



## Call for Papers for a Special Issue

### Social Economy Under Influence: Isomorphism or Innovation?

*Trajectories of Social Economy and Cooperative Enterprises: Resilience, degeneration and regeneration*

**Guest Editors:** Marie J. Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal), Ignacio Bretos (University of Zaragoza), Alberto Zevi (Barberini Foundation)

Social economy enterprises (SEEs) are facing important challenges: urgent need to adopt sustainable development objectives, to counter inequalities growth, to develop international solidarity; call to propose solutions to the major issues of society and the future of the planet. We are witnessing a proliferation of new initiatives that instil values of democracy and solidarity in the models of production, consumption, and management (self-managing collectives, urban agriculture, community-supported agriculture, public transport, renewable energies, governance of the commons, etc.). Some take the form of a SEEs (cooperative, mutual, NPO), but not all. At the same time, some existing SEEs are operating in an increasingly competitive and deregulated environment in a globalized world, which might lead them to resemble conventional corporations. Demutualization of organizations operating at national and international levels, whether de facto or confirmed by a change in the status of the organization, is even taking place. What can be learnt from the trajectories of the SEEs? What are the dynamics that make them resilient? What are the forces leading some of them to degenerate? What are their innovation and renewal capacities? What explains that new social entrepreneurs neglect the collective and non-profit forms of enterprises?

Following the neo-institutionalist theory, organizations tend to look like one another through isomorphism effects (DiMaggio and Powell 1983), or build new organizational fields or strategic action fields (Fligstein and McAdam 2012). According to the theory of organizations ecology (Hannan et Freeman 1989), there are as many organizational configurations differentiated according to the contexts in which they fit. Indeed, although the social and cooperative economy is usually distinguished from the private capitalist economy and the public economy (Defourny and Monzon 1992), these boundaries are today rather blurred.

Capitalist economy becomes enamoured of social entrepreneurship supported by activist philanthropy and the business community. The public economy develops in partnership with the private economy of which only part with the social and cooperative economy. Not to mention that some SEEs are said to be "solidarity-based" whereas others have been found to be subject over time to isomorphic forces because of either their anchoring in the public policies or their inscription in the market and their consequent transformation into "co-opitalist" enterprises (Draperi 2016) through the adoption of management modes that move them away from their original values (Laville 2009). At the same time, their innovations are often taken up and disseminated by the market or public administrations (Enjolras 2008), thus contributing to the democratization of collective services (Bélanger and Lévesque 1997) and the advancement of social rights (Petitclerc 2007). On the other hand, new economic practices are extending the field of social economy without adopting the rules, as collaborative labour, social entrepreneurship, circular economy, collaborative consumption, sharing economy, etc., in some cases possibly qualified by social utility (community) labels, social impact, community interest, etc. While the modes of recognition of the social and cooperative economy are relatively established (see laws on social economy which are adopted in many countries in the world), the readability of what it represents could be fading.

The aim of this special issue of the Annals is to bring up to speed the analysis of the recent evolution of social economy and cooperative forms of enterprises. Therefore, we invite papers that address the following questions:

- How can the current conjuncture be interpreted? What reading can be done of the recent evolution of social economy and cooperative enterprises?
- What about status? How and why some of these organizations are successful in keeping their hallmark features over many years? Why do some organizations demutualize? Why do not some enterprises with social or general interest aim adopt non SECE statutes?
- What are the advantages of social economy and cooperative enterprises in the current context? What are their blind spots?
- What analytical tools do we have in hands to understand innovation, resilience and degeneration of organizational forms in the social and cooperative economy?
- Do we have to rethink the future of the Social and Cooperative Economy?

We invite both theoretical and empirical contributions, broadly intended (i.e. both formal and qualitative theoretical analyses, econometric and case studies). All the papers will go through the usual refereeing process.

### Timeline:

- Call for papers opens: November 15 2018
- Call for papers closes: April 30 2019
- Publication online as papers are accepted
- Expected special issue Vol 91, 1, 2020

Submissions with indication “Special Issue” to

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apce>

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