



INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE -COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE RESEARCH

2016 INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
NEW STRATEGIES FOR CO-OPERATIVES:
UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING CO-OPERATIVE
CREATION, TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION

ALMERÍA, SPAIN 24-27 MAY 2016

<http://www2.ual.es/ica2016almeria>

FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS (Papers, Posters, Sessions)

The International Co-operative Alliance Committee on Co-operative Research international research conference will be hosted in 2016 by the University of Almeria (UAL) and the UAL-Coexphal Chair in Almería, Spain from May 24 to May 27. Researchers, policy makers, practitioners and students of co-operatives, social enterprise and social economy from all countries are welcome.

BACKGROUND THEMES

The purpose of the conference is to explore and ensure an understanding of the various stages of co-operative creation, transition and transformation and to discuss the strategies co-operatives, co-operative institutions and policy makers may take to adequately manage such change and stages of development.

Co-operatives are operating within tremendously volatile environments and must be agile, flexible and adept in meeting the needs of their members and communities. Co-operatives are exploring diverse strategies and a wide range of co-operative types and models in various stages of development and sophistication exist in both traditional and emerging fields. Definitions are blurring, based on the contexts in which co-operatives operate or have been created. A growing number of businesses are transitioning from investor owned enterprises to employee/worker owned co-operatives. Hybrid forms are springing up which are mixed with social enterprise or investor-oriented characteristics, as well as other community-oriented cultural practices.

At the same time, the co-operative organisational form is experiencing a renaissance or regeneration given the fact that other business models have not performed well, in general, in meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of a wide range of people across the globe.

A DIFFERENT APPROACH FOR ANALYSING CO-OPERATIVE CONTEXT

This conference will take a different approach to organising research presented in parallel sessions (which are in addition to keynote and round-table speakers). As is usually the case, we take into account **topics of interest, which are listed below, and which are intended to be interpreted widely and**

creatively. In addition, we also consider the **stage of co-operative development in which co-operative activity takes place.** Finally, we focus on the **level of analysis** (co-operative firm level, community or market level, and external or global level). During the conference we hope to facilitate out-of-the-ordinary interactions and synergies and provide new and useful evidence and perspectives for co-operative scholars, policy makers and practitioners of all disciplines and areas of engagement. Please, read further about the conference when you visit our website <http://www2.ual.es/ica2016almeria>, where you also will find an out-of-the-ordinary introductory video of the conference.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Theoretical and applied research presentations are welcome from all co-operative areas. Please see the website for a more detailed description of Themes and Topics, stages of co-operative development and levels of analysis, plus instructions for abstract drafting and submission. (See “Scientific Submissions-Themes”).

TOPICS:

T1.	Co-operatives and the Environment
T2.	Co-operatives, Equality and Inclusiveness
T3.	Generation and Safeguarding of Employment
T4.	Agriculture and Co-operatives
T5.	Co-operative Education, Training and Capacity Building
T6.	Co-operative Entrepreneurship and Start-ups
T7.	Governance and Organisational Design
T8.	Membership Engagement
T9.	Strategies: niche markets, growth, differentiation, internationalisation, short supply chains, ICT, collaborations, etc.
T10.	Co-operatives and Social Innovation
T11.	Hybrid co-operative forms (adopting characteristics of social enterprise, investor owned, etc.)
T12.	Networks, Collaborations, Clusters
T13.	Enabling Environments and Policy Innovations
T14.	Measuring and Assessing Co-operative Performance and Resilience
T15.	Credit and Finance Co-operatives/Access to credit
T16.	Innovations and Trends in the Provision of Services (healthcare, education, housing, etc.)
T17.	Pre-co-operative and Social Capital building
T18.	Fiscal Policy and Legal Innovations, Frameworks and Issues
T19.	Co-operative Failures and/or Recoveries
T20.	Social Co-operatives and Social Enterprise
T21.	Co-operatives and Youth Priorities
T22.	Co-operative Management
T23.	ICT (information and communication technologies) and Co-operatives
T24.	Co-operatives and Rural Development
T25.	Other topics of your choice (please describe in a few words)

PROPOSALS FOR SESSIONS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED.

If you propose a session, please suggest at least 4 related papers on the topic. **Young Scholar’s sessions and events** will also be an important part of the agenda and suggestions from PhD and Post-Doc researchers are very welcome.

IMPORTANT DATES

31 December 2015	Deadline for the abstract submission for papers, posters and proposed sessions
January – 8 February 2016	Evaluation and selection process
10 February 2016	Notification of acceptances (and refusals) and instructions for presentation Publication of list with the accepted papers, sessions and posters.
31 March 2016	Final date for 'early bird' and authors' registration. Only the papers for which, at least one author, is registered by 31 March (payment validated) will be included in the Conference program!
3 May 2016	Deadline for the upload of full texts of papers or presentations to be presented and discussed during the conference. This is only applicable to the authors that wish to have their full paper available in the congress website. Full papers will not be published on paper.
10 May 2016	Full papers available on-line
24 – 27 May 2016	Conference

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FOR PAPER, POSTER AND SESSIONS

- Abstracts, of a maximum of 400 words, should be submitted using the online form on the website, found under "Scientific Submissions" and should indicate whether they relate to a poster, paper or session. Please see the website for further explanation and instructions.
- Proposals for sessions should include at least 4 paper proposals, for which abstracts must be submitted, indicating that they form part of a session proposal.
- Choose one Topic which best corresponds to the content of your abstract and, as well, the most relevant co-operative development stage, and level (micro, meso, macro) as set out below and explained in detail in "Themes" on the website.

5 STAGES OF CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Stage 1	Pre-co-operative or social capital building/enabling environment conditions
Stage 2	Initiating, creating and founding the co-operative
Stage 3	Organisational and governance design
Stage 4	Growth and transition
Stage 5	Crucial decision-making moments or crisis and transformation

LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

Micro: co-operative level	Internal co-operative environment: e.g. internal governance, vision, mission, strategy, membership, resources, processes, products and services, etc.
Meso: relational/transactional level	Marketplace or community: e.g. supply and demand, distribution, competitors, collaborators, networks, clusters, multi-actor, etc.
Macro: contextual level	External/global factors: e.g. economic, social, educational, environmental and cultural developments, environmental demographics, enabling policy, law and regulation, technological developments, etc.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Principle Organisers: Cynthia Giagnocavo, co-director of the COEXPHAL-UAL Chair, University of Almería and Simeon Karafolas (ICA)

Organising Committee (by alpha. order)

Marina Aguilar Rubio, University of Almería, Faculty of Law

Carlo Borzaga, EURICSE

Juan Colomina, COEXPHAL

Emilio Galdeano Gómez, University of Almería, Faculty of Economics and Business

Giulia Galera, EURICSE

Roberto García, Cajamar

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