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 12th

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 13th

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
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