

## **Conference Announcement**

**Centre for Social Entrepreneurship  
School of Management and Labour Studies  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India**

**International Conference  
on**

**'METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN  
SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE'**

**January 18-20, 2017**

### **Call for Papers and Invite**

Social entrepreneurship and social enterprises are rapidly emerging as academic fields of inquiry because it is considered not an isolated phenomena but an integral sequence of the evolution of social sector (Salamon and Anheier, 1996). It has created a wave of optimism among the policymakers, practitioners and pro-poor advocates to address the complex nature of social development. It is obvious that scholars from across the disciplines are keen to explore new knowledge and practices in this area using various theoretical perspectives and methodologies. Mair & Marti (2006) also supported that social entrepreneurship is more a context or a testing ground, the relevant distinguishing factor for knowledge dissemination and the variations in theoretical lenses and combination of different research methods.

Being multi-disciplinary in nature, social entrepreneurship has drawn attention of scholars from Sociology, Economics, Psychology, Political Science, Entrepreneurship, Management and Environmental and Natural Sciences. In one hand Sociology, Economics and Political Science studied the wider impact of social entrepreneurship in the process of socio-economic and political development, on the other hand micro-phenomena of social entrepreneurship and social enterprises are studied by the scholars from Psychology, Entrepreneurship, Management, Environmental and Natural Sciences. On the theoretical front, we have seen applications of theories on Structuration (Giddens, 1984), Institutional Entrepreneurship (DiMaggio, 1988), Social Capital (Burt, 1997) and Social Movements (McAdam, Tarrow & Tilly, 2001) best elaborating on the issues of social entrepreneurship. Seemingly complex, the field of social entrepreneurship cannot avoid the methodological debate both in practice and research. It is

suggested to view quantitative and qualitative methods which are normally seen as diversities and dichotomies, as complementary rather than competitive (Mair & Marti, 2006).

However, we also know that on methodological front the discipline is still maturing. Gartner & Birley (2002) argued that in any field, the best methodological application can be made when the strengths and limitations of the methodological choices for the study of the focal phenomenon are well thought through and understood by the researchers.

In academic research case studies, storytelling, ethnography and action research are found to have immense applications in bringing forth the embedded nature of social entrepreneurship as a phenomenon and the *emic* perspective of social entrepreneur as a person (Seymour, 2012). The role of narrative and discourse analysis to understand the entrepreneurial perceptions were seen profound as observed by many researchers like Steyaert & Bachmann(2012) and Salignac(2012). Notwithstanding its merits, the need for moving beyond anecdotal data incidences to large data set evidences through surveys, experiments and social network analysis was found imperative by researchers like D'Alessandro & Winzar(2012) and Webster & Ruskin(2012).

In an emerging field of practice like social entrepreneurship, there were many challenges in compiling large data sets and doing extensive quantitative research, with proper control for external variables. However, with the need for further understanding the nuances of individual, organizational, intra-organizational; inter-organizational and community level variations in social enterprises and its trends at macro level using multivariate analysis, the usage of both qualitative and quantitative data became relevant with diverse forms of triangulations and mixed-methods research methodologies taking shape in the sector (Creswell, 2004; Short, Moss & Lumpkin, 2009).

Since the nature of the research investigation varied across countries, such that, the phenomena could never be understood without delving deep into its contextual realities, constituting institutional, social, economic and political complexities; factoring in cultural and regional idiosyncrasies, qualitative research methodologies with a positivist approach became highly relevant for scholarly research in the sector (Dacin, Ventresca & Beal, 1999).

As social entrepreneurship is strongly emerging as a field of practice and research, methodological choices and challenges have not been adequately paid attention both by practitioners and the academic community. To bring insights on many such new practices and research ideas, we at the Center for Social Entrepreneurship at the School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai, organize an International Conference on the theme **Methodological Issues in Social Entrepreneurship Knowledge and Practice** from **January 18-20, 2017** at Mumbai with the following research questions for discussion,

**A) Is complex nature of the subject a methodological issue?**

- 1) Field action research as a tool
- 2) Problematising the overlap of methods such as observation, oral history
- 3) Use of socio-economic and political theoretical frameworks

**B) Is the current eco-system of social entrepreneurship enough for creating innovative practices?**

- 1) Social entrepreneurship practice with and/without incubation support
- 2) Incubation models in social entrepreneurship space
- 3) Role of institutions in developing eco-system in the social entrepreneurship domain

