

SEJ Third Issue 2017

I am delighted to introduce to you the *Social Enterprise Journal's* third edition of 2017 (volume 13) published by Emerald publishers. Firstly, I would like to thank the journal board, the selected reviewers and of course the authors for the papers enclosed.

Now to the five papers for this issue of *SEJ*. The first paper authored by Brendan Murtagh (Queens University, Northern Ireland) is titled "Ageing in the social economy". The paper investigates a strategic regional development programme in Northern Ireland to stimulate social entrepreneurship, thereby improving employability and showing how social enterprises can be incubated and scaled to offer new services for older people. The analysis shows that social economies need to respond to the priorities of older people, be derived from community initiatives and be better connected to the capabilities and resources of the sector.

The next two papers stem from papers presented at the 2016 International Social Innovation Research conference in Glasgow. The first by Sharon Zivkovic (University of South Australia) titled "Addressing food insecurity: a systemic innovation approach" investigates the building of adaptive capacity in food insecurity solution ecosystems. The second paper co-authored by Madeleine Power (University of York), Neil Small (University of Bradford), Bob Doherty (University of York), Barbara Stewart-Knox (University of Bradford) and Kate E. Pickett (University of York) is titled "Bringing heaven down to earth: the purpose and place of religion in UK food aid". This paper derives from a study of food aid in a multi-faith city in the North of England. It illustrates the internal heterogeneity of faith-based food aid and the importance of sensitivity to the exclusive implications of religion in food aid.

Our fourth paper co-authored by Serham Ghalwash, Ahmed Tolba and Ayman Ismail at the American University in Cairo is titled "What motivates social entrepreneurs to start social ventures? An exploratory study in the context of a developing economy". This paper explores the characteristics and backgrounds of social entrepreneurs, particularly in relation to what motivates them to start new social ventures, through an empirical examination of the phenomenon of social entrepreneurship in the specific context of Egypt. The fifth paper is authored by Micaela Mazzei at the Yunus Centre, Glasgow School for Business and Society. The paper is titled "Different ways of dealing with tensions: practices of (re) negotiation in local social economies". The paper offers a nuanced understanding of the diverse practices social enterprises engage in to fulfil their commitments of delivering social/environmental goods and/or services while earning income to sustain their activities. This paper suggests that such a harmonious rendition tends to neglect the messiness at the heart of such organizations.

I would also like to draw your attention to three *SEJ* special issues. The first one is edited by Chris Mason, Cristina Neesham and Jo Barraket on "Social enterprise in Oceania: evidence, opportunities and challenges". The call for papers for this issue is already up on the *SEJ* home page. The second special issue on "Social enterprise and networks" is also available on the website and will be guest-edited by Dr David Littlewood at the University of Sheffield (david.littlewood@sheffield.ac.uk) and Dr Zaheer Khan (khan.zaheer@gmail.com). The third special issue is on "Promoting vibrant social enterprise in Southeast Asia".



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The *Social Enterprise Journal* is also delighted to announce that for the first time, ISIRC (International Social Innovation Research conference) 2017 will take place in Melbourne, Australia. The scheduled dates for the conference are 12-14 December 2017. The venue is Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, and the conference website has been established and is now available at www.isircconference.com. Early confirmed keynote speakers are Prof Bronwen Morgan (University of New South Wales), Prof Alex Nicholls (Oxford) and Prof Katherine Gibson (University of Western Sydney). The conference theme is *Beyond Boundaries? Organisations, Systems and Social Innovation*.

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