

Regional and Geographical Aspects of Social Innovation

Chair: Dr Geoff Whittam

A typical definition of Social innovation:

“New ideas (products, services and models) that simultaneously meet social needs (more effectively than alternatives) and create new social relationships or collaborations.”
(eXchange 2010)

Explicit within this definition is that new social relationships or collaborations will be established in attempts to achieve social needs. This stream will explore the implicit regional and geographic dimensions of this explicit implication. The most blatant manifestation of the creation of new social relationships can be found in the establishment of social capital and social movements. These developments can be local, embracing a specific neighbourhood or community; they can also develop into mass global movements. So the track will seek to analyse the development of social innovation through a regional lens, specifically seeking submissions on:

- Regional development of social innovation, such as community economic development
- Community based asset transfers and the establishment of social innovation
- Social movements at different spatial levels, local, regional, national, international
- The importance of space in the development of social capital
- The spatial dimension of knowledge transfer for the development of social innovation
- Spatial barriers which limit social innovation
- Impact of social innovation in establishing social movements
- Case study examples of social innovation leading to new products, services and models within a specific geographical marea.

Email: Geoffrey.whittam@gcu.ac.uk