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CALL FOR PAPERS

“More than 20 years of Eco-innovation research: lessons learnt and new directions” – Workshop

University of Ferrara (Via Ariosto, 35, Ferrara, Italy); early November 2022 (exact date tbc)

More than 20 years have elapsed since the appearance of the term “eco-innovation” as “new products and processes which provide customer and business value but significantly decrease environmental impacts” (Fussler and James, 1996; James, 1997).¹ Since then, a novel field of research has emerged; eco-innovation research follows multiple lenses and multiple heterogeneous approaches have been put into practice (e.g. since Rennings, 2000). More recently, eco-innovation is deemed to be a central element for any transition to a circular economy (Del Rio, et. al. 2021).

The newly born [Society for Eco-innovation Studies](#) (in short, *EcoI Society*) is launching its first call for papers to connect people working on the above topics. One of the main ambitions of this first event is to try summarizing areas in which such research has achieved consensus along with the main lessons learnt and to understand which research directions are currently still open and worth being investigated.

The 2-days workshop will be hosted by the Department of Economics and Management of the University of Ferrara, the Inter-University Research Centre SEEDS and the Centre for Research on Circular Economy, Innovation and SMEs. The event is also supported by EIT Climate KIC’s Transitions Hub and the Innovation for Sustainable Development Network. The event will also be an occasion to remember the seminal contributions of the late [Dr Klaus Rennings](#) (1963-2015), one of the pioneers of eco-innovation research.

The scientific committee welcomes papers explicitly focusing on eco-innovation. Manuscripts can use a mixture of qualitative and quantitative approaches and are encouraged to include multidisciplinary /transdisciplinary research covering, but not restricted to, the following topics:

- Eco-innovation in the transition to a circular economy.
- Eco-innovation research trajectories and dynamics.
- Eco-innovation definitions, classifications, complementarities and differences between ‘regular’ innovation and eco-innovation.
- Eco-innovation drivers, barriers and effects (e.g. organisational, technological, behavioural, economic and finance, market, environmental and community pressures, etc.).
- Eco-innovation and environmental technologies: complexity, maturity and diffusion.
- Eco-innovation measurement and monitoring (e.g. relative performance of countries, adoption, motivations, hampering factors at company level, framework conditions, market size, etc.).
- Eco-innovation strategy, management, development, transfer and implementation in companies, including sustainable and circular business models.
- Sustainability and eco-design aspects in eco-innovation (products, services, companies and value chains); including social effects.
- Eco-innovation actors along the knowledge chain and the role of green innovators and entrepreneurs.
- The role of intermediaries and business support organisations for the generation, transfer and implementation of eco-innovation as a service.
- Eco-innovation in the low carbon, green, blue and bio-economy.
- Eco-innovation for digital and green transformations for net zero and climate resilience.
- Eco-innovation and sustainable practices in low development countries (LDCs).

¹ Eco-innovation is very often used interchangeably with environmental innovation, green innovation, environmentally sustainable innovation, among other terms and associated concepts.

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- Eco-innovation in green finance and signalling tools (e.g. ESG).
- System and territorial dynamics of eco-innovation (e.g. diffusion rates and framework conditions, clusters and innovation systems, and system-level transitions and transformations).
- Eco-innovation policies for the green transformation, policy mixes and systemic interventions.
- Other emerging topics: open eco-innovation, frugal eco-innovation, eco-innovation in co-operatives.

Abstract Submission and registrations.

Extended abstract (or full papers) can be submitted by the 30th of September 2022 to ecoinnovation@inno4sd.net. Notification of acceptance – for rigorous and relevant papers - will be communicated by the 14th of October 2022. The final agenda of the event will be published online prior to the event, and it will include a general session to discuss the future activities of the Ecol Society.

Modality of participation.

This first Ecol Society event has been designed to be a face-to-face event. However, the organising committee is assessing the situation with the Covid-19 pandemic with the possibility to also consider a hybrid event. More information will be provided at a later stage.

Scientific Committee (in alphabetical order)

Alan Brent, Victoria University Wellington; **Carlos Montalvo**, TNO; **Christoph Kieffer**, Fraunhofer ISI; **Claudia Ghisetti**, University of Milan – Bicocca; **Daniel Villavicencio**, UAM-Xochimilco; **Emy Zecca**, University of Ferrara & SEEDS; **Fernando Diaz Lopez**, EIT Climate KIC and Stellenbosch University; **Graciela Carrillo**, UAM-Xochimilco; **Imke de Kock**, Stellenbosch University; **Javier Carrillo Hermosilla**, Universidad de Alcala; **Mahamadou Biga-Diambeidou**, UCLouvain and ICN Business School, Lorraine University-CERFIGE; **Massimiliano Mazzanti**, University of Ferrara & SEEDS; **Nicolo Barbieri**, University of Ferrara & SEEDS; **Pablo del Rio**, CSIC; **Raimund Bleischwitz**, Leibniz Institute Tropical Research; **Rene Kemp**, UM-MERIT; **Roberto Zoboli**, Catholic University of Milan & SEEDS; **Serdar Turkeli**, UM-MERIT; **Totti Konnola**, International Foresight Institute; **Valery Christov**, Deusto Business School.