



**UNIVERSITÀ  
DI TRENTO**

**Dipartimento di  
Economia e Management**



**International Workshop**

**Cooperative  
enterprises  
facing the new  
socio-economic  
environment:**

**Worker takeovers,  
circular economy,  
digitalization.**

**Ph.D. day**

**Trento, 12-13 September, 2022**

## The workshop

The recent economic and financial crisis, along with climate change and the pandemic, have drastically altered the socio-economic context in which we live, thus stimulating both economic and non-economic organizations for alternative coping strategies and proactive responses to this new environment. This altered context calls for new analyses and tools that go beyond what has traditionally been used in the study of non-conventional enterprises. Among the main challenges on the table are the preservation of jobs in business activities in distress, the need for new production processes to address climate change and SDGs, and the use of new technologies and innovations, among which digitization plays a central role in the transition to a green and social economy. Cooperatives have proved flexible and resilient organizational models throughout crises thanks to the involvement of multiple and diverse stakeholders, and the proactive adaptation to new conditions. However, challenges still loom and the effective implementation of proactive measures and appropriate organizational responses is still at stake. The Trento workshop opens to young scholars and their research initiatives and calls for contributions at the leading edge of scientific research.

## Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

**VENUE: Conference Room, Department of Economics and Management, Via Rosmini, 44 - Trento**

10:00-10:15 Welcome and official opening

**Ermanno Tortia, Massimiliano Mazzanti, Marco Lomuscio, Asia Guerreschi**

10:15-11:15 Keynote speech

**Ignacio Bretos Fernández** (online)

*Workplace democracy and emancipation in the cooperativisation of capitalist firms: Some evidence from Mondragon*

Discussant: **Paola Raffaelli**

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13.15

1.1. Worker cooperatives and worker buyouts in Italy and France

Chair: **Marco Lomuscio**

**Andrea Cori** (online)

*Worker cooperatives in Italy. A snapshot from Legacoop data*

Discussant: **Marco Lomuscio**

**Marco Lomuscio**

*Cooperative strategies for business regeneration: Italian worker takeovers*

Discussant: **Roger Spear** (online)

**Thibault Mirabel** (online)

*Do sunk costs nip worker-owned firms in the bud?*

Discussant: **Ermanno Tortia**

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45-16:30

1.2. Cooperatives in the community

Chair: **Michele Bianchi**

**Michele Bianchi**

*Italian Community Co-operatives: Features of Sustainable Community Development*

Discussant: **Valerii Saenko**

**Valerii Saenko**

*Good intentions vs competitive edge.*

*Acknowledging a cooperative's successes, but more work needs to be done*

Discussant: **Michele Bianchi**

**Elif Tugba Simsek** (online)

*New Cooperatives Based on the Solidarity Economy-insights from Hungary*

Discussant: **Cian McMahon** (online)

16:30-16:45 Coffee break

16:45-17:45 Keynote speech

**Paola Raffaelli**

*Political engagement and activism in workers' cooperatives: A performative view of solidarity*

Discussant: **Thibault Mirabel** (online)

**19:30-22:00 SOCIAL DINNER**

**Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**VENUE: Kessler Conference Room,  
Department of Sociology and Social  
Research, Via Verdi, 26 - Trento**

9:00-10:00 Keynote speech

**David Ellerman**

*The Coop-ESOP: A structure for gradual worker buyouts*

Discussant: **Ignacio Bretos Fernández**

10:00-11:10

1.3. Worker cooperatives, productivity and the circular economy

Chair: **Asia Guerreschi**

**Asia Guerreschi**

*Integrated innovations for the circular economy and decarbonization in production cooperatives for environmental, economic, and social sustainability*

Discussant: **Camilla Carabini**

**Camilla Carabini**

*Cooperative financial innovation against the Fetish of Liquidity*

Discussant: **Asia Guerreschi**

11:10-11:25 Coffee break

11:25-13:10

1.4. Self-managed cooperatives and humanistic governance: case studies

Chair: **Francesca Martinelli**

**Francesca Martinelli**

*Pegasus company: the self-management cooperative tackling job insecurity*

Discussant: **Aingeru Ruiz**

**Cian McMahon** (online).

*Humanistic governance in worker cooperatives: unlocking collective capacities*

Discussant: **Elif Tugba Simsek** (online)

**Aingeru Ruiz** (online)

*Regeneration process in large cooperatives: a case study of Mondragon*

Discussant: **Francesca Martinelli**

13:10-14:40      Lunch

14:40-16:25

1.5. Worker cooperatives in the digital economy

Chair: **Pietro Ghirlanda**

**Federico Piovesan**

*Platform cooperatives: dilemmas and challenges of building an alternative platform economy*

Discussant: **Pietro Ghirlanda**

**Pietro Ghirlanda**

*An Alternative Organisational Model for the Future of the Digital Economy: A Literature Review on Platform Cooperativism*

Discussant: **Federico Piovesan**

**Francesco Gentilini**

*Workers' buyouts and the subject of labour*

Discussant: **Marco Lomuscio**

16:25-16:40      Coffee break

16:40-17:15

Concluding roundtable and discussion of future projects

**Ermanno Tortia, Massimiliano Mazzanti, Paola Raffaelli, Ignacio Bretos Fernández, David Ellerman, Roger Spear** (online)

### **In collaboration with:**

University of Ferrara, Department of Economics and Management

### **Organizers**

**Ermanno Tortia** (Trento University)

**Marco Lomuscio** (Ph.D. candidate - Trento University)

**Massimiliano Mazzanti** (Ferrara University)

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### **Contacts**

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