

Religion and Innovation Series

**Religious Diversity
and
Social Innovation**

Trento | 21 June, 2018

Programme

9:30

Welcome and Introduction

Valeria Fabretti, FBK-ISR

9:45

**Social Innovation and Ethics:
a Co-Creation Process?**

Frank Moulaert, University KU Leuven

10:45

Discussion

11:15

Coffee break

11:45

**Religious Pluralism and Social Innovation
in Postsecular Society**

Paolo Naso, University of Rome Sapienza

12:45

Discussion

13:15

Lunch

Abstracts

Social Innovation and Ethics: a Co-Creation Process?

Frank Moulaert, University KU Leuven

Starting from one of the most robust definitions of social innovation, i.e. social innovation as a combination of the collective satisfaction of human needs, the solidification of the solidarity caliber of social relations and the empowerment of people towards socio-political transformation, this presentation examines what has been the role of ethics in the inspiration and building of socially innovative initiatives, their networks, institutional change and socio-political transformation.

The speaker examines four cases as to their ethicality and formulates some general observations on the role of ethics in the value systems, discourse, drivers and modes of organization and institutionalization of socially innovative initiatives and their social relations.

Religious Pluralism and Social Innovation in Postsecular Society

Paolo Naso, University of Rome Sapienza

In historically one-confession-only countries such as Italy, religious pluralism has been marginalized and even repressed. The situation changes dramatically in the last 25 years, mainly because of a massive immigration that contributed to re-shape the religious profile of the country. In fact, now we can consider that 1/10 of the Italians practice a religion different from the Catholic. The phenomenon is not quantitative only but also qualitative because it implies new and unknown religious attitudes: think of the charismatic churches or Islam, to refer to the most popular presences.

The thesis the Author will share is that these new presences have a strong and positive impact on the Italian societies, creating and developing a real “religious welfare” supposedly beneficial to our subsidiary system; offering social spaces and platforms for the children education and potentially for social cohesion; acting as expression of the civil society representing the values and the interests of consistent groups of people. In this sense, religious pluralism can be a factor of powerful social innovation. Its strength will be strictly proportional to the recognition and support it will get from the institutions and the political system.

Biographies

Frank Moulaert

Frank Moulaert is Emeritus Professor of Spatial Planning and Economics from the University KU Leuven (Belgium), Newcastle (UK) and Lille (USTL). His research has especially focused on the role of social innovation in territorial development and on the epistemology of social sciences. He is one of the leading international scholars on the role of social innovation in community development. He coordinated six EC Framework Programme projects as well as an international post-graduate education programme on “European Spatial Development Planning”.

Paolo Naso

Paolo Naso teaches Political Science at La Sapienza University of Rome where he also coordinates the Master Program in Religions and Cultural Mediation. Member of the Board of the Italian Association of Sociology of Religion, he is coordinator of the Council for Islam at the Ministry of the Interior. On behalf of the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy he directs the Study Committee and the Mediterranean Hope - Refugees and Migrants program. Among his books we mention, *L'incognita post-secolare. Pluralismo religioso, Fondamentalismi, Laicità*, Guida 2015; *Pentecostali*, EMI 2013; *Come una città sulla collina. La tradizione puritana e il movimento per i diritti civili*, Claudiana 2008. In uscita (con Maurizio Ambrosini e Claudio Paravati) *Il Dio degli immigrati*, Il Mulino; e (con Alessia Passarelli), *Generazione Interculturale. I giovani evangelici dell'immigrazione*, Carocci.

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