

CREM, Université de Rennes 1 and SMART-LERECO, AGROCAMPUS OUEST, INRAE (France)

with

Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan (Canada),

Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork (Ireland),

CRISES - Centre de recherche sur les innovations sociales (Canada)

Call for papers

Workshop « **Transformations in Co-operative Governance** »

May 26-27, 2020

Rennes (Faculty of Economics, Université de Rennes 1), France

1. Background

The International Co-operative Alliance, in *The Statement on the Co-operative Identity* in 1995, defines a co-operative as an “autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise.” Co-operative organisations share values that differentiate them from their investor-owned firms. Human interests prevail over capital.

Nowadays, a diversity of co-operative organisations exists. Co-ops vary in size, growth strategy and governance. Like their competitors, they develop strategies to survive in the market by exploiting scale economies and accessing new technologies. Growth allows them to influence regulators and the economic environment. The increase in size and the adoption of new technologies lead to deep institutional changes and a decrease in social capital. Weakened collective action creates a loss in member governance and consequently a loss in co-operative values and principles. Co-operatives thus face a major issue. By remaining small, their survival rate diminishes. When they grow, their values fade.

2. Objectives

This workshop will gather scholars from the social sciences (economics, management, law, sociology, and political sciences) to explore the dilemma between growth and values--what we call the *co-operation tragedy*. Two research areas will be investigated:

1. the diversity of growth strategies to better understand the drivers, objectives and safeguards of co-operative values and principles.
2. the circumstances under which co-operatives can avoid the *co-operation tragedy* by linking the search for scale economies with value safeguards.

Both theoretical and empirical submissions are welcome.

3. Seminar Committees

The scientific committee is composed of:

Luc Audebrand (CRISES, Université Laval)
Marie Bouchard (CRISES, Université du Québec à Montréal)
Simon Cornée (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)
Sabine Duvaleix-Tréguer (SMART-LERECO INRAE, AGROCAMPUS OUEST)
Murray Fulton (Canadian Centre for Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan)
Olive McCarthy (Centre for Co-operative Studies, University College Cork)
Anne Musson (SMART-LERECO INRAE, ESSCA School of Management)
Marc-André Pigeon (Canadian Centre for Study of Co-operatives, University of Saskatchewan)
Damien Rousselière (SMART-LERECO INRAE, AGROCAMPUS OUEST)
Martine Vézina (CRISES, HEC Montréal)
Jean-Laurent Viviani (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)

The organising committee is composed of:

Simon Cornée (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)
Sabine Duvaleix-Tréguer (SMART-LERECO INRAE, AGROCAMPUS OUEST)
Malick Fall (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)
Madeg Le Guernic (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)
Anne Musson (SMART-LERECO INRAE, ESSCA)
Elsa Orgiazzi (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)
Damien Rousselière (SMART-LERECO INRAE, AGROCAMPUS OUEST)
Véronique Thelen (CREM, Université de Rennes 1)

4. Call for papers

The workshop welcomes submissions by social science scholars working on co-operative organisations. Papers could be applied to co-operative banks, agricultural co-operatives, worker co-operatives, and/or other types of social economy organisations such as associations or mutuals.

Full papers or extended abstracts must be submitted to cooperatives2020@groupe.renater.fr by 14 February 2020. Papers can be submitted in English or in French; the language for presentation at the conference is English. Accommodation expenses will be covered for the presenters of accepted papers.

The decision of the scientific committee will be communicated to authors on 9 March 2020.

For questions, please contact cooperatives2020@groupe.renater.fr.

We look forward to seeing you at *Transformations in Co-operative Governance!*