



CALL FOR PAPERS

**Adelphi University
Center For
Complexity & Social Entrepreneurship**

In association with the

Institute for the Study of Coherence & Emergence (ISCE)

The publishers of the journal *Emergence: Complexity and Organization (E:CO)* and a line of books on complexity including the new *Complexity Science & Social Entrepreneurship: Adding Social Value through Systems Thinking*, edited by the conference conveners,

Is pleased to announce the:

**Second International Conference on
Social Entrepreneurship, Systems Thinking, & Complexity**

April 30 to May 2, 2010

**Adelphi University, Garden City, New York
(right outside of Manhattan, near JFK Airport)**

**Including a Film Festival on Social Entrepreneurial Programs
from around the Globe**

In our Center's continuing effort to advance the theoretical and practical significance of **social entrepreneurship** as a positive force for social change, in the Spring of 2010 we plan to bring together many of the leading thinkers and practitioners around the world who operate at the nexus of complexity science and social entrepreneurship.

At our last conference in April of 2008 we explored the question of whether the sciences of complexity might provide the basis for enlarging the *theoretical* underpinnings of social entrepreneurship and social enterprise. At that time we were seeking a foundation that would offer researchers and practitioners alike a systemic perspective that could inform their social entrepreneurial efforts. Although progress has been made, we believe that recent advances in the sciences of complex systems continue to hold great promise for an even more thorough understanding and grounding of the social processes and individual interactions that enable the success of social entrepreneurship and related activities. The results of the 2008 conference have appeared in a special issue of E:CO in September 2008 and a recently published volume which can be reviewed here: <http://socialentrepreneurship.wikispaces.com/Book+Shop>



At this conference we will take the next logical step. We will advance the theoretical development that was begun at the prior conference, and at the same time, seek to further engage practitioners in a process of discovery and exploration. Considerable time will be set aside for building of powerful collaborative networks aiming at the emergence of new ideas and initiatives.

During the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to share their ideas and perspectives with other experts in the field, including both complexity scholars and social entrepreneurship practitioners. We will be sharing exciting projects from all over the world, making contacts with those making a lasting difference on every continent (except maybe Antarctica), and gain a better understanding of the state of their knowledge and that of the field in each of these vital areas. We are hoping that participants will leave more energized and inspired and better prepared to further their goals in the field of social entrepreneurship.

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Selected papers at the conference will be published in a Special Issue of the journal *Emergence: Complexity and Organization (E:CO)*. These and other papers will also be included in another edited book to be published in 2011.

Complexity is the study of the dynamics of the diverse linkages and interactions among people, technology, and systems over time. This dynamic approach conceptualizes organizational systems as sets of agents (individuals, processes and mechanisms) that generate novel emergent outcomes out of their interactions.

Social entrepreneurship is increasingly seen as an important component of any national or global development strategy. Complexity science in general, and growing scholarship within the complex systems community are exploring organizational, social, and leadership dynamics in particular to shed additional light on social entrepreneurship.

Systems thinking explores the systemic dimension of organizations, communities, states, and transnational entities looking for universal principles of dynamics, functioning, and enactments.

At this conference we are particularly interested in research that addresses the following questions that were surfaced at the prior conference:

- How can complexity science further the theoretical development of social entrepreneurship as a field of study that is distinct from either social innovation or traditional entrepreneurship? Can it provide a robust theoretical alternative to both the traditional foreign aid “development grant” approach and the “Washington Consensus”?
- What are possible typologies for social enterprises and social entrepreneurship and how can complexity thinking help with this process?



