

ACoRN

Australian Coop Research Network



UTS Centre for Business and Social Innovation

Presenting on behalf of the UTS Co-op Research Network team
Professor Emmanuel Josserand and Professor Olivera Marjanovic

Our (Australian Universities') Current Coop Research & Teaching Landscape

After many years of our collective and individual efforts

- Great examples of coop research
- Great examples of coop-related teaching
- New research groups being formed within and across universities
- Growing industry/university collaboration
- New opportunities for exciting applied research
- New topics/research challenges
- Examples of ARC-funded research
- New opportunities for ARC and other funding
- Growing significance of our collective research
- New opportunities for new types of coops
- New opportunities created by global megatrends and new challenges faced by our society (e.g. Future of Work; Data & analytics; Proliferation of AI/Big data/predictive algorithms; The rise of business ecosystems etc.)

Our (Australian Universities') Current Coop Research & Teaching Landscape

However...

- Great examples of coop research everywhere – Research projects conducted in isolation
- Great examples of coop-related teaching – Offered by few universities
- New groups being formed – The existing “know-how” often underutilised
- Growing industry/university collaboration – New opportunities pursued by individual universities
- New opportunities for exciting applied research – Dispersed across different academic disciplines
- New topics/research challenges – The need for multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary research
- Examples of ARC-funded research – Still very rare
- New opportunities for ARC and other funding – Limited, if pursued by individual groups and universities
- Growing significance of our collective research – The need for a new FOR code
- New opportunities for new types of coops – The rise of fake “coops”; the need to inform, educate and influence through impactful research and teaching
- New opportunities created by global megatrends and new challenges faced by our society (e.g. Future of Work; Data & analytics; Proliferation of AI/Big data/predictive algorithms; The rise of business ecosystems etc.) – The pressing need for greater collaboration and co-creation among universities and the Co-op sector

Some inspirational examples

- Canadian Co-op Research network

Connect to Canadian co-operative researchers and research from around the world

<http://ccrn.coop>

- The **European System of Cooperative Research Networks in Agriculture (ESCORENA)** is a web-based networking and [knowledge sharing](#) platform for people around the world.

<http://www.escorena.net>

- European Research Center for Information Systems (ERCIS) – The IS Research Network

<https://www.ercis.org/home>

Welcome to ACoRN

From little things, big things grow - Kev Carmody, Paul Kelly

ACoRN is the Australian Co-operative Research Network. We are a network of researchers from across Australian universities, working in a variety of disciplines. Our key focus is to apply our multidisciplinary knowledge to researching and supporting co-operative organisations.





<http://uts.edu.au/cbsi/acorn>

[About Us Menu Landing Page](#)

ACoRN Mission and Vision

Our vision is to develop a gateway between researchers and practitioners involved in co-operative organisations, to allow the exchange of ideas, research, development, and collaboration.

Our Mission

ACoRNs current focus is to:

- connect Australian co-operative researchers together
- facilitate co-operative research
- inform general public, policymakers, and practitioners through impactful research
- promote researcher and practitioner collaboration

[About Co-operatives Menu Page](#)

What is a Co-operative?

Co-operatives are member-owned organisations where the benefits are developed by, and distributed between, the members equally on the basis of use. These organisations are democratically controlled by, and for, their members to realise common socio-economic needs and goals. The members of a co-op can include people, businesses, employees or other community stakeholders. The size of a co-op can range from as few as three, to thousands of members.

By working together, the members have better buying power and share the costs of running the co-op. They also share the burden during hard times, as well as the benefits during good times. Thus, co-ops are more resilient in economic downturns or in impoverished communities. Where other business may shut down or lay-off workers during the difficult times, co-ops work together to develop solutions that keep them operating.

They are an alternative approach to investor-owned businesses who prioritise returns of the external stakeholders. Because they are democratically owned, co-ops keep money and jobs in their communities. They also provide achievable and practical solutions to many economic, environmental, and social problems within their community.

Research Projects

Several research projects focused on co-operatives are currently under way. If you have a research project, or are looking for researchers for collaboration, please contact us at acorn@uts.edu.au.

Cooperatives in Australia: Growth, Decline, Revival

ARC-DP Grant

Chief Investigators: Prof Greg Patmore, Prof Olivera Marjanovic, A/Prof Nikki Balnave

Business and Social Innovation in the Co-op Sector

Chief Investigator: Prof Emmanuel Josserand

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Research Resources

Here are a list of organisations, journals and websites that provide information on co-operatives. If you have a resource that would be helpful, please contact us at acorn@uts.edu.au to discuss inclusion.

Websites

Business Council of Cooperatives and Mutuals – The Voice of Australian Co-ops and Mutuals

Canadian Association for Studies in Cooperations

Canadian Co-operative Research Network (CCRN) – provides access to 1800 publications on co-operatives from around the world

Research Reports

BCCM's Collection of Research Reports

Australian Collaborative Library

Journals

Journal of Co-operative Studies

International Journal of Community and Cooperative Studies

Journal of Cooperative Organization and Management

Other journals and periodicals

ACoRN Events Menu Landing Page

Events

We have several events in the network that take place on a regular basis. This ensures that all members of the network are involved in, and know about, ongoing projects, ideas, workshops, and conferences. Here we provide information on upcoming and past events. If you have events that are not included here, please send them to acorn@uts.edu.au to be added.

CBSI Network UTS Members meeting - UTS - 21st March 2019

Australian Mutuals History – Our Mutual History Saved and Shared – Co-operatives Research Group - University of Sydney Business School – 1-2pm 29th March 2019 – [click here for more details and registration.](#)

Co-operative Practitioners

ACoRN is foremost a research network. However, we believe that good research needs to be both relevant to, and should involve, practitioners. We aim to work with practitioners who run, work with, are developing, or involved in co-operatives with Australia.

This site provides co-operative practitioners with links to some of the key resources on setting up and running a co-operative. However, our key focus is to connect co-ops with the current research that is being developed on co-operatives here in Australia, and internationally. Providing access to research results, such as working papers and academic publications, ensures the continuous flow of information.

We also aim for this site to act as a portal to connect co-ops and researchers together. Researchers, and particularly student researchers, are always looking for organisations willing to help participate in research. We want to test new approaches and theories. Often research is hampered because of the focus on shareholder profit and so many organisations are unwilling to participate. With their principles on education, training, and information and concern for community, co-ops provide a more willing attitude to collaborating in research.

By participating in research projects, co-operative practitioners can help influence research topics at an early stage, so the results have a more direct impact. This can help in developing research that provides positive and practical approaches for co-operatives.

If you'd like to know more about current research or get involved in research projects, please contact us at acorn@uts.edu.au to discuss opportunities.



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Co-operative Resources

Several sources are available to assist in establishing and running co-operatives. You can also visit our [Research Resources page](#) for further information and journal articles.

[ARC Linkage Projects](#)

[Industrial Transformation Research Hubs](#)

[Industrial Training Centres](#)

[Tech Vouchers – supporting businesses in NSW](#)