**C) Is advancement of practice compelling scholars to search for new theoretical perspectives?**

- 1) Practice theories as new source of knowledge
- 2) Experiments as source of new knowledge creation
- 3) Practice as a tool for research

**D) Is research in social entrepreneurship biased towards the success stories?**

- 1) Theorizing failed social entrepreneurial cases
- 2) Influence of context or environment on success/failure
- 3) Institutions as moderator in success/failure

**E) Is social impact the only tool to drive the research in social entrepreneurship?**

- 1) Intent or aspiration of social entrepreneur as outcome of research
- 2) Continuous engagement as reason for social entrepreneurial action
- 3) Organization design and leadership as tool for sustainability

**F) How to conduct macro studies in social entrepreneurship?**

- 1) Possibilities for randomized experiments
- 2) Generalization using large data considering contextual specificities
- 3) Possibilities of evidence based policy research.

We invite papers, both theoretical and empirical, which focuses on the research questions outlined above. We are particularly interested in understanding the methodological issues in the field of social entrepreneurship knowledge and practice. Authors must submit an **extended abstract** (Background, objectives and research methodology) in about 2000 words to Mr. Edakkandi Meethal Reji, Assistant Professor (email id: [tiss.cse@tiss.edu](mailto:tiss.cse@tiss.edu)) not later than **April 30, 2016**. PhD scholars and junior researchers are encouraged to submit their proposals. Work in progress research of the PhD scholars will also be considered provided that their work falls under the themes outlined above, and the scholars can submit substantial work at the time of submission of full paper. Relevance of papers, quality of objectives/research questions and robust methodology would be the critical parameters for the selection of the papers in the Conference.

The abstract must also contain authors' names, institutional affiliations, contact number, email and postal address. Authors will be notified of acceptance of Extended Abstract or otherwise by **May 10, 2016**.

### **Publication Opportunities**

The *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies* (JEIEE) has agreed to come out with a special volume by incorporating the selected papers presented in the International Conference in 2017. The *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies* (JEIEE) is owned by Sage and published in association with the International Entrepreneurship Forum. The Journal aims to provide a unique platform for the dissemination of a range of critical entrepreneurship, innovation, business and economic development issues pertaining to and of relevance to emerging economies.

<http://www.sagepub.in/journals/Journal202283>

### **Important dates for authors**

Submission of Extended Abstract in prescribed format	April 30, 2016
Notification of Acceptance	May 10, 2016
Registration opens	July 15, 2016
Submission of Full Papers	August 31, 2016
Notification of Acceptance of Full Paper	September 30, 2016
Registration Closes	December 31, 2016
Conference	January 18-20, 2017

### **Invite for other delegates**

We also invite other delegates interested in participating in these deliberations without submitting paper.

### **Registration and Accommodation for the Conference**

The delegates, both paper presenters and otherwise are expected to pay registration fee as per the table below for the conference. Individual registration will be required in case of papers written by multiple authors.

For the Conference, we have limited accommodation at TISS Guest House on nominal payment. This will be offered on twin sharing basis. Registration without accommodation for the conference, covers conference kit, lunch, conference dinner, whereas registration fee with accommodation includes conference kit, conference dinner, breakfast, lunch and dinner and for

three nights i.e. from January 17 to 20, 2017. All the registration fees are non-refundable. Paper presenters seeking accommodation will be required to apply for the same latest by **10 October, 2016**. For other delegates, accommodation will be available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Nationality	Registration Fee for Paper Presenters		Registration Fee for other Delegates	
	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation
<b>Indian</b>	INR 5000	INR 12000	INR 8000	INR 12000
<b>International</b>	USD 250	USD 500	USD 350	USD 700

The registration fee should be paid through demand draft or multi-city cheque drawn in favour of 'Tata Institute of Social Sciences' payable at Mumbai, mailed to 'Mr. Edakkandi Meethal Reji, Assistant Professor, Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, V N Purav Marg, Deonar, Mumbai 400 088 (Maharashtra)'. Senders must write their names, addresses and affiliation on the backside of the cheque or draft.

### Scholarships

Limited number of scholarships will be available for full time and non-working doctoral students and those not receiving any kind of financial support for attending the Conference. The scholarship will cover registration fee, and accommodation for three nights (only for outstation paper presenters) including food. Such candidates after receiving communication on acceptance of extended abstract will be advised to send request to this effect with justification, latest by **October 15 , 2016**. On this matter, the decision of the Conference Organizing Committee will be final.

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