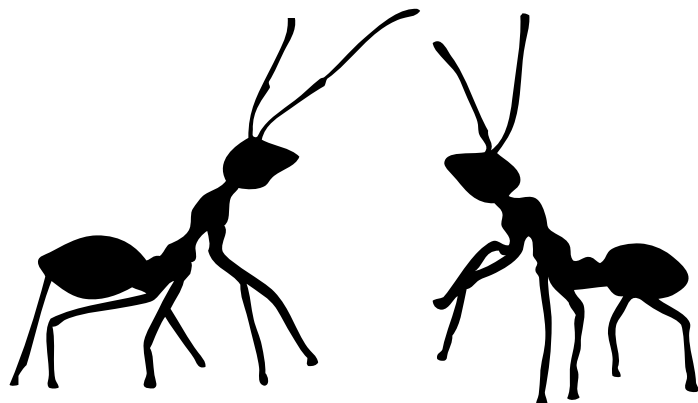




INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



PROMOTING THE UNDERSTANDING OF COOPERATIVES FOR A BETTER WORLD

VENICE 2012





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Welcome!

Benvenuti! Welcome to the International Conference “Promoting the understanding of cooperatives for a better world”. The Conference is jointly organized by Euricse (European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises), ICA (International Co-operative Alliance) and Italian Cooperative Alliance (Alleanza delle Cooperative Italiane).

Year 2012 has been declared the International Year of Cooperatives by the United Nations in order to increase public awareness about cooperatives and promote awareness of the extensive network of cooperatives around the world and their efforts in community building and peace. The International Year of Cooperatives also aims at supporting the formation and the growth of cooperatives and at encouraging governments and regulatory bodies to establish policies, laws and regulations conducive to cooperative formation and growth.

Indeed, cooperatives play a crucial role both in the production of general-interest services (such as social, health, work integration, and educational services) and in a number of traditional sectors (such as banking and agriculture), achieving outstanding results and often outperforming for-profit and public enterprises. However, convincing and shared interpretative frameworks concerning the nature, potential, and limits of cooperatives are lacking.

Against the background of a general disregard of cooperatives by mainstream social sciences, though, new theoretical developments have recently begun not only to explain the recent strengthening of cooperatives, but also to argue that these organizations could perform a much greater role than the one they currently play, and contribute to the creation of a different and better economic and social system.

SAN SERVOLO



Given this situation and drawing on the findings of recent studies, this conference intends to celebrate the UN International Year of Cooperatives by creating a discussion forum that can promote a better understanding of cooperatives' rationale, roles, potential, and impact.

The programme offers in-depth analysis by keynote speakers, prominent academics

and economists who have addressed the economic and social role of cooperative enterprises using innovative approaches.

In addition to the working sessions, there will be plenty of time for informal meetings, networking and interesting special events.

We wish you an excellent conference!

About the conference

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS

BY CARLO BORZAGA



CARLO BORZAGA is Professor of Economic Policy at the University of Trento, Faculty of Economics. From 2002 to 2003 Professor Borzaga was the chairman of the Evaluation Committee of the University of Trento and from 2003 to 2006 he was the Dean of the Faculty of Economics. From 1996 to 2009 Professor Borzaga chaired and coordinated ISSAN – Istituto Studi Sviluppo Imprese Nonprofit - (Research Institute on Nonprofit Enterprises). He is currently the President of Euricse – European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises - and chairs the master's programme in Management of Social Enterprises (GIS) at the University of Trento. He is a founding member of the EMES network (The Emergence of Social Enterprise in Europe) and chairman of IRIS Network (a network of Italian research centres on social enterprises). He is the chief editor of the Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity (JEOD) and a member of the scientific committee of several journals, among them *Economia e Lavoro*, *Revue des études coopératives mutualistes et associatives*, and *Social Enterprise Journal*. He collaborates with several national (Ministero del Lavoro, Ministero della Famiglia e della Solidarietà Sociale, ISFOL, ISTAT Fondazione per il Volontariato, Provincia Autonoma di Trento) and international (Unione Europea, OCDE, ILO) institutions.

The gap between the social and economic importance of cooperatives and the traditionally low attention paid to these types of enterprises by social sciences is glaring, and it has become even more evident with the current economic and financial crisis.

In both developed and developing countries, cooperatives substantially contribute to socio-economic development and support a more balanced re-distribution of wealth, often to the advantage of the weakest members of society. Cooperative initiatives are indeed flourishing in a variety of traditional and non-traditional sectors. In non-traditional sectors, such as personal and community services, cooperatives are expected to increase the quantity and quality of the supply, while public authorities gradually reduce their commitment. Meanwhile, unlike for-profit enterprises, cooperatives in traditional sectors (such as credit and worker cooperatives) did not contribute to the onset of the crisis, and actually helped mitigate its effects: cooperative banks continued to lend money even in the midst of the credit crunch, and worker cooperatives managed to retain their workforce without having to make recourse to public supports. Generally, the resilience of cooperatives has been widely acknowledged and policy and opinion makers are increasingly interested in understanding if and how traditional and

new types of cooperatives can have a role in tackling the dramatic consequences of the global crisis, as well as in reforming the system that has contributed to generating it.

