



Social Innovation, Commons and Administration

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Social innovation is one of the most interesting trends of the 21st century, and it involves many sectors of society. In fact, not only different social actors come up with innovative and creative ideas, they also build new relationships with other stakeholders. While we have many examples of social innovation driven by private companies and by the civil society, this track is aimed at investigating the manifestation and effects of social innovation in the public sector, especially when public authorities are involved. Social innovation in public administration can be interpreted as an evolution of Public Governance, which stressed the importance of networks, multilevel governance and collaborative relationships. The perspective of social innovation is aligned with these assumptions, since it is based on the idea that innovation is most effective when it stems from cooperation between different actors. As a natural consequence of social innovation, new relationships are created between those who participate to the innovation process, and also between the beneficiaries of the innovation. An open issue has to do with the legal foundations of such a new paradigm, from the point of view of constitutional principles (e.g. subsidiarity, administrative efficiency), hard law and best practices.

Public administrations have started to include external parties in their policy-making processes, in various fields. This inclusive phenomenon regards participation by stakeholders and populations (especially at the local level) in administrative decisions, as well as the joint management of commons. Moreover, an important challenge for scientists nowadays is the proper definition of the



concept of commons itself, whose notion may deeply influence the choice of suitable tools of use and management. The objective of this track is the creation of a fruitful dialogue between researchers and practitioners in different fields (e.g.: management, law, administration, political science, philosophy, etc.), as well as in their relationships with business, government and civil society.

The track welcomes contributions regarding, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Social innovation and participation in administrative actions and commons;
- Legal foundations and implications of social innovation in the public administration;
- Definitions of the concept of “commons” and its application in public administration;
- Privatisation and the redefinition of borders between public and private sectors;
- Inclusive governance fostered by socially innovative practices and cross-sectoral cooperation;
- Cooperative management and governance of commons.