

THE BRIDGE

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL CAPITAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Esteemed Members and Colleagues

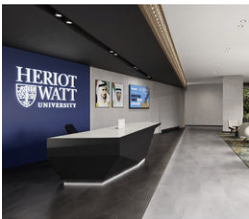
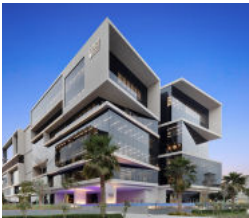
Welcome to the latest edition of The Bridge, the newsletter of the International Social Capital Association (ISCA). This edition reflects the depth of our shared inquiry and the growing reach of our global community of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. The Bridge serves as a space to connect ideas, people, and practice, bringing together research, debate, and innovation in social capital.

In the pages that follow, you will find a curated selection of insights, updates, and recent accomplishments from across the ISCA network. These contributions highlight both theoretical advances and practical applications of social capital in diverse contexts. We hope this edition informs, inspires, and encourages continued dialogue and engagement within our community.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Tristan Claridge



The first half of 2026 has already been a significant period for the International Social Capital Association, marked most notably by the successful delivery of Social Capital 2026. Although the evolving regional situation meant we ultimately moved the conference fully online, the event still brought together an extraordinary international community of researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and students from across the world. The quality and diversity of presentations reflected the continued growth and maturation of the field, and I want to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and energy to making the conference such a success.

One of the most encouraging outcomes of the conference was the strong sense of momentum and connection across disciplines and regions. Social capital continues to prove itself as a concept that bridges fields, sectors, and perspectives, and the discussions throughout the conference highlighted both the enduring foundations of the field and the many emerging directions for future work.

We are already looking ahead to Social Capital 2027, which is scheduled for 18–20 March 2027. Our intention remains to hold the conference in Dubai, with online participation options available for those unable to travel. At the same time, we recognise the importance of certainty and accessibility for our community, so we will make decisions about the conference format early and decisively to ensure the best possible experience for participants. We are also very pleased to welcome Michael Woolcock to the conference steering committee. Michael's longstanding contributions to the field and his support for interdisciplinary engagement will be a tremendous asset as we continue to develop the conference and broader ISCA activities.

Another exciting development has been the restart of the ISCA webinar series. The response to the renewed series has been very encouraging, with strong participation from across multiple regions and disciplines. We recently undertook an evaluation of the webinar program to better understand its value to participants and how we can continue improving it. Findings suggest that members particularly value the diversity of perspectives, opportunities for international connection, and the accessibility of ongoing engagement between conferences. We have also heard strong interest in more interactive and participatory formats, and we are already responding to this feedback with several new initiatives currently in development. We expect to make further announcements soon and will also share a more complete overview of the evaluation findings and future plans in the coming months.

As always, I want to thank our members, volunteers, presenters, reviewers, and supporters for helping to build this growing international community. ISCA exists because of the willingness of people from many backgrounds and disciplines to contribute their expertise and collaborate in advancing understanding of social capital and its applications. I look forward to what we will continue building together.

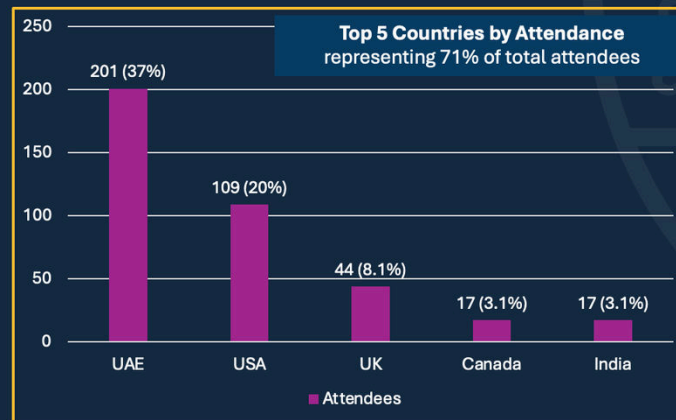
Tristan Claridge

President, International Social Capital Association

544 Attendees	54 countries represented	258 Sessions	199 Speakers	7 Keynotes	8 Sponsors	12 HWUD Student Support Volunteers
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Feedback Summary:

- 100% would recommend the conference
- 92% rated organisation of the conference as “Very or Extremely High”


Keynotes:

1. Robert Putnam
2. Raj Chetty
3. Beate Völker
4. Michael Woolcock
5. David Krackhardt
6. Martin Everett
7. Frances Kraft & Shamichael Hallman

ENERGY. IDEAS. GLOBAL IMPACT. ISCA 2026 EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS

The Social Capital 2026 Virtual Conference, hosted by Heriot-Watt University in Dubai, was nothing short of dynamic. With **544 attendees and 199 speakers**, this wasn't just a conference, it was a global exchange of bold ideas, fresh perspectives, and meaningful connections.

