

Design Thinking and Social Innovation

Chair: Catherine Docherty

This stream welcomes papers that evidence or explore the role of design thinking on the evolution or development of social innovations. These may be new organisations, business models, products, services, or systems.

As a mechanism recognised for addressing ‘wicked problems’ and exploring possible futures, design thinking seems well placed to facilitate new solutions to the complex and challenging social and economic issues we face today. The technique has been applied to enable innovation within the public and private sectors, leading to the delivery of new strategies, brands, services, products and experiences.

This stream is an opportunity to share learning and experience related to the application of design thinking approaches in a social innovation context. Contributors may consider: empirical and theoretical perspectives on the role and impact of design thinking on social innovation; underpinning principles and prerequisites for success; learning from failure and barriers to success; and approaches to leadership and organisational change.

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