

# Call for Papers for a Special Issue:

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

Journal submission deadline: March 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.
- **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 March 15th 2019. Articles will be peer-reviewed with a responsive review process. 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.

To identify emerging conversations in the field and to be informed by current practice, a symposium on “Social Entrepreneurship and Innovative Finance for Rural-urban transformation” was organized in Beijing (China) on Oct. 17-19, 2018 by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Entrepreneurship & Transformation (E&T) network alliance. The symposium included champions of social entrepreneurship engaged in the field, investors, development agencies and policy makers. The conference setting was participatory and interactive, focused on pushing the intellectual boundaries of the field. Substantial time was allocated to panel discussion, Q&A and field-based activities. The summary symposium results, and an orientation to key issues are available at <https://bit.ly/2szXfdk>. Prospective authors are invited to review these results for context, and to situate their contribution in the contemporary conversation.



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We encourage authors to consider a variety of perspectives on social entrepreneurship in the rural-urban context. Research topics for the special issue can include, but are not limited to the following:

A. Theories of social innovation that apply to rural-urban transformation.

- ❖ Business models that address the needs of food systems, social services, and/or environmental concerns.
- ❖ Technologies or innovations that catalyze or disrupt the processes of rural/urban transformation.

B. Mechanisms of social transformation:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Addressing environmental sustainability, biodiversity enrichment, and climate adaptation.

C. The impact investing landscape

- ❖ 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.

D. Eco-systemic views of social entrepreneurship

- ❖ Sectoral and governmental financial policies, regulations and incentives that encourage social entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Legal issues relating with social entrepreneurship and finance (such as laws, regulations, taxes and contracts)
- ❖ Scaling social ventures and social impact in the context of rural-urban economic development.

**Submission Instructions:** Authors, please submit full papers by **March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019** through the AHV manuscriptcentral link available at: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/ahum/> (use submission type “symposium/special issue”). Authors of papers invited to be revised and resubmitted will be expected to work within a tight time frame 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:** Please email questions about the special issue to:

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