

CALL FOR PAPERS - The Third Sector, the State and the Market: challenges and opportunities in an era of austerity

Symposium - Tuesday 28 October 2014

**Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research
Sheffield Hallam University, UK**

The relationship between the third sector and the state is in a process of change, and the current focus on austerity in economic policy is playing its part in shaping the change process. The increasing focus, by central government, on 'market-based solutions to social problems' (Eikenberry, 2009, p.585), is leading some commentators to suggest that third sector organisations (TSOs), including social enterprises, voluntary sector organisations and not-for-profits, are becoming tools of the state and the market.

This symposium is interested in investigating the challenges and opportunities arising from the current government's policy towards the third sector, such as those relating to commissioning arrangements and methods of impact measurement (Arvidson *et al*, 2013; Dayson, 2012). More broadly the symposium will consider how those in the third sector understand their own role in relation to the state and the market and how organisations may be affected by pressures to adopt 'mainstream business practices' (Cameron, 2010, p.1). Both practitioners and academics play an important role in helping to develop our understanding of the relationship between third sector, the state, and the market (see Novkovic, 2012; Puusa, 2013; Healy, 2008), and therefore the symposium invites papers from both practitioners and academics who have an interest in these broad and current issues.

Within this framework we invite proposals for papers (10 or 20 minutes) from academics, early career researchers (including PhD students) and practitioners that reflect and critically interrogate, without being limited to, the following:

- Internal issues impacting on TSO practice and performance including; leadership, accountability, governance, finance, leadership, strategic planning, evaluation and performance management.
- The ways in which TSOs engage and interact with their environment including; relationships with the state, engagement in collaboration or competition, interactions with the private sector and the market economy.
- The ways in which academics and researchers investigate, frame and measure the impact of TSOs.

Papers can take the form of:

Reviews of recent research that contribute to theory building about the third sector.

- Reflections on policy and practice, including those that seek to inform ongoing policy development and the work of practitioners.
- Reflections on methodology and research strategies employed in third sector studies.

Please submit a 500 word proposal including your name, the name of your institution or organisation, and your contact email and phone number to:

Emma Smith - e.smith@shu.ac.uk

Closing date for proposals: Thursday 21st August 2014

Contributors will have the opportunity to submit their symposium papers to People, Place and Policy (PPP), for publication in a special issue or section (subject to peer review). PPP is an open access journal that provides a forum for debate about how policy shapes the risks, opportunities and constraints that face people and places in contemporary society. It aims to encourage dialogue between academics, policy-makers and practitioners charged with responding to societal challenges. Submissions are subject to peer review and are usually 3,000-5,000 words in length. For more information visit the [PPP website](#).

For further enquiries about the symposium or for an informal discussion about the event, please contact Tom Archer (thomas.archer@student.shu.ac.uk), Ellen Bennett (E.Bennett@shu.ac.uk) or Kiri Langmead (kiri.langmead@student.shu.ac.uk).