Call for Papers

Maastricht Observatory for Responsible, Resilient and Sustainable Societies, Economies and Enterprises 3rd Annual Conference 2023 Track: Commons and the Social Economy Maastricht, the Netherlands, 23-25 October 2023

Track Chairs: René Kemp, Christian Scholl and Job Zomerplaag

Description of the track: The concept of the commons has gained prominence in recent years as a way to create more sustainable and equitable societies. Commons refer to shared resources managed by communities, with the aim of ensuring their long-term availability and equitable use. This approach contrasts with the traditional private property regime, where resources are owned and managed by individuals or corporations. The social economy, meanwhile, refers to a range of economic activities and organizations that prioritize social and environmental goals over profit maximization. The social economy includes cooperatives, community enterprises, and other forms of social enterprise. These organizations often prioritize the well-being of their members or the wider community over the pursuit of individual profit. This track aims to explore the potential of the commons and the social economy for promoting sustainable and resilient societies.

Key topics and research questions of the track:

* The potential of the commons and the social economy for creating sustainable, resilient, and equitable societies
* Innovative organizational models and governance structures for the commons and the social economy
* The role of digital technologies in supporting commons-based and social economy initiatives
* The relationship between commons-based and social economy initiatives and broader societal trends, such as urbanization, globalization, and demographic change
* The implications of commons-based and social economy initiatives for economic development, public policy, and social innovation
* The challenges and opportunities of scaling up commons-based and social economy initiatives
* The intersection of the commons and the social economy with other forms of alternative economic organization, such as platform cooperativism and the solidarity economy
* Dialectics of change: the adoption of commons-based features in traditional forms of governance and ownership and the adoption of business model thinking and accountability by social economy organisations
* The hybrid sphere as a space for hybridisation of institutional logics and actor roles (which include new responsibilities).

References

Bauwens, M., & Kostakis, V. (2014). From the communism of capital to capital for the commons: Towards an open co-operativism. TripleC: *Communication, Capitalism & Critique*, 12(1), 356-361.

Bauwens, T., Vaskelainen, T., Frenken, K. (2022) - Conceptualising institutional complexity in the upscaling of community enterprises: Lessons from renewable energy and carsharing, *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, 42, 138-151*

Kemp, R., Zomerplaag, J. (2023). Re-envisioning Civil Society in the Circular Economy, policy brief Studio Europa Maastricht (forthcoming).

Kip, M., Scholl, C. (2022) Editorial: Social movements and sustainable urban commons governance. *Front. Sustain. Cities* 4: 967874.

Ostrom, E. (1990). *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.

Savini, F., & Giezen, M. (2020). Responsibility as a field: The circular economy of water, waste, and energy. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, *38*(5), 866–884

Wittmayer, J.M., Avelino, F., Pel, B., Campos, I. 2021) Contributing to sustainable and just energy systems? The mainstreaming of renewable energy prosumerism within and across institutional logics, *Energy Policy*, 149: 1 - 11

The deadline for submissions is 1 June, 2023. All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review. Submit your paper **here**.

The registration for the MORSE 2023 will be open until 31st August, 2023. Register **here**. There is no conference fee.