

WISERD Annual Conference 2022 – ‘Civil society and participation: issues of equality, identity and cohesion in a changing social landscape’

**6–7 July 2022
Swansea University**

ABSTRACT PROFORMA

Deadline for abstract submission – 9.00am on Friday 28th January 2022

| Proposal Details | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Title of Proposal | Digital Foundational Economy | | |
| Proposal Type | Single Paper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Workshop <input type="checkbox"/> | Poster/exhibition piece <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Symposium <input type="checkbox"/> | Panel <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conference Proposed Theme (see call) | 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil society, participation and governance | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Language participation, culture and identity | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Poverty and social justice |
| | 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wales’s global connections: civil society and participation in context | 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participation and civil society through the life course | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in education |
| | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the labour market | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Working with communities | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Participatory research in housing, health and social care |
| | 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activism and civil society research | 11 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doing participatory and action research | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Open |
| | Proposal Abstract | | |
| <p><i>Please provide up to 500 words detailing the proposal, including the background to the research and its theoretical framework; research questions and/or focus of enquiry; methodology; and data sources</i></p> <p><i>Please note that oral presentation slots within a session are either 15 or 20 minutes</i></p> | | | |
| <p>This paper resonates with the ‘Foundational Economy’ and explores a novel approach as the ‘Digital’ Foundational Economy. According to Filippo Barbera and Ian Rees Jones, ‘the Foundational Economy encompasses those goods and services, together with the economic and social relationship that underpin them, that provide the everyday infrastructure of civilized life’ (2020, 1). Consequently, the ‘Digital’ Foundational Economy applies to the digital sphere principles of the Foundational Economy by asking whether it is possible to alter existing data governance extractivist models to incentivise the emergence of platform co-operatives and data co-operatives, thereby protecting pandemic citizens’ labour and digital rights (Calzada, 2021a). Never before has the crucial role that co-operative organisational forms – currently reignited and reinforced through</p> | | | |

updated reformist paradigms such as the ‘Foundational Economy’ paradigm – play in sustaining the social fabric of communities, and societies, and economies become so visible to a broad public, nor has the need for such organisational forms ever been more evident. In Wales, in the post-COVID-era, neighbourhoods, associations, co-operatives, and civic groups have self-organised to help guarantee access to life-saving resources such as food, health services, IT equipment, clothes, shelter, and psychological support to those in need.

In the Welsh city-regional context, particularly being articulated from Cardiff, the ‘Digital Foundational Economy’ paradigm could be seen and adopted the form of a socio-economic response to neoliberal policies is a potential driver for nation-state rescaling by creating a new emerging regime called *Metropolitan Citizenship regime* (Calzada, 2021b). This emerging regime has transformed the policy context in the Cardiff City Region since the elections in May 2021 and is tied to proposals to establish *Radical Federalism* (Barbera & Jones, 2020; RF, 2020; Wyn Jones & Larnar, 2020), which aims to empower city-regional communities by pushing ahead a metropolitan citizenship agenda from Cardiff as a counter-reaction to the side effects of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic (Johnston et al, 2018; Rodríguez-Pose, 2018). Briefly, *Metropolitan Citizenship regime* socio-economically re-empowers city-regional communities through a combination of foundational thinking, radical federalism, and growth in data co-operatives.

In this context, and stemming directly from the ‘Digital Foundational Economy, data co-operatives, which might be shaped by those who need them most and grounded in the history and practices of local communities would be a potential vehicle to these changes in Cardiff and beyond within Wales.

The paper will suggest two open research questions to spark a constructive debate around the ‘Digital Foundational Economy’ research and policy agendas stemming from the WP ‘New Emerging Citizenship Regimes’:

1. How can *Metropolitan Citizenship* in Cardiff nurture the creation of platform and data co-operatives (Calzada, 2020; Scholz & Calzada, 2020) to establish a socio-economic alternative (based on Digital Foundational Economy and driven by Radical Federalism) to the UK central government?
2. Can a *Metropolitan Citizenship* encourage city-regional dynamics based on data ecosystems grounded at the regional level and foster rescaling through an intensive digital-policy agenda empowering local communities through data donation and altruism (Welsh Government, 2021; CU, 2018; Wales Data Nation Accelerator, 2020)?

Specific Requirements

Please detail any specific requirements you may have such as simultaneous translation, audio-visual support, additional presentation space. Please also note the language in which you intend to present.

N/A

Details of Lead Proposer

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| Summary of Research Interests | Foundational Economy | | |
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| Presenting? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Twitter accounts for inclusion in Abstract booklet | | | |