

Business and Society Review Special Issue Call for Papers:
“Ecosystems for Social Innovations”

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Social Innovations (SI) are defined as the development of creative and practical solutions to complex social problems (Tracey & Stott, 2017). The development of SI requires multilevel and multisystem collaborations across sectors (Rahbek Gjerdrum Pedersen, Lüdeke-Freund, Henriques, & Seitanidi, 2016) and different institutions (Dentchev et al. 2016), in order to exchange the necessary resources, knowledge and expertise for finding solutions to the most pressing issues in our societies (Bapuji et al., 2020; Smith & Woodworth, 2012).

To this purpose, ecosystem theorising constitutes a fertile ground to examine social innovations. Ecosystems are composed of interconnected networks of stakeholders, sharing common objectives and resources (Adner, 2017; Alvedale & Boschma, 2017; Neumeyer, Santos, & Morris, 2019). In this sense, an ecosystem for social innovation can be described as a community of entrepreneurs, social innovators, practitioners, universities, government organisations, NGOs that work together to develop solutions to the most pressing social and environmental issues of our societies (Phillips, Lee, Ghobadian, O'Regan, & James, 2015; Siqueira, Mariano, & Moraes, 2014; Tracey & Stott, 2017)

Social entrepreneurs are recognized for introducing major SIs, tackling a number of long-standing economic and societal issues such as institutional voids, poverty, or sustainability (Autio & Thomas, 2013; Dacin, Dacin, & Tracey, 2011). Despite such admirable ambitions, social entrepreneurs often lack human-, social- and financial capital (Goyal, Sergi, & Jaiswal, 2016; Kanchana, Divya, & Beegom, 2013; Smith & Woodworth, 2012) to accomplish their goals. Despite these challenges, many social entrepreneurs around the world continue to develop SIs that are driving change initiatives in remote areas for disadvantaged communities. One such notable example is the creation of the Ashoka Fellows, whose work and SIs span across poverty, education, IT, microfinance and human rights, among many other challenging issues.

Therefore, to address the theoretical and empirical gaps that exist at the intersection of ecosystems and social innovation, we invite the scholarly community, specifically those interested in topics related to Social Entrepreneurship, Sustainability, CSR, and Stakeholder management and Business ethics to contribute to this Call for Papers. We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines and methodologies, including literature reviews, theoretical-, conceptual-, and empirical papers to provide answers to the following (non exhaustive) questions:

- What are the relationships between social innovation, social entrepreneurship and ecosystem thinking?
- What are the main theories that can be employed to study SI in the ecosystem context?
- Which are the most relevant actors and their contributions to ecosystems for SI?
- Are there new / emerging frameworks to describe the elements and mechanisms that foster the output of SIs in ecosystems?
- What are the governance mechanisms that could be identified in an ecosystem for SI?
- What are the critical resources and capabilities that organizations and institutions offer to ecosystem for SI?
- What type of support is offered by the ecosystem for SI to social innovators?

Submission procedure:

Full papers should be submitted via the following link: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/basr> by **December 15, 2021**. All manuscripts must be original, unpublished works that are not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere.

For more information about Business and Society Review and guidelines for authors cf. the journal's website: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14678594>

Special Issue workshops and conferences:

To attract papers for the special issue, we will advertise through a variety of dedicated workshops at the following conferences: 32nd IABS Conference at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) in June 2021 (Chair Nikolay Dentchev); 6th New Business Models a conference at Halmstad University (Sweden) in July 2021 (Chair Maya Hoveskog) and during the 3rd Social Entrepreneurship Summit at ESPOL in Guayaquil (Ecuador) in Sept 2021 (Chair Abel Diaz). Attendance to these workshops and/or conferences is recommended, but not a prerequisite for submission to the special issue.

About the guest editors:

Name: Nikolay A.Dentchev

Bio: Nikolay A. Dentchev is Associate Professor of CSR and Entrepreneurship at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. He holds the Solvay Business School Chair of Social Entrepreneurship at VUB, with founding partners Close the Gap, BNP Paribas Fortis, and Euroclear. Nikolay is involved in initiatives supporting student entrepreneurship for more than ten years and coaching about ten students a year to develop their business. He has (co)authored more than 40 scientific publications, published in various indexed journals such as Business & Society, Journal of Business Ethics, Business Ethics: A European Review. Nikolay serves occasionally as guest editor to special issues in journals such as Business & Society and Journal of Cleaner Production. He also serves at the executive board of two international associations, i.e. IABS and NBM. Nikolay is the co-founder of Equalisi bvba, a social enterprise that commercializes products of vulnerable entrepreneurs, a spin-off activity of the VUB Chair of Social Entrepreneurship.

Name: Abel Diaz Gonzalez

Bio: Abel is a Ph.D. candidate at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB), Belgium. His research focuses on the supportive function of social entrepreneurial ecosystems. For his doctoral dissertation, Abel has conducted field research in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Belgium. His research has been presented in different international conferences (among which the Academy of Management, IABS, EMES and New Business Models). Abel has acted as reviewer to various conferences and journals, and as co-organizer of numerous events (e.g. the VUB Social Entrepreneurship Fair that has ca. 550 participants and the Social Entrepreneurship Summit with ca. 150 participants). Abel is the co-founder of Equalisi BVBA, a social enterprise incorporated in 2019 in Belgium, aimed at supporting vulnerable entrepreneurs from Latin America to commercialize their creations in alternative markets. In August 2020, Abel joins Vesalius College in Brussels as Adjunct Professor in Social Entrepreneurship.

Name: Xaver Neumeyer

Bio: Xaver Neumeyer is an Assistant Professor of Management in the Cameron School of Business. He teaches entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship analytics as well as technology management and innovation. He has received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Northwestern University and was a participant of University of Florida's postdoctoral bridge program. He currently serves as the Associate Editor for Journal of Small Business Management. His research has appeared in a variety of entrepreneurship, sustainability and engineering journals, including Journal of Small Business Management, IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management, Small Business Economics, Journal of Technology Transfer, and Journal of Cleaner Production. Dr. Neumeyer's research focuses on inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystems, examining barriers for historically underserved populations to build and grow entrepreneurial ventures. He is also the founding member of the Global Partnership for Poverty and Entrepreneurship, a platform to share resources related to venture creation by the poor.

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