EURICSE International WORKSHOP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO - Italy
Department of Economics and Management
Department of Sociology and Social Research

“Co-operation as Coordination Mechanism: consequences on the interpretation of the cooperative enterprise”

TRENTO, 4-5 December 2017

Venue: Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Trento

Workshop organizers:

Carlo Borzaga
carlo.borzaga@unitn.it
University of Trento and EURICSE

Ermanno C. Tortia
ermanno.tortia@unitn.it
University of Trento and EURICSE
ABSTRACT

The economics of cooperative enterprises, both traditional and new forms, such as social cooperatives, needs deep revision and refinement following the evolution of economic theory over the last decades. Traditional approaches are still often based on incoherent or inadequate premises and did not give a convincing view of co-operation as co-ordination mechanism and as organizational form. The critical review of the economic theory is in line with institutionalism and with new approaches and methodologies, which spread over the last decades, especially evolutionary and behavioral economics.

A new approach would aim at creating a new framework of analysis, at overcoming unsolved problems and unanswered questions, and at offering new guidance to empirical and experimental research. The final aim of the workshop is to create a new integrated framework in which cooperation is understood as a unifying concept, more specifically as one of the most relevant coordination mechanisms of the economic activity, and as foundation of the working of cooperative enterprises. It is also understood as relevant, albeit partial and concurrent, coordination mechanism in the working of investor owned and publicly owned enterprises.

One fundamental seminal contribution is found in Elinor Ostrom approach to the governance of common pool natural resources. In our work, an initial attempt to pin down such themes and develop a new coherent framework was carried out in the paper “Co-operation as coordination mechanism. A new approach to the economics of co-operative enterprises” (Borzaga and Tortia, 2017).

Participant in the EURICSE workshop in Trento will present papers dealing with one among the following main themes:

- The nature and sustainability of co-operation as coordination mechanism of the economic activity, as compared with the two dominant coordination mechanisms, i.e. market exchange and hierarchy;
- In what way co-operation as coordination mechanism can help (or halt) explaining co-operative enterprises as specific and non-conventional organizational forms, and what is the role left for market and hierarchy in this organizational form;
- How these theoretical premises help explaining specific forms of co-operative enterprises (supply side such as worker and producer co-operatives, demand side such as consumer and credit co-operatives, mixed and multi-stakeholder such as social co-operatives etc...) and some institutional features of co-operatives (locked assets, capitalization, governance, productivity, management etc.).

Due to limited room available, non-speakers desiring to attend the workshop should contact the organizers (Ermanno Tortia and Carlo Borzaga) in advance.
PROGRAM

Monday December 4th
10:00 A.M.

10:00-10:30. Introduction and salutation

10:30-12:30
Carlo Borzaga and Ermanno Tortia.
Co-Operation as Co-Ordination Mechanism. A new approach to the economics of co-operative enterprises
Discussants: Michele Grillo, Michael L. Cook

Simon Cornée
Governing Common-Property Assets: The Case of Farm Machinery Co-operatives
Discussant: Ivana Catturani

Johnston Birchall
Co-Operation as Co-Ordination Mechanism and Co-operative Governance
Discussant: Marco Faillo

12:30 – 14:00. LUNCH

14:00-16:00
Michael L. Cook
The Design Principles: Ultimate and proximate causations in food and agriculture
Discussant: Simon Cornée

Giacomo Degli Antoni
Propensity to Co-operate of Social Co-operatives’ Workers and Volunteers: evidence from a field research
Discussant: Spencer Thompson

16:00 - 16:30. COFFEE BREAK

16:30-18:00
Carlo Borzaga, Silvia Sacchetti and Ermanno Tortia
The Institutions of Livelihood and Social Enterprise Systems
Discussants: Lorenzo Sacconi

Silvio Goglio and Ivana Catturani
Local Public Goods and Cooperation: How the local context might impact on their supply
Discussant: Samira Nuhanovic

20:00 DINNER

Tuesday December 5th
9:00 A.M.

9:00-11:00
Anna Grandori and Santi Furnari
The Role of Democratic Governance in Different Types of organization
Discussant: Giovanni Ferri and Benedetto Gui

Spencer Thompson
Towards a Social theory of the firm: Worker cooperatives reconsidered
Discussant: Vladislav Valentino

11:00 – 11:30. COFFEE BREAK

11:30-13:00
Lorenzo Sacconi and Ermanno Tortia
The Formation of Co-operative Governance. A psychological game theory approach
Discussant: Pier Angelo Mori

Marina Albanese
Social and Relational Variables in Cooperative Firms. Implications in terms of efficiency, job saving and social capital
Discussant: Johnston Birchall

13:00 – 14:00. LUNCH

14:00-15:30
Giovanni Ferri
On the Implications of Upper-Level Networks for the Structure of Lower-Level Cooperatives
Discussant: Michele Grillo

Federico Perali
The Role of the Social Co-operative in the Process of Social Innovation
Discussant: Silvia Sacchetti

15:30-16:00
FINAL ROUNDTABLE AND DISCUSSION ON THE PERSPECTIVE OR FUTURE RESEARCH