



Venice
International
University

Venice International University
VIU Summer School | Organizing for Sustainable Futures:
Micro and Macro-institutional Conditions of Transformation

June 27-30, 2022

Sunday, June 26

18:00 – 19:30 Welcome Cocktail

Monday, June 27

9:30 – 11:00 **Guido Palazzo**, HEC Lausanne

Storytelling and societal change

This session will discuss the impact on language, discourse and storytelling on human behaviour. How does the way we make sense of the world influence ethical and unethical decisions and how can we use the insights on the narrativity of human existence as a leverage for societal change?

Break

11:15 – 12:30 **Students' Presentation** and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 **Julie Battilana**, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School/ **Tiziana Casciaro**, Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto (online)

Keynote: Confronting today's multidimensional crisis: Leveraging power to transform our social and economic systems

Today, we face not only a public health crisis but also an economic and social crisis characterized by rising inequalities, on the backdrop of a worsening environmental crisis. This multidimensional crisis is fundamentally a crisis of power concentration. This moment requires changemakers develop a deeper understanding of the innerworkings of power, not only to understand how we have reached this point, but also because power is an essential ingredient for effecting change. This talk will dive into what changemakers must know about power and must do with it to confront the multidimensional crisis, fight the massive concentration of power, and change our social and economic systems to make them fairer, healthier, and greener. Leaning on Battilana and Casciaro's book—*Power, For All* (Simon & Schuster, 2021)—this session will cover the fundamentals of power, debunk common (and dangerous!) misconceptions about power, and reveal the importance of power sharing and accountability to change the systems that perpetuate inequality and environmental destruction to protect our collective future.

16:15 – 17:30 **Students' Presentation** and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

Tuesday, June 28

9:30 – 11:00 **Juliane Reinecke**, King's Business School

Taming Wicked Problems? Understanding the Evolution of Transnational Governance and Social Movement Dynamics

This session will critically examine the role of private power in developing transnational governance solutions to wicked problems. Wicked problems are large scale social challenges caught in causal webs of interlinking variables spanning national boundaries that complicate both their diagnosis and prognosis, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, deforestation or conflict in global supply chains. To do so, we will focus on the political dynamics of how governance initiatives emerge and evolve out of conflicts between social movement actors and corporations. How do these dynamics shape definitions of who is responsible and what is sustainable or valuable? Given the multiplicity of private regulatory regimes, does the competition of social movement-led and industry-led initiatives lead to a race to the bottom or race to the top? Finally, we will discuss the implications of these types of governance dynamics to tame wicked problem.

Break

11:15 – 12:30 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project with all available faculty

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 **Elisa Giuliani**, University of Pisa

International business and human rights

This session will discuss the link between business and human rights. Up to 10 years ago, the word "human rights" was rarely associated with "business", while now human rights are becoming a core concept in the business & sustainability scholarship and practice. This lecture provides an overview of the theoretical lenses through which the business and human rights phenomenon can be understood and predicted. We will review theories applied in the past to explain criminal or corrupt behaviour at the organizational level and discuss the complex predictability scenarios of business-related human rights harm.

Break

16:15 – 17:30 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

Late afternoon (17:30): **Giovanni Favero**, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Itinerant workshop

Walking through the city, we will discuss how Venice became Venice during the 20th century. The focus will be on the macro and micro conditions of the modern transformation in the perception of the historical urban centre into "a city like no other" to be preserved as it is. The tour will start from the San Giobbe Economics campus of Ca' Foscari University, formerly a slaughterhouse, and will end at Zattere with the view of an example of industrial architecture: the Stucky Mills. We will visit the Frari Church and the burial of Giuseppe Volpi, the founder of Porto Marghera. Together with a final glimpse to the last surviving squero building gondolas at San Trovaso, this provides a telling image of the complex relationship with tradition of modern Venice.

Wednesday, June 29

9:30 – 11:00 **Francesco Zirpoli**, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Irresponsible decision making in the network firm

This session will give particular attention to the implication of the fact that decision makers are often "multiply embedded" in organizations, in places, in informal social networks, in more formal associations, and so on. Interdependent decisions and actions



of multiple agents acting in a distributed environment are profoundly altering both decision-making and the strategy implementation processes in ways that demand some rethinking of the governance and management conceptual toolkit. Sociological and organization theories, including theories of organizational politics, social movements, relational embedding and cognitive framing will be presented, discussed and applied to understand the conditions under which global firms and the network of their collaborators confront with environmental, social and governance decisions.



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Break

11:15 – 12:30 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 **Christine Vallaster**, University of Applied Sciences in Salzburg
Circular Economy: A path towards real sustainability rather than greenwashing?

Break

16:15 – 17:30 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

Thursday, June 30

9:30 – 11:00 **Francesco Rullani**, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

For the good and for the bad: individual and organizational perspectives on networks with hybrid purposes

In this session we will focus on hybrid organizations, i.e., organizations striving to realize a positive social impact while generating economic gains at the same time. We will use the case of social cooperatives to show how networks of hybrid organizations may "lose sight" of their social goals in favor of the economic ones, and how they may gain them back by interacting within their network. We will also zoom-in to the individual level and see how a hidden Mafia-like association operated to configure the cooperative network pro domo sua. In doing this, our aim is to capture the micro-level mechanisms allowing "bad seeds" to flourish within a field characterized by "good deeds".

More in detail, the first point is analyzed conceiving the network of Italian cooperatives as an 'institutional field' hit by a 'stigmatizing event' that exposed their progressive departure from social goals in favor of economic goals. We analyze how cooperatives operated as a whole and as individual organizations to restore the centrality of social impact via a process of joint re-conceptualization and re-operationalization of their original values. The second point looks at how hidden criminal actors operating among cooperatives maneuvered their network ties to fight against the network configuration established by the new Mayor of the city of Rome, highlighting those structures that were put in place during the battle, and assessing their effectiveness.

Break

11:15 – 12:30 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 Students' Presentation and discussion of research project (all available faculty)

Students' Presentation and discussion of research project format: 35/40 minutes per student: 20 minutes presentation and 15 minutes discussion. No power point.