be discussed with the author as part of the editing process. They should be submitted electronically in MS Word format and include a short abstract of up to 200 words.
- Think pieces:** As a new feature of the Journal, we invite prospective contributors to submit very short (maximum 1,000 words) articles, which may be controversial or somewhat speculative in character. Their purpose should be to stimulate discussion and possible future new directions for co-operative research.
- Reviews and review articles;** the former should be no more than 600 words, the latter 2,000 words.

Submission Guidelines:

Each paper – of whatever length – must include an abstract of no more than 200 words. The abstract must be written in plain English and written in a way that is understandable by academic readers and non-academic readers alike. This together with author details should be included as a separate page before the main document or attached as a separate accompanying document to the main manuscript.

Manuscripts will use a sans serif font e.g. Arial, font size 11.

Titles and main headings should be sentence case in bold e.g. **Partnering to Build a Social Co-operative for Aboriginal Women Transitioning from Prison**

Sub-headings should be sentence case in italics (a lower level of sub-sub heading should be avoided).

Paragraphs should be marked by a three-space indent, and sub-headings should be used sparingly.

Quotations of less than 20 words should be put in the text with double quotation marks. Quotes of more than 20 words should be indented and delineated by a space at top and bottom, but without quotation marks.

References and citations should use APA style (author/year) – see [style guide](#) for further information.

Once accepted: A short description of the author's current job title (or one previous title), should be included at the end, in bold print.

Authors of short articles, refereed articles and book reviews will receive two complimentary copies of the Journal. Authors of refereed articles will also receive 10 copies of their own article.

Manuscripts should be submitted in MS Word or RTF format, attached to an email and emailed to: editor@ukscs.coop

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Food, Agriculture and Social Change

Cooperative Longevity: Why are So Many Cooperatives So Successful?



Edited by Stephen Sherwood, Alberto Arce and Myriam Paredes

Food, Agriculture and Social Change

The Everyday Vitality of Latin America

May 2017, 234x156, 256pp

10 illustrations

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Food, Agriculture and Social Change

The Everyday Vitality of Latin America

Edited by **Stephen Sherwood**, Wageningen University, Netherlands, **Alberto Arce**, Wageningen University, Netherlands and **Myriam Paredes**, FLACSO, Ecuador

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Recent food studies scholarship has tended to focus on a number of increasingly abstract, largely unquestioned concepts, in particular with regard to how capital, markets and states organize and operate. This has led to a gulf between public policy and the realities of food as experienced by people. Through grounded case studies in seven Latin American countries, each of which seeks to explain development as it uniquely unfolds, this book explores how social change in food and agriculture is fundamentally experiential, contingent and unpredictable.

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"This volume provides an invaluable exploration of the processes by which food is more-than-food in its multiplicities, relationalities and intersectionalities and how this fluidity creates a rhizomatic politics that cuts across space, place and territory. Food, Agriculture and Social Change opens up a novel and very much needed window to the everyday politics of food and its socio-ecological vitalisms in ways that will challenge the field of food studies for years to come." **Michael Goodman**, Professor of Environment and Development/Human Geography, University of Reading, UK


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Special Issue

Cooperative Longevity: Why are So Many Cooperatives So Successful?

Guest Editors:

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Dr. Vladislav Valentov
 Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Theodor-Lieser-Str. 2, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany
 valentov@iamo.de

Deadline for manuscript submissions:
 28 February 2018

Message from the Guest Editors

Despite popular misconceptions, cooperatives present a very successful organizational form worldwide. A recent study found that, in the U.S., for example, among the companies that have survived for over 100 years, more than 80 firms are cooperatives. This observation on cooperative longevity is not matched by a corresponding research effort on what makes cooperatives so successful. Most of the extant research seems to focus on intra-cooperative problems that posit significant challenges to cooperatives. This Special Issue of Sustainability aims at bridging the considerable gap between scholarly work and reality. By focusing on what makes cooperatives so successful for such a long period of time, this issue will shed light on key aspects of cooperative longevity. The insights thereby gained will be useful to students of cooperatives, practitioners, and policy makers.

We are primarily interested in the social science approaches to the study of cooperatives. The unit of analysis can be either the cooperative or the member. Theoretical, conceptual, and empirical papers are welcome as long as they do not make heroic assumptions.

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 Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation

ACÉC
 L'Association Canadienne pour les Études sur la Coopération



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- CASC Newsletter twice yearly
- *Journal of Co-operative Studies* (3 issues per year)
- Announcements of interest (about conferences, new co-operative resources or initiatives, scholarships etc.) through the CASC listserv and Digest

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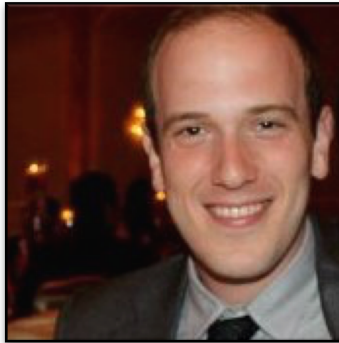
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