At the same time, in spite of the impact cooperatives have had in improving well-being and supporting economic development, these enterprises have not yet received the scientific attention they deserve. Scientific studies and analyses tend to be insufficient and incomplete, and interpretative models capable of assessing the sustainability of cooperatives (both in general and with respect to specific types) are lacking. While isolated “pieces” of theory have been developed, a comprehensive theoretical framework that can explain the upsurge of cooperatives in general has yet to be developed. Indeed, the interests of most scholars seem to be characterized by a form of “market fundamentalism,” whereby the only type of firm destined to populate the entire economic system is the for-profit enterprise, and other enterprise forms are considered marginal, if not insignificant.

In this context, the growing calls for “more cooperation” are not supported by a solid knowledge base regarding cooperatives as a specific type of enterprise. This has a number of negative consequences, which severely affect the performance and success of cooperative enterprises. For instance,

cooperatives might fail to seize growth opportunities that are presented to them, or conversely make investments in sectors that are not well suited to their characteristics. At the same time, ill-informed policies and regulations often end up hampering, rather than supporting, cooperatives' expansion and growth.

GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE

The overall goal of this Conference is to help overcome the contradiction illustrated above. The analyses offered throughout the Conference are expected to pave the way both for the development of a more comprehensive interpretative framework and for the introduction of more adequate regulations and policies for cooperatives and the markets in which they operate. The guidelines for new regulations that will ultimately be proposed are aimed at levelling the playing field among different enterprise types and at promoting the adoption of management methods that are more consistent with the specificities of cooperatives. These analyses will concern the cooperative enterprise in general as a specific type of enterprise, as well as the various cooperative forms that populate contemporary economic systems.

A specific goal of the conference is also to understand how and to what extent

cooperatives can contribute to overcoming the current crisis and reforming the dominant economic model based on market fundamentalism.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

FIRST SESSION

The first session of the Conference discusses the contributions offered by institutional and behavioural economics to the understanding of cooperatives. When compared to mainstream economics, these two literature strands – alone and in combination – contribute to explaining the existence of cooperatives and the recent renewed interest in this type of enterprise. Furthermore, institutional theory and behavioural economics can have a role in identifying the limitations of cooperatives, what management strategies can be most effective, and especially what governance models cooperatives may adopt in order to improve their performance.

The above-mentioned approaches will be supported by an analysis of the historical evolution of cooperatives. Bridging the main findings achieved by the economic history of cooperative enterprises with the outcomes of economic theory will allow for a better understanding of cooperatives' role in contemporary economies.

SECOND SESSION

The second session focuses on the contribution of cooperatives to human and social development, and the social and general-interest roles played by cooperatives. Furthermore, attention will be paid to the contribution of cooperatives to the well-being of local communities, the enhancement of social capital and social cohesion, as well as the consolidation of collaborative behaviours. The main argument of this session is that cooperatives are not simply a specific type of enterprise, but rather an “association of people”, who share goals that go beyond self interest. As such, cooperative enterprises can have a role in generating positive externalities to the

benefit of the entire community. This session will also include an in-depth analysis of these types of externalities.

THIRD SESSION

The third session explores cooperatives from the perspectives of regulation and management. In light of the importance gained by cooperatives over the last few years, three key issues concerning cooperatives are analyzed in depth:

1. regulating cooperatives: when compared to the regulation of investor-owned enterprises, the regulation of cooperatives is rather heterogeneous and country-specific. Furthermore, cooperative regulation is often incomplete and inconsistent with some of the key features that characterize cooperative enterprises. This issue results in a slower and often imbalanced growth of cooperatives, and in some cases (especially in new fields of activity) it prevents their development altogether.
2. regulating the markets in which cooperatives operate: this aspect concerns especially “quasi markets” for the production of public goods, such as social, health and educational services, but also banking services and, in particular, markets that are regulated by public authorities and agencies. In most cases, market regulations presuppose the exclusive presence of investor-owned enterprises, therefore failing to take the specificities of cooperatives into account. This situation forces cooperatives to both follow inconsistent procedures and sustain unnecessary regulation costs.
3. managing the growth in size of cooperatives: it is a widely held conviction that the growth of cooperatives can generate significant problems when it comes to the involvement of members in the governance of the enterprise, thereby hampering the interest of members in participating. This key issue has often been presented in a rather ideological manner. When referring to big cooperative enterprises, what should be clarified is how “participation” can be operationalized and safeguarded.

FOURTH AND FIFTH SESSIONS

The last two sessions are devoted to the analysis of the most well-known cooperative forms. For each cooperative typology, speakers are invited to focus on all (or the most relevant) of the following issues:

1. peculiar features of cooperatives in the identified sectors
2. evolution and economic importance of cooperatives in the identified sectors from an international perspective or with respect to specific countries
3. reasons explaining the success of cooperatives
4. main problems faced by cooperatives
5. prospects for development.

