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**Call for papers**  
**Working group “Social Economy and Gender”**

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**Coordinating team**

- Juan Fernando Álvarez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, President Scientific Commission of CIRIEC-Colombia
  - Marie J. Bouchard, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada, President, International Scientific Commission on Social and Cooperative Economy of CIRIEC-International
  - Carmen Marcuello, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain, President OIBESCOOP
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The principles and values of the social and cooperative economy promote equality in all areas and for all types of participants. The democratic decision-making model, voluntary and open membership, and the defense and application of the principles of solidarity and responsibility are fundamental principles for the functioning of social economy organizations. Likewise, gender equality has been a relevant issue for the cooperative movement since 1995, when the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) approved a resolution on "Gender Equality in Cooperatives" in which ICA members stated that gender equality is a global priority for the cooperative movement. As well, the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy (UNTFSE) highlights the importance of the Social and Solidarity Economy for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy, 2014 and 2015) and in the empowerment of women.

Different studies show that there are differences between theoretical values and reality (Meliá et al. 2020; Nippierd, 2012; Dicapua et al., 2020; Arando et al., 2021). In this sense, social economy entities are also a reflection of the society that creates them. Even though the principles and values promote equality and equity, imbalances are often observed around gender. Thus, we can highlight that there is a low level of active participation of women in some sectors and little representation in decision-making and leadership. As indicated by Nippierd (2012 p. 2): "cooperatives cannot claim to be truly democratic if women do not participate in decision-making". Dicapua et al. (2020) open a debate on gender and social and solidarity economy in which they address gender equity mainstreaming, legal forms, public policies and experiences.

From a theoretical perspective we find various approaches to address the gender issue in the social economy ranging from political economy and economic sociology. For example, the theories of social justice (Guérin 2003, Guérin, Hersent & Fraisse 2011), the feminist critique of capitalism and its alternative forms in various economies (Gibson-Graham 1996, Smith 1989, Verschuur, Guérin, & Hillenkamp 2021), the community development movement

(Bergeron & Healy 2015). Other complementary visions with that of the plural economy (Polanyi), such as in the theories of solidarity economy, somewhat ignore the role of the domestic sphere and its interaction with social economy (Degrave & Lemaître 2008, Hillenkamp 2018), also the application of this reflection, beyond women, to new forms of free labor in the neoliberal context (Simonet-Cusset 2010).

Numerous fields of study address the issue of gender, such as the analysis of the presence of social economy in certain specific sectors of the economy (Degrave & Nyssens 2008), the role it plays (and its failures) in social inclusion and the promotion of women (Parente & Martinho 2018, Shenaz Hossein 2013 & 2017, UNRISD 2018), in the democratization of production (Hillenkamp & Bessis 2012) or in the redefinition and reorganization of social reproduction (Verschuur, Guérin, & Hillenkamp 2021). From more critical perspectives, several issues are raised. For example, the problem of women's working conditions in the care sector or the analysis of the relationship between gender and volunteering, and its less friendly face, when it is transformed into a system of exploitation of free labor by market or public sector agents. Adding to this, the analysis of the management models of the entities themselves according to their size or sector of activity is important (Mastracci & Herring 2010) as well as, of course, taking into account the cultural and symbolic diversity of the gender issue in different national contexts (Kuokkanen 2010, Razavi 2007, Sätre Åhlander 2000, Turcotte 2011). We must also pay attention to practices and initiatives that promote social and solidarity economy practices without using these terminologies. This is the case either when these terms are not in use for historical or cultural reasons or when the promoters of these initiatives do not recognize themselves in the local definitions of social and solidarity economy (Kalpana 2021; Thara 2021; Nandi 2021).

### **Call for papers**

CIRIEC-International and OIBESCOOP have created a working group focused on gender and social economy issues. This working group will publish a book and a special issue of an academic journal such as *Annals of Public of Cooperative Economics*. For these two publications we invite abstracts of high-quality papers that will be pre-selected by the coordinating team. Articles can be theoretical, empirical or experimental. The call is open to studies from all countries, although the working languages are English, French and Spanish. (Spanish papers selected for the journal will most likely need to be translated to English or French.) These two publications will enrich and contribute to the knowledge issues related to gender and social economy and will provide information to policy makers to design appropriate policy instruments in this field.

We recommend that contributions be aligned with the following topics, although they can be expanded, and others can be proposed from the **perspective of gender and social economy (and related experiences)**: Redefining and reorganizing social reproduction; Community development; Rural development; Social inclusion and promotion of women; Specific sectors of the social economy; Working conditions; Volunteering and care; Entrepreneurship, leadership and responsibilities in the social economy; Democracy, participation and representation in social economy organizations; Cultural and symbolic diversity in different national contexts and the social economy; Research and knowledge transfer on the social economy.

### **Indications and timetable**

- **July 2022: Abstracts of max. 800 words may be submitted in English, French or Spanish and should be sent by the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2022** to Christine Dussart [christine.dussart@uliege.be](mailto:christine.dussart@uliege.be). The abstract should include : Title; Name, Surname and Affiliation of authors; Key words and a minimum of five bibliographic references.
- **November 2022:** Public presentation by authors of the selected papers in online seminars.
- **May 2023:** Submission of final papers based on the seminar discussion and peer reviews **by the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2023.**
- **July 2023:** Second round of public presentations as part of the 9th CIRIEC International Social Economy Research Conference in Seoul (Republic of Korea).
- **September-October 2023:** Final selection of articles to be published in book format or in the journal special issue.
- **December 2023:** Editing and publication of the book.
- **January 2024:** Third public presentation by authors of texts selected for the journal special issue in an online seminar.
- **February to September 2024:** Final reviewing and revising process of the papers for the journal special issue.
- **December 2024:** Editing and publication of the journal special issue.

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