- What can complexity tell us about the nature and role of institutional and government forces in social entrepreneurship and more broadly in social change? Are there identifiable differences among developing, transition and developed economies?
- What is meant by social value creation (SVC)? How can SVC be consistently measured and various projects compared? Can a cumulative model of SVC be developed?
- What are theoretical arguments, variables and measurements that define resource productivity in a resource-limited ecology, and how might these be measured?
- Can complexity tools and ideas (for example, network theory) be useful in furthering our understanding of social isolation, its effects and useful interventions? This is a question that scales and is meaningful at the individual, group, community, cultural, national and international level.
- What is the role of differences (for example, in sustaining the cultures, language and customs of indigenous peoples) in social entrepreneurship?
- What is the role of social capital creation (for example in the sense of network connections, centrality and intercohesion) in furthering social entrepreneurship?
- How does social entrepreneurship relate to systemic social change and what does complexity say about this?
- How can Complex Systems Leadership Theory (CSLT) inform the leadership aspects of social entrepreneurship projects?
- Can scholarship in the social entrepreneurship arena inform research in the Complexity Sciences?

For this conference, we are interested in papers that take a complexity and systems approach to social entrepreneurship in an effort to answer the above questions and others at four levels of analysis:

- The micro-level of individual interaction;
- The meso-level of interacting agents in groups or teams, for example;
- The organization or program level; and
- The macro-level of social and cultural systems of human interaction.

Submissions: We invite theoretical analyses, empirical studies, analytical or computational modeling studies, suggestions for empirical studies, and/or practitioner-based approaches and we are particularly receptive to collaborative efforts that span different academic disciplines or fields and that introduce new methodologies or approaches.

Two types of submissions are requested: academic papers (extended abstracts or draft manuscripts) and proposals for panels or symposia as follows:

- Extended abstracts should be a maximum of four pages, single space; drafts of manuscripts should be approximately 30 pages including references and should be prepared in accordance with *E:CO* submission guidelines found at www.emergence.org.



- Proposals for panels or symposia should be 5 to 10 pages in length and include the names and backgrounds of presenters as well as the logic for and content included in the session. In particular, the proposal should clearly explain how and in what way it will advance the field.

Scholarships: A certain number of scholarships will be available for representatives from developing countries. These scholarships will cover all or part of the airfare, registration fee, and lodging. If you are interested, please request scholarship consideration when submitting a proposal or paper to the conference organizers.

Publication Outlets: Outstanding papers will be selected by a board of evaluators to be considered for a special issue of the peer reviewed journal *Emergence: Organization and Complexity (E:CO)* to be published in the Fall of 2010; additional papers will be included in an edited volume to be published in book form in 2011.

Due Dates: *For consideration, extended abstracts or drafts of academic papers must be received by: February 15, 2010. Proposals for Panels or Symposia are due by: March 10, 2010*

Submission Guidelines: All academic paper submissions will go through a blind review process. All submissions should be prepared in Word (version 1998 or higher). Submission of a paper constitutes agreement that if the paper is accepted for presentation at least one of the authors will register to attend the conference.

Invited Special Guest Speakers: Arrangements are underway to invite world-renowned speakers in such as: public policy, economics, complexity, and social entrepreneurship, to speak at plenary sessions.

The organizers of this conference are:

- Dr. Jeffrey Goldstein (goldstei@adelphi.edu),
- Dr. James K. Hazy (hazy@adelphi.edu) and
- Dr. Joyce Silberstang (silberstang@adelphi.edu)

All are faculty members at Adelphi University. Questions about the conference, expectations, requirements, and the appropriateness of a topic, etc., can be answered by any of the organizers. An electronic copy of the submission should be sent to Dr. Hazy. Additional information and guidelines on the *Emergence: Complexity and Organization (E:CO)* journal may be obtained by its website: www.emergence.org.

Interested parties are referred to the proceedings from the last conference which are available at: <http://socialentrepreneurship.wikispaces.com/Book+Shop>

Conference Information: Details about the conference programs and speakers as well as information on the conference logistics, accommodations, transportation, and extra-program events in nearby New York City (easily accessible by train), will be provided later. For the latest, please check for updates on our website at: <http://socialentrepreneurship.wikispaces.com/Events>