In addition to the most developed cooperative forms, an innovative and challenging field of expansion will be explored, namely the cooperative management of natural resources.

MAIN RESEARCH QUESTIONS



- Why do cooperatives continue to grow and constantly expand the range of activities they engage in?
- Why are cooperatives so widespread in all countries and contexts?
- Why can't cooperatives be simply conceived of as transitional enterprises?
- What are cooperatives' competitive advantages?
- In which sectors are cooperatives more likely to develop, especially at the local level?
- What are the consequences of cooperatives' development?
- How do cooperatives react to the increasing demand for a value-based approach to economics?
- To what extent are legal and market regulations consistent with the features of cooperative enterprises? Do legal and market regulations support the growth of cooperatives?
- Is it really worth supporting cooperatives?
- How can cooperatives be effectively supported? In which sectors?

Programme

WEDNESDAY March 14 • 2012	
 18.00 - 20.00	Welcome Cocktail Welcome IYC 2012! For many people the year 2012 has begun under challenging circumstances. But the International Year of Cooperation certainly represents a reason to be hopeful for a better world. Our Conference will kick-off with a welcome cocktail for participants. Join us for a global toast to cooperation and a chance to meet one another in relaxed atmosphere.

THURSDAY March 15 • 2012	
 09.00 - 10.00	Opening Chair: Carlo Borzaga - University of Trento / Euricse Pauline Green - President of International Co-operative Alliance Luigi Marino - President of Italian Cooperative Alliance
10.00 - 11.30	General Introduction Romano Prodi - Former President of the European Commission and former Prime Minister of Italy Setting the Context: Changes in the Global Landscape Partha Dasgupta - University of Cambridge (UK) New frontiers of cooperation in the economy
11.30 - 11.45	COFFEE BREAK
11.45 - 13.00	Panel discussion 1 The role of cooperatives within the new global geopolitical scenario
13.00 - 14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00 - 15.30	1st Session Interpreting the roles and economic importance of cooperative enterprises Chair: Benedetto Gui - University of Padua (Italy) Henry Hansmann - Yale Law School (USA) The contribution of neo-institutionalism to interpreting cooperative enterprises Avner Ben-Ner - University of Minnesota (USA) and Matthew Ellman - Institute for Economic Analysis, Barcelona – IAE (Spain) The contribution of behavioural economics to explaining cooperatives' emergence and development Vera Zamagni - University of Bologna (Italy) Interpreting the roles and economic importance of cooperative enterprises in a historical perspective

15.30 - 15.45	COFFEE BREAK
15.45 - 17.30	2nd Session New opportunities and roles in a changing world Chair: Jay Mitra, University of Essex (UK) Ian MacPherson - Social Economy Hub (Canada) Cooperatives' concern for the community: from members towards local communities' interests Johnston Birchall - University of Stirling (UK) The potential of cooperatives during the current recession: theorizing comparative advantage Stefano Zamagni - University of Bologna (Italy) The impact of cooperatives on civil and connective capital
17.30 - 19.00	Discussion and debate Discussants: Sara Depedri, Euricse (Italy); Fabio Sabatini, "La Sapienza" University of Rome (Italy); Ermanno Tortia, University of Trento (Italy); Vladislav Valentinov, Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe, Halle (Germany); Marcelo Vieta, Post doctoral Research Fellow at Euricse (Italy).

FRIDAY March 16 • 2012	
09.00 - 11.00	3rd Session Cooperative growth – potential and limitations Chair: Hagen Henry - University of Helsinki (Finland) Hans Münkner - Marburg University (Germany) Worldwide regulation of Co-operative Societies – an overview Michele Grillo - Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Milan (Italy) How market regulations enhance or limit the growth of cooperatives Derek C. Jones - Hamilton College (USA) and Panu Kalmi - Vaasa University (Finland) Economies of scale versus participation: a cooperative dilemma? Discussants: Antonio Fici, University of Molise (Italy); Carlo Scarpa, University of Brescia (Italy); Alberto Zevi, La Sapienza University of Rome (Italy).
11.00 - 11.30	COFFEE BREAK Sponsored by International Summit of Cooperatives
11.30 - 13.30	4th Session Exploring both the old and new roles of cooperatives Chair: Lou Hammond Ketilson - University of Saskatchewan (Canada) Giovanni Ferri - University of Bari (Italy) Credit cooperatives Virginie Pèrotin - Leeds University Business School (UK) Workers' Cooperatives: Good, Sustainable jobs in the Community Jacques Defourny - University of Liège (Belgium) Social cooperatives Discussants: Carlo Borzaga, University of Trento/Euricse (Italy); Panu Kalmi, Vaasa University (Finland); Sonja Novkovic, Saint Mary's University (Canada)

