

Editorial

First of all, I'd like to apologise to UKSCS members and *Journal* subscribers for the delay in publication of several issues of the *Journal* and to thank you for your patience. It's been a difficult couple of years for the *Journal* and this has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but I'm pleased to say we are in a position to address our backlog and also to look forward to some exciting issues in the future. Our first issue for 2021 will be the long-awaited special themed issue from Ireland. We're also pleased to have an issue in train from the Canadian Association for Studies in Co-operation as well as calls for papers for special theme journals.

For members and subscribers, we are also including a special issue 'thank you' — the 2021 reissue of the first *Society of Co-operative Studies Bulletin*. This is part of our ongoing project to make all past issues available on our website, and for those who wish to purchase hard copy in newly formatted print versions. We have nearly all of the *Bulletin* and *Journal* articles available as PDFs although editions before 2004 are scanned copies. In these instances, we are extracting the text from the scanned version and recreating a new PDF version, so this is taking some time, but the plan is to make them all available over the next year. We are also producing a searchable listing of all issues, which will be available on the *Journal* webpages once completed in 2021.

Now to the current issue!

The first paper from Rory Ridley-Duff considers the relationship between 'new co-operativism' as proposed by Vieta (2010) and social innovation, drawing also on a paper by Conaty and Bollier (2015) which distinguishes between 'old' and 'new' forms of co-operativism. Ridley-Duff sets out the dimensions that characterise new co-operativism and asks two related questions: whether this does point to a progressive form of social innovation or is it more an "invitation to rediscover lost characteristics" (p. 5). In essence, is it new? While some of the organisational forms and contexts for co-operation may be 'new', the underlying conditions of co-operation and co-operative values and principles are still present. Looking at co-operation as social innovation helps to consider the social rather than technical aspects of innovation and Ridley-Duff usefully provides an adapted typology of innovation to consider the different ways social change might be enacted through, for example social entrepreneurship, social intrapreneurship, and social extrapreneurship. Additionally, he offers examples of organisations that typify each type of "preneurship" in practice, and proceeds to look at new co-operativism through the lens of each.

As Ridley-Duff points out, innovation is not new in the history of co-operativism and co-operatives. Over time, principles of co-operation have been adapted, merged, or abandoned in response to co-operative practice. Equally, co-operative action has been instigated in opposition to existing or perceived conditions — increasing commodification of health and social care; precarious work, social economic and environmental crises. Both in the past and currently, these emerged organisations have occurred both within and without the 'formal' co-operative movement. And for some, this will raise aspects of the ongoing debate between 'old' and 'new' and the distinctions between 'genuine' or 'true' co-operatives and, by exclusion, those organisations not deemed 'true' or 'genuine'.

While Ridley-Duff concludes that many of the arguments for and characteristics of new co-operativism are not new, there are key elements that can act as a springboard for further discussion and, in Vieta's words, provide "a set of future-oriented possibilities" (2010, p.4) — for example focus on worker ownership and self-management, but also on multistakeholder co-operatives and organisations that self-identify as co-operatives (i.e., adhere to co-operative values and principles, but do not necessarily take the legal forms of 'co-operative'). As Ridley-Duff points out, this article is a precursor to a book project that will explore 'old' and/ to 'new' co-operativism. The route to this new publication will also include a special themed

edition of the *Journal* and a series of seminars (organised by UKSCS in partnership with EMES International Research Network, European Research Institute for Co-operative and Social Enterprise and others) will provide opportunities for constructive dialogue and critique around some of the many faces of co-operation and ‘new’ and ‘open’ co-operativism.

The first short paper focuses on co-operative higher education (CHE). Here, Noble and Ross detail some of the thinking behind conceptualising CHE as a bundle of pedagogical approaches, processes, values and principles. Underpinning this discussion, or to reflect Noble and Ross’s metaphor, intertwined therein are three key themes: “how we learn and make knowledge(s), what we learn, and where we learn” and the notion of “co-operatives as sites of embodied learning” (pp. 25 and 26). The authors then consider the how, what, and where in more detail. In particular they bring out the need for active learning, co-design and co-production of learning that supports criticality both in content and approach, and learning as situated in diverse experiences, locations and spaces as well as the social and relational aspects of learning co-operatively. While they suggest more research is needed, Noble and Ross point to the potential for “creating new co-operative knowledge, learning how to be co-operators and how to enact co-operation” (p. 28).

The second short paper from Michael Statham takes the reader on a trip to North Wales; to a derelict coastal harbour that houses the remains of the Co-operative Granite Quarries Limited and the Aberdaron Co-operative Housing Society. Statham provides a fascinating historical overview not only of the rise and demise of the quarries and housing society but also the key people involved: Charles Sheridan Jones, Cecil Chesterton (younger brother of G. K.), W. Walter Crotch, Edwin J. Fletcher, Sidney Stranks, and William Stainton. Statham draws on a range of historical sources: news articles including by Crotch and Ada Elizabeth Jones (sister of C. S. Jones and married to C. E. Chesterton who wrote under the pseudonym of John Keith Prothero), company archive materials, and court reports.

To keep with an historical theme, the final contributions to this issue are book reviews featuring two historical analyses of significant parts of the co-operative movement. While they overlap in some of the time period covered, the first (Webster, 2019) explores the international supply chain management of the English and Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Societies (1863-2018). The second (Hilson, 2018) covers the period 1860 to 1939 and while there are some similar points of reference between the two, Hilson’s attention is on international relations and specifically the International Co-operative Alliance and the Nordic countries over time.

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References

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