

Call for Papers for a Conference and Special Issue:

Systemic Approaches to Social Entrepreneurship: Financing and Impact in the context of Rural-Urban Transformation

Conference: October 17-19 2018

Journal submission deadline: January 15, 2019

- **The Journal:** *Agriculture and Human Values* (Impact Factor 2.568) is offering a special multidisciplinary issue on the role of social entrepreneurship and financing in the context of Rural-Urban Transformation.
- **Conference place and time:** Beijing, China, Oct. 17-19, 2018.
- **Conference Timeline:** A 3-page extended abstract should be submitted by September 5th 2018 to Geoff Desa at gdesa@sfsu.edu. The abstract will be peer-reviewed. Presenters will be informed by September 16th 2018. Research presentations at the conference will be held on Oct. 19th 2018.
- **Editorial committee:** Harvey James (Chief-editor of AHV, University of Missouri), Geoff Desa (guest-editor, San Francisco State University) and Xiangping Jia (guest-editor, E&T).
- **Special Issue timeline:** Full-papers should be submitted by January 15th 2019. Articles will be peer-reviewed, with final publication targeted for Fall 2019.

By 2050, 66 per cent of the world's population is estimated to live in urban areas. However, the transformation process from an agricultural and rural based existence to an agglomerated one in urban areas does not occur equitably. It can have uncertain and widely diversified welfare effects manifested in the straining of socio-economic systems, and in the pressing effects of climate change on agriculture, the natural environment and biodiversity loss. Rural-urban migration produces enduring problems related to food systems, social services (such as food safety, nutrition, health, social exclusion) and degraded environmental conditions.

While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have helped frame these challenges, the relative contributions of development finance in addressing these goals has declined over time. In 2016, official development assistance (ODA) and philanthropic flow to developing countries totaled 174 billion USD, while the estimated investment gap in key SDG sectors is 2.5 trillion per annum from 2015 to 2030. This order of magnitude gap between the supply of development assistance and demand, from billions to trillions, makes the challenge of equitable social transformation particularly striking and prompts the search for alternative, complementary approaches such as those within the domain of social entrepreneurship.

Social entrepreneurship (SE) is derived from and rooted in addressing the pressing social problems noted above, and focuses on re-envisioning challenges as opportunities. SE has developed as an interdisciplinary research field that may offer insight into business model and financing mechanisms that scale to address the challenges of rural-urban transformation. SE vehicles value hybrid business solutions and energize innovations with tough-minded optimism. Examples of research topics for the special issue include, but are not limited to, the following:



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



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- Theories of social entrepreneurship and social innovation that apply to rural-urban transformation.
- Financial innovations (i.e. impact investment, blended finance, etc.) and their influence on social impact.
- The role of venture capital and private equity in scaling social entrepreneurship to address urban economic development.
- Legal issues relating with social entrepreneurship and finance (such as laws, regulations, tax-related and contracts)
- Scaling social ventures and social impact in the context of rural-urban economic development.
- Business models that address the needs of food systems, social services, and/or environmental concerns.
- Sectoral and governmental financial policies, regulations and incentives that encourage social entrepreneurship.
- Addressing degradations of the natural environment, and mitigation strategies for rural-urban transformation.
- Addressing degradations and mitigation of food-system complexity caused by population shifts from rural-urban migration.

The conference on “Social Entrepreneurship and Innovative Finance for Rural-urban transformation” on **Oct. 17-19, 2018** is organized by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in **Beijing** (China), in partnership with the Entrepreneurship & Transformation (E&T) network alliance. The conference includes champions of social entrepreneurship engaged in the field, investors, development agencies and policy makers. The conference setting will be participatory and interactive, focused on pushing the intellectual boundaries of the field. Substantial time will be allocated to panel discussion, Q&A and field-based activities. We encourage academic scholars to participate in the conference, since the special issue will be deeply informed by current practice and the conference.

Authors submit full papers by **January 15th 2019** at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ahum/> (Please use submission type “symposium/special issue”). Authors of papers invited to be revised and resubmitted will be expected to work within a tight timeframe to meet the special issue’s publication deadline.

About the Journal: Agriculture and Human Values publishes interdisciplinary research that critically examines the values, relationships, conflicts and contradictions within contemporary agricultural and food systems and that addresses the impact of agricultural and food related institutions, policies, and practices on human populations, the environment, democratic governance, and social equity.

Questions about the conference: Please email Xiangping Jia (jia.xiangping@outlook.com). Advisor, Entrepreneurship & Transformation and Professor, Northwest A& F University, China.

Questions about the special issue: Please email Geoff Desa (gdesa@sfsu.edu). Associate Professor of Management and Social Innovation, San Francisco State University, USA.



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