13.30 - 14.30	LUNCH BREAK
14.30 - 16.30	<p>5th Session Exploring both the old and new roles of cooperatives</p> <p>Chair: Yiorgos Alexopoulos, Agricultural University of Athens (Greece)</p> <p>Vladislav Valentinov - Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe, Halle, (Germany) and Ermanno Tortia - University of Trento (Italy) Agricultural cooperatives</p> <p>Pier Angelo Mori - University of Florence (Italy) Users cooperatives</p> <p>Konrad Hagedorn - Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany) Natural Resource Management: The role of joint cooperative institutions and governance</p> <p>Discussants: Silvio Goglio, University of Trento (Italy); Ann Hoyt, University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA); Gian Nicola Francesconi, International Food Policy Research Institute (Senegal).</p>
16.30 - 16.45	COFFEE BREAK
16.45 - 18.00	<p>Panel discussion 2 New knowledge for common strategies around a cooperative development model</p> <p>SPECIAL EVENT MORE INFO > PAGE 17</p>

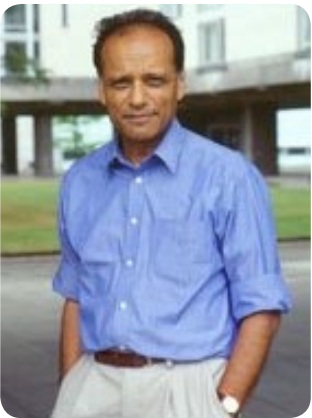
Keynote speakers

ROMANO PRODI



Romano Prodi, the former President of the European Commission and former Prime Minister of Italy. Prodi graduated in law at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan in 1961, with a thesis on the role of Protectionism in the development of Italian industry. He then carried out postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics. In 1963, he became a teaching assistant in the Department of Economics and the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Bologna, subsequently serving as associate professor (1966) and finally (1971–1999) as Professor of Industrial Organisation and Industrial Policy. Prodi has also been a visiting professor at Harvard University and a researcher at the Stanford Research Institute. His research covers mainly competition regulations and the development of small and medium businesses. He is also interested in relations between states and markets, and the dynamics of the different capitalistic models. Prodi has received almost 20 honorary degrees from institutions in Italy, and from the rest of Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa.

PARTHA DASGUPTA



Sir Partha Dasgupta is the Frank Ramsey Emeritus Professor of Economics and past Chairman of the Faculty of Economics and Politics at the University of Cambridge (UK). His research interests have covered: (1) welfare and development economics; (2) the economics of technological change; (3) population, environmental, and resource economics; (4) the theory of games; (5) the economics of undernutrition; and (6) the economics of social capital. Sir Dasgupta is a Fellow at St. John's College, at the Econometric Society, and at the British Academy; foreign Honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics, Honorary member of the American Economic Association, member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and Fellow of the Third World Academy of Sciences. He is a past president of the Royal Economic Society (1998-2001) and the European Economic Association (1999). Professor Dasgupta was named Knight Bachelor by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2002 in her Birthday Honours List for services to economics.

HENRY HANSMANN



Henry Hansmann is the Oscar M. Ruebhausen Professor of Law at Yale Law School (USA). He received both a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. Professor Hansmann is one of the leading law and economics scholars of his generation. He has written about a broad range of subjects, from markets for human organs to artists' moral rights, but his scholarship has focused principally on the law and economics of organizational ownership and design. He has written extensively about non-profit, mutual, and cooperative organizations, the relationship between contract law and organizational law, the historical evolution of organizational forms, and the structure of property rights. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, past recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, and past president of the American Law and Economics Association.

AVNER BEN-NER



Avner Ben-Ner is Professor at the Center for Human Resources and Labor Studies (formerly the Industrial Relations Center) in the Carlson School of Management, and Affiliated Professor in the Law School at the University of Minnesota (USA). His current research focuses on: (1) the determinants and effects of organization design and ownership; (2) the determinants of inclinations to trust, be trustworthy, cooperate and other process-regarding preferences; (3) the effects of different dimensions of individual identity and group diversity on social and economic behaviour; and (4) the place of the non-profit sector in the changing market economy. He has published in the American Economic Review, Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics, Boston Law Review, Economica, Industrial Relations, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization and many others.

Keynote speakers

**VERA
ZAMAGNI**



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Vera Zamagni is Professor of Economic History and European Economic Integration at the University of Bologna (Italy), Department of Economics, and Senior Adjunct Professor of International Economics at the Johns Hopkins University Center in Bologna. She holds a Ph.D. in Economic History at the University of Oxford (UK) and is former Secretary General of the Italian Economic History Society. Professor Zamagni is co-founder (and co-editor, until 2001) of the *European Review of Economic History*, published by Cambridge University Press since 1997. She holds a degree honoris causa from the University of Umeå (Sweden, 2001). Her research expertise includes: European Economic Development; Italian Economic History; European Integration. Her major publications concern the Italian process of economic development since unification up to today, with particular reference to regional imbalances, the distribution of income, standards of living, state intervention and the development of the cooperative movement.

