

2023 IMPACT INVESTING DAYS CALL FOR PAPERS

ESADE Business School, Sant Cugat, Barcelona, Spain

19-21 April 2023

Initiated by Copenhagen Business School in 2018 and previously hosted in Denmark and China in in-person and virtual formats, Impact Investing Days is a discussion forum for impact investing practitioners, social entrepreneurs, and academics. The conference aims to challenge current practice and use evidence-based research to develop better insights into the links between social/environmental impact, financial returns, and investment decisions. We intend for the Impact Investing Days to eventually result in a series of national and international research/practice co-operations to help understand the effectiveness of impact investing and social entrepreneurship.

The 2023 Impact Investing Days invite academics, impact investors, philanthropists, social entrepreneurs, and policymakers to jointly discuss research needs and priorities for inquiry in relation to how impact investing can help address societal challenges. The event aims to support the formulation of a relevant research agenda that will help understand the effectiveness of impact investing as a tool to re-shape our society to be fairer, more inclusive, and more sustainable. This, in turn, is intended to guide investors toward implementing impactful investment strategies.

Format

We have found from prior experiences that a small group of 60 practitioners and academic researchers is the ideal size for an event that promotes dialogue and allows for an active exchange of ideas between all participants. We want to keep the cohort small to enable in-depth discussions and build professional and personal bonds. Therefore, we aim to have 20 practitioners, 20 senior academics, plus 20 early-career scholars participate in the 2023 Impact Investing Days.

The first day of the conference will feature keynote talks and panel discussions aimed at encouraging debates between academics and practitioners. We will critically reflect upon current impact investing practices by inquiring in-depth into topics such as social outcome contracting, non-financial support for investees, the integrity and governance of impact investing, and so forth. The second day will be presentations of academic papers at various development stages to capture the latest ideas. On the third day, we will arrange a paper development workshop/doctoral consortium, which aims to strengthen impact investing research capabilities among junior scholars. In particular, we hope to attract high-quality research contributions to be submitted to academic journals.

Participants of the event

Participants in the event will be representatives of academia, financial institutions, philanthropic foundations, policymakers, and social enterprises. The conference will offer plenty of room for both formal discussions and informal discourse between participants.

Confirmed speakers (more will be announced later)

- Uli Grabenwarter, Deputy director, Equity Investments at European Investment Fund & Lecturer at IESE
- Aglaé Touchard-Le Drian, Partner, Raise Impact
- Miquel de Paladella, Partner and Chief Executive Officer, UpSocial
- Lisa Hehenberger, Associate Professor at ESADE Business School, Director of Esade Center for Social Impact
- Eleanor Carter, Acting Research Director, Government Outcomes Lab, University of Oxford

Application

Submit your application ASAP to Suwen Chen (suwen.chen@esade.edu).

By Friday 30th September 2022: A single PDF document with

- 1) an extended paper abstract (3000 words max) or PDW proposal* (1000 words max)
- 2) a short bio (100 words max).

Proposals at any stage of development are welcome. You will receive notification if a place is allocated to you by Friday 16th December. Please do not make any travel arrangements until you have received confirmation of a place.

*For PDW: A two-page proposal of the project idea outlining the research question and its relevance. The proposal should also motivate the choice of a particular method to answer the research question and specify the dependent and independent variable(s), where applicable. Note: empirical research can be carried out after the PDW. The purpose of the roundtable session is to discuss work in progress as well as project ideas, not fully-developed papers.

By Friday 17th March 2023: A full paper for accepted abstracts. While this is not compulsory, only full papers will be considered for the best paper awards.

Costs

Registration fees will be communicated later with a discount available to PhD students. Participants need to cover the cost of any travel and additional accommodation themselves.

About the organiser - ESADE Center for Social Impact

The Esade Center for Social Impact conducts rigorous and relevant research about social impact and shares knowledge and tools that can help people better understand and solve complex global challenges. The Center was created in 2017 as part of the Esade Entrepreneurship Institute and became a separate entity within Esade during the 2021-2022 academic year. Led by Professor Lisa Hehenberger in collaboration with other faculty members, it has a dedicated research and management team, engages PhD students, and collaborates with leading academics in the field.

Examples of previous Impact Investing Days

- 1) [Copenhagen Impact Investing Days 2018](#) (12-14 March 2018)
- 2) [Beijing Impact Investing Days 2019](#) (22-24 May 2019)
- 3) [Copenhagen Impact Investing Days 2019](#) (23-25 September 2019)
- 4) [Copenhagen Impact Investing Days 2021](#) (1 June 2021, online)