

**Title: Innovation Ecosystems for Emergencies**

**Speaker: Dr. Sreevas Sahasranamam, University of Strathclyde Glasgow**

**Area: Entrepreneurship**

**Date: 06.01.2023, Venue: P21 @ 11.30AM**

**Abstract:**

In this paper, we examine what makes an innovation ecosystem responsive during emergencies. We studied the innovation ecosystem within Kerala (India) during emergencies that led to two emergency-oriented innovations, namely KeralaRescue (developed for Kerala Floods 2018) and CoronaSafe (developed for COVID-19), drawing on insights from strategic agility and institutional theory literature. We identified the enactment of three meta-capabilities of agility by the innovation ecosystem, which made it responsive during the emergencies, namely, eco-centric strategic sensitivity, eco-centric resource fluidity and eco-centric collective commitment. Further, we found that cognitive, structural and symbolic institutional arrangements facilitated the enactment of these eco-centric strategic agility meta-capabilities within the innovation ecosystem during the emergency. Our paper advances theory on innovation ecosystems and strategic agility, and generates implications for innovators and policymakers, developing solutions for COVID-19 and other emergencies.

**Speaker Profile:**



I am a Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Hunter Centre for Entrepreneurship. My research predominantly focuses on understanding the strategic and ecosystem enablers of innovations/start-ups tackling UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). I am co-lead for the doctoral training center in Socially Progressive Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Strathclyde and co-lead of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) UK.

My research on ecosystems and social entrepreneurship has been published in leading management journals including Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Journal of World Business, and British Journal of Management. I also regularly write blogs for the World Economic Forum and was shortlisted for the Financial Times - McKinsey Bracken Bowen Prize in 2018. I am a co-editor for the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research (an ABS 3 ranking journal).

I am a co-creator of an open social movement - [SDGZero](#) - that envisions creating bottom-up approaches to solving SDG challenges by enabling local communities. I am also a board member and one of the Directors of [Community Enterprise in Scotland](#) (CEIS), the UK's largest and most experienced social enterprise support agency.

I completed my Ph.D. at the Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. This research, which was supported by Strategic Management Society's (SMS) Strategic Research Foundation (SRF) dissertation fellowship, explored the role of the institutional context in social entrepreneurship. Before joining Strathclyde, I was a post-doctoral visiting research fellow at the University of Liverpool Management School.

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