**IAN
MACPHERSON**



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Ian MacPherson, Professor Emeritus of History, is a former Department Chair, Dean of Humanities, and Director of the British Columbia Institute for Cooperative Studies at the University of Victoria (Canada). Most of his work has been concerned with the Canadian and international cooperative movements and with Cooperative Studies as a distinct field of enquiry. An elected cooperative official for over forty years, he chaired the process and wrote the documents whereby the International Cooperative Alliance developed an Identity Statement for the Twenty-First Century at its Manchester Congress, 1995. Professor MacPherson is currently the Chair of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Committee on Cooperative Research. He is the first recipient of the Canadian Cooperative Achievement Award, presented by the Canadian Cooperative Association to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the cooperative movement.

**JOHNSTON
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Johnston Birchall is Professor of Social Policy in the School of Applied Social Science, University of Stirling (UK). He studied at Oxford and earned his Ph.D. at York University (UK). In the last 25 years he has focused his research and writing on member-owned businesses (cooperatives, mutuals and economic associations) and public service agencies that involve users in their governance. In particular, he has analysed: (1) social psychological approaches to what motivates people to participate, (2) globalization and changing ownership structures in large-scale cooperatives, (3) the potential of member-owned businesses in reducing poverty, and (4) the comparative advantages of cooperative banks at a time of economic crisis. Professor Birchall has written several books on these subjects (with translations into five other languages). He has advised the UK government on mutualisation of public services and governance of mutual insurance, and UN agencies on cooperative responses to the global economic crisis.

**STEFANO
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Stefano Zamagni is Professor of Economics at the University of Bologna (Faculty of Economics) and Adjunct Professor of International Political Economy at the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center (Italy). He graduated in Economics at the Catholic University of Sacro Cuore (Milan), and specialized at the University of Oxford (UK) at Linacre College. Before Bologna, he taught at the University of Parma, and at Bocconi University (Milan) as Professor of History of Economic Analysis. Professor Zamagni covered many prestigious academic and administrative assignments, including: Director of the Department of Economics (1985-1993) and Dean of the Faculty of Economics (1993-1996) at the University of Bologna. Since 1997 he is Chairman of the Scientific Committee of AICCON (Italian Association for the Cooperative Culture of Non-Profit Organizations) and in 2007 was appointed President of the Italian Commission for Non-Profit Sector.

**HANS
MÜNKNER**



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Hans Münkner was Professor of Law and Business Organizations, and Cooperative Theory at the University of Marburg (Germany). For more than ten years he served as director of the Institute for Cooperation in Developing Countries (ICDC) and his specific research area are the development of self-help organizations, cooperative legislation and land law. Since 1992 Professor Münkner has been a patron of Plunkett Foundation, before becoming a Fellow in 2009. From 1990 to 1995 he was a member of reference groups on cooperative values and cooperative principles of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). Professor Münkner has been a consultant for UN agencies and international cooperation agencies on revision of cooperative development policy and cooperative legislation in Europe, Africa and Asia. He has produced a glossary of cooperative terms available in several languages and the author of numerous books and articles on development, policy and law of cooperatives, land law, poverty alleviation and alternative forms of economy.

**MICHELE
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Michele Grillo is Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Banking, Financial and Insurance Sciences, Catholic University of Sacro Cuore of Milan (Italy). Between 1997 and 2004 he was a member of the Italian Competition and Market Authority. He is a founding member of the Italian Society of Law and Economics and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Food Services for the Agricultural Market (ISMEA). He was a member of Scientific Council of the Institute for Economic Research on Firms and Growth (CERIS – the main centre of the National Research Council of Italy) which specializes in applied industrial and managerial economics. His research interests include: (1) the theory of oligopoly, (2) anti-trust analysis, (3) the analysis of banking industry, (4) the theory of economic organization, and (5) the economic analysis of democratic institutions.

**DEREK
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Derek C. Jones is the Irma M. And Robert D. Morris Professor of Economics at Hamilton College (USA). He is also: Research Director of the Mondragon Cooperative Academic Community (MCAC), Mondragon University; a Research Fellow of the Davidson Institute (University of Michigan); a Research Fellow at SKOPE, University of Oxford; and a Faculty Fellow and Mentor at the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University. He continues to work in the broad areas of co-operatives and employee ownership with current research focusing on empirical analysis of primary data from the Mondragon co-operatives and a series of econometric case studies mainly of the nature and effects of human resource policies in firms in the USA, China, and Finland.

**GIOVANNI
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Giovanni Ferri is Professor of Economics at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" (Italy), where he is Deputy Rector for International Relations and heads the Department of Economics and Mathematical Methods. He has envisaged and contributed to building the School of Saint Nicholas for Intercultural Dialogue (SNS), a non-profit institution aiming at empowering society with education, knowledge and problem-solving towards sustainability, interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue (www.saintnicholas-school.com). He is a founding member of the Think Tank at the European Association of Co-operative Banks and a member of the Banking Stakeholder Group at the European Banking Authority. Professor Ferri has been Principal Financial Economist at the World Bank and had previously worked at the Bank of Italy, Research Department. His present research interests include: imperfections in financial markets and the transmission of monetary and financial shocks; banking structure and corporate governance; finance-growth linkages; migration flows; and enterprise internationalization.

