



Ca' Foscari
University
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**VENICE SCHOOL
OF MANAGEMENT**

VSM Lectures

San Giobbe Economic Campus, Venice



16th Apr | Aula Saraceno | h.12.30

Also online: <https://unive.zoom.us/j/2416195897>

Trends in Social Entrepreneurship Research: Where the Field Has Been and Where It's Going

Sophie Bacq - IMD Business School

Social entrepreneurship has evolved from a niche academic topic to a mainstream focus in business scholarship and practice. This presentation traces the intellectual journey of social entrepreneurship research over the past two decades, examining conceptual developments across individual, organizational, and civic levels of analysis. While foundational work established definitional clarity and identified key success drivers, emerging scholarship increasingly recognizes that meaningful social impact emerges through collective action and community engagement. The field is now shifting toward examining how entrepreneurial ventures, communities, and support systems collaborate to create civic wealth—encompassing economic, social, and communal wealth creation. Drawing on recent research and global trends, this session highlights critical gaps in our understanding of community dynamics, the role of collective action in addressing societal challenges, and the need for more interdisciplinary approaches. With approximately 10 million social enterprises globally generating \$2 trillion in annual revenue, understanding how to strengthen these collaborative ecosystems becomes essential for advancing sustainable development.

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