Keynote speakers

**VIRGINIE
PÉROTIN**



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Virginie Pérotin is Professor of Economics and Director of Research for Economics at the Leeds University Business School (UK). She holds a Ph.D. in Economics at Cornell University (USA). In the past she was a Senior Research Economist at ILO and acted as a consultant to the World Bank, the OECD, the European Commission and the European Parliament on issues of profit-sharing, employee ownership and employee involvement schemes. Professor Pérotin is a member of the Council of International Association for the Economics of Participation and of the editorial board of the Journal of Entrepreneurial and Organizational Diversity. She specialises in comparative empirical research on the effects of firm ownership and governance on performance. Her research interests include: (1) public, private and third sector comparisons; (2) employee ownership and profit sharing, worker cooperatives and social enterprises; (3) firm creation and closure; and (4) human rights at work.

**JACQUES
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Jacques Defourny is Full Professor of Non-Profit and Cooperative Economics, and Comparative Economic Systems at HEC – Management School of the University of Liège (Belgium), where he has also served as a director of the Centre for Social Economy. Professor Defourny holds an M.A. in Economics (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), an M.P.A. (Cornell University, USA) and a Ph.D. in Economics (University of Liège). He is co-founder and former president (2002-2010) of the EMES European Research Network, which gathers 12 university research centres working on social enterprise and the third sector across Europe. His research interests include: (1) conceptual and analytical approaches of the social economy and its various types of organizations (cooperatives, NPOs, mutual societies, social enterprises etc.) in industrialized and developing countries; (2) comparative analysis of social entrepreneurship in Europe, the USA and Eastern Asia; (3) work-integration social enterprises, volunteering, relations between the non-profit sector and public authorities; and (4) quantitative analysis of the third sector.

**VLADISLAV
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Vladislav Valentinov is Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Law of the Martin-Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg (Germany) where, since 2008 he is elected member of the Institute of Cooperative Studies and Schumpeter Fellow of the Volkswagen Foundation ("Third sector organizations in rural development: a theoretical and empirical analysis") at the Institute of Agricultural Development of Central and Eastern Europe (Germany). His research activities concern the following main areas: (1) third sector, (2) social economy, (3) non-profit organizations, (4) institutional economics and (5) rural development. Since 2008, Professor Valentinov is elected member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Institute of Cooperative Studies at the Martin-Luther-University in Halle-Wittenberg.

**PIER ANGELO
MORI**



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Pier Angelo Mori is Professor of Economics at the University of Florence (Italy). His research activities focus on: (1) the economic theory of contracts and organizations; (2) cooperative and non-profit firms; (3) regulation and auctions with special reference to public utilities. Professor Mori is author of many essays published in international scientific journals. His recent publications include a few essays on social enterprises and cooperative organizations operating public utilities and a book on the economics of cooperative enterprises.

**KONRAD
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Konrad Hagedorn is Professor at the Humboldt University of Berlin (Germany), Faculty of Agriculture and Horticulture, Division of Resource Economics at the Department of Agricultural Economics, where he serves as Head of Division. Professor Hagedorn is also Chairman of the board and Executive Director of the Institute of Cooperative Sciences at the same University. His main fields of work include: research, teaching and consulting in Environmental and Resource Economics, Institutional Economics and Political Economy with main focus in Institutions of Sustainability.

Chairs

EACH CONFERENCE SESSION WILL BE INTRODUCED BY A CHAIR, WHO WILL MODERATE THE DISCUSSION BASED ON THE ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, AND CLOSE THE SESSION BY SUMMARISING THE MOST RELEVANT FINDINGS.

YIORGOS ALEXOPOULOS

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LOU HAMMOND KETILSON

Lou Hammond Ketilson is Director of the Centre for the Study of Cooperatives and Professor at the Edwards School of Business, University of Saskatchewan (Canada).
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HAGEN HENRÏ

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JAY MITRA

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Discussants

BASED ON THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS' CONTRIBUTIONS, SELECTED SCHOLARS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO DEVELOP A DISCUSSION PRESENTING THEIR CRITICAL REMARKS AND CONSIDERATIONS, DRAWING ON THEIR THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL RESEARCH FINDINGS.

CARLO BORZAGA

Carlo Borzaga is Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Trento (Italy) and President of Euricse

SARA DEPEDRI

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Special events

SPECIAL
EVENT

> PANEL DISCUSSION 1

The role of cooperatives within the new global geopolitical scenario

What will be the effects of the financial crises? Will Europe be able to overcome the economic crisis by radically transforming its social and economic development model? And what could be the contributions of cooperative enterprises and the social economy in general within the new global geopolitical scenario? These are just some of the questions that we will ask Romano Prodi, Partha Dasgupta, Luigi Marino and Pauline Green. Moderated by: Alberto Faustini, director of Trentino and Alto Adige daily papers.

Event schedule: The event will be held on Thursday March 15th at 11:30

> COCKTAIL WITH THE AUTHOR

The event will take place just before the gala dinner on two boats for a half-hour cruise on the Venice lagoon. The participants will have a chance to meet keynote speakers and discuss some of the conference issues in an informal atmosphere. The gala dinner will take place in the famous Locanda Cipriani.

Event schedule: The cocktail will be held on Thursday, March 15th at 18.30

> PANEL DISCUSSION 2

New knowledge for common strategies around a cooperative development model

The panel discussion that will close the Conference will be dedicated to initiatives undertaken by the cooperative movement around stakeholder involvement, particularly institutional stakeholders such as the public sector and capitalistic enterprises. The Conference represents an opportunity to prompt new knowledge creation in order to promote the specificities and the contributions to a new development model promoted by cooperatives. The main findings of the Conference will help identify common strategies for development utilized around the world by cooperatives and their representative organizations.

Event schedule: The event will be held on Friday March 16th at 16.30.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Promoters & partners



Euricse

European Research Institute
on Cooperative and Social Enterprises

Euricse is a research centre focused on co-operative and social enterprises located in Italy and international in scope. Euricse's mission is to promote knowledge development and innovation in the field of co-operatives, social enterprises and other nonprofit organizations engaged in the

production of goods and services. The Institute aims to deepen the understanding of these types of organizations and their impact on economic and social development, furthering their growth and assisting them to work more effectively. Through activities directed toward and in partnership with

both the scholarly community and practitioners, including primarily theoretical and applied research and training, we address issues of national and international interest to this sector, favouring openness and collaboration.



The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-governmental organisation, which has as its mission to unite, represent and serve co-operatives worldwide. It exists to provide an effective and efficient global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and co-ordinated action for and about co-operatives. ICA was established by co-operatives in 1895. With

a global office base in Geneva, the ICA currently has 267 members active in all sectors of the economy in almost 100 countries representing one billion people worldwide. In 1946 the ICA became one of the first three non-governmental organisations to be accorded "consultative status" with the United Nations.



The Alliance of the Italian Cooperatives is the national coordination established in Rome on 27 January 2011 by the main representative organisations of the Italian cooperatives: Agci, Confcooperative and Legacoop. The Alliance represents over 90% of the Italian cooperatives in terms of employees (1,200,000) and turnover (127 billion Euros), with 43,000 co-operative enterprises

and over 12 million individual members. The Alliance preserves the identity and the autonomy of the three Organisations. It was established to strengthen member cooperatives through the coordination of representation activities vis-à-vis Government, Parliament, European and international institutions and social actors.

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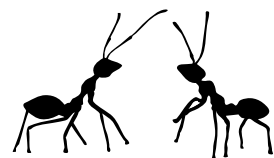
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PROMOTING
THE UNDERSTANDING
OF COOPERATIVES
FOR A BETTER WORLD

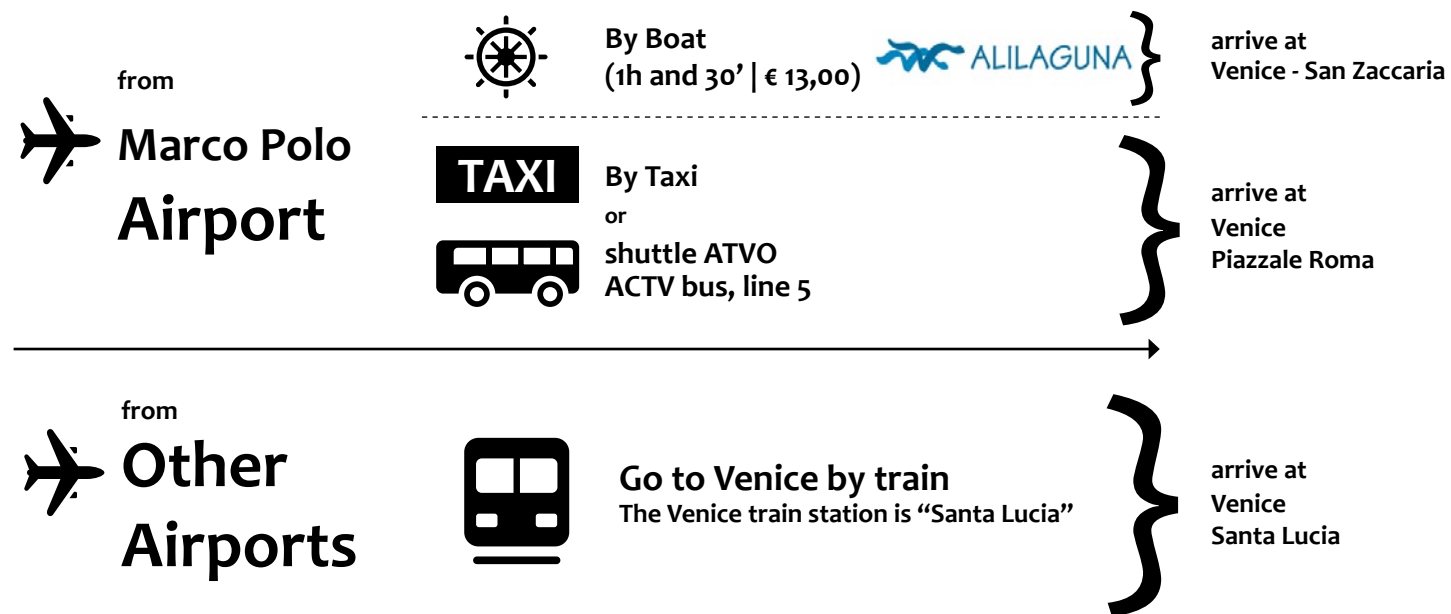


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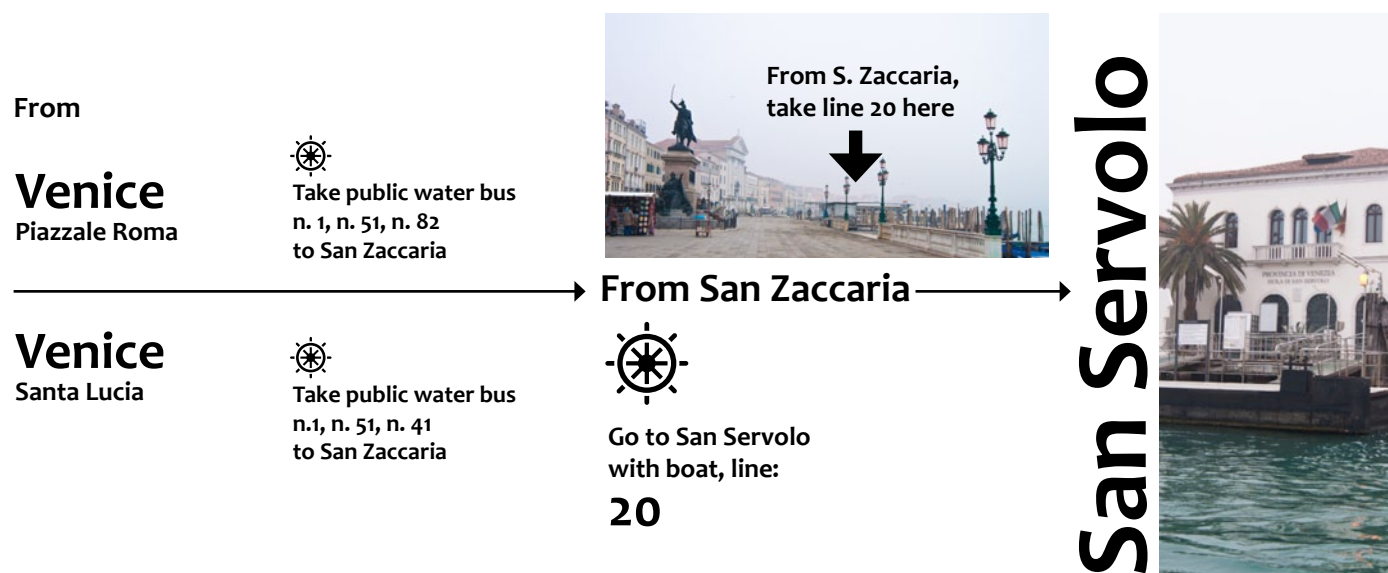
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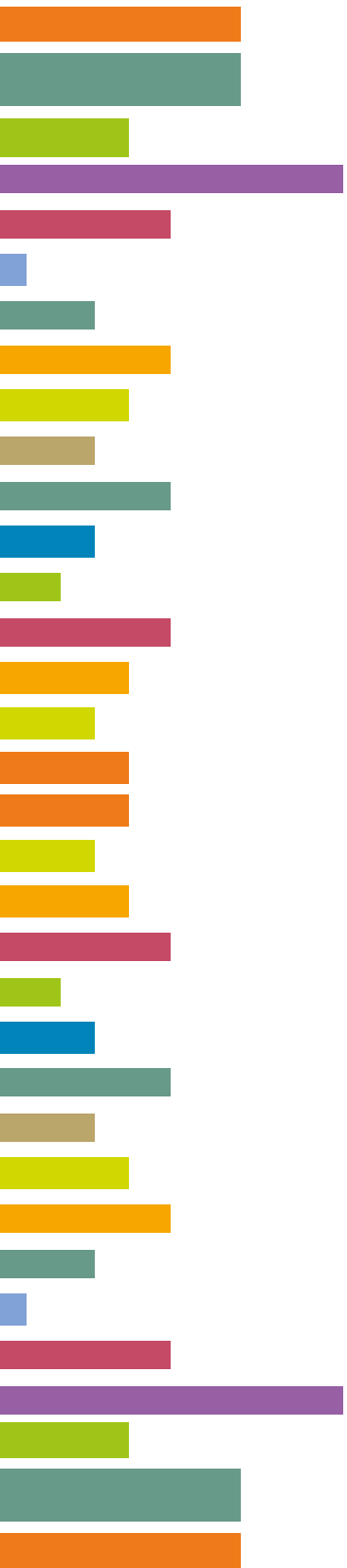
Go to Venice



2

From Venice to San Servolo by Public water bus





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