From the very first session, the tone was set: engaging, collaborative, and forward-moving. The conversations didn't sit at the surface, they challenged assumptions, pushed boundaries, and invited us to rethink how social capital truly operates in today's complex world.

And the keynote speakers? Exceptional. Thought leaders like **Robert D. Putnam, Raj Chetty**, and **Michael Woolcock** brought powerful insights that connected research to real-world impact reminding us that trust, networks, and opportunity are not just concepts, they are catalysts for change.

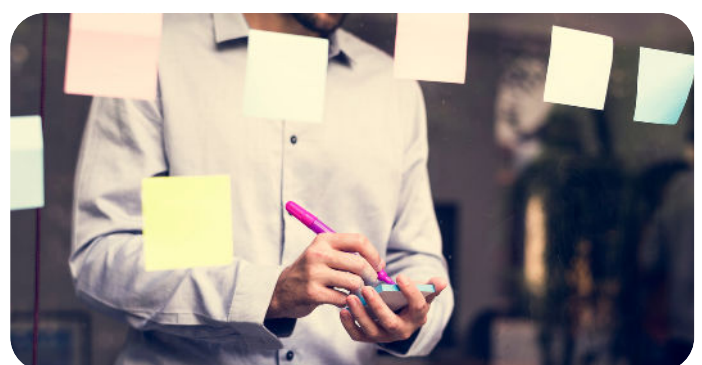
What made this conference especially exciting was the breadth of ideas across the 12 thematic streams. Whether the focus was economic mobility, civic engagement, or social networks, each session added a new layer to how we understand and apply social capital across disciplines and industries.

But beyond the numbers and the names, what truly stood out was the energy of the community. Attendees were not passive listeners, they were active contributors. The questions were sharp. The dialogue was rich. The commitment to advancing the field was undeniable.

For those of us who live at the intersection of research and practice, ISCA 2026 delivered something powerful: ideas we can actually use. The kind that inform policy, shape organizations, and drive equitable outcomes.

And if this is what a virtual experience can produce, the anticipation for 2027 is already building.

Final thought: When brilliant minds from around the world come together with intention, the result isn't just conversation, it's momentum. Let's keep it going!



TOWARDS THE MARCH 18-20, 2027 ISCA CONFERENCE- JOIN US!

Building on the success of Social Capital 2026—with 500+ attendees and speakers like Bob Putnam, Raj Chetty, Beate Voelker, and Michael Woolcock—we're thrilled to announce the next edition. The Social Capital 2027 conference will take place March 18-20, 2027.

Mark your calendar for Social Capital 2027 and express your interest today at our special website:

<https://www.socialcapital2027.com/>



SOCIAL CAPITAL 2027

ISCA WEBINAR SERIES

Since April 2020, our webinar series has included presentations by prominent scholars and practitioners, including Prof Robert Putnam, Prof Eric Uslaner, Prof Lindon Robison, Prof Daniel Aldrich and many more.

This series provides a platform for people to share their research or their practical applications of social capital with an international audience.

You can click [here](#) to submit a proposal to present in the ISCA Webinar Series. All our webinars are FREE to attend.

GET INVOLVED WITH OUR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Visit the [ISCA events page](https://www.intsocialcapital.org/events/) for Interest Group schedules and access. <https://www.intsocialcapital.org/events/>

- Disaster Resilience with Jeff Donaldson. They hosted their first event: Safety, Trust & Communication In Emergencies: Disability In Crisis. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln2DL6Rim_U
- Chilean Social Capital Circle hosted events (in Spanish) can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cFng8cO38A> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vqgQyhcd3g>
- ISCA Webinar Series with Tristan Claridge
- Social Capital Measurement with Eunice Park
- Social Capital Paradigm with Tristan Claridge
- Research Design and Mentoring with Beverly Sloan

UPCOMING WEBINARS AND FREE WORKSHOPS

<https://www.intsocialcapital.org/events/>

Social Capital Research Design and Methods

June 25, June 30, Aug 27, September 24, October 29

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/533895213957>

Chilean Social Capital Circle presents: Carlos Vignolo (PISCT)

June 10 @ 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm SMT

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/chilean-social-capital-circle-presents-carlos-vignolo-pisct-tickets-1990003278375>

Building Social Capital Through Relationship-Based Microschooling: Dr. Crystal Coins

June 24 @ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm EDT

<https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/building-social-capital-through-relationship-based-microschooling-tickets-1990540420983>

While some upcoming events are listed here, please do check back frequently at our upcoming events links that are always posted here:

<https://www.intsocialcapital.org/events/>

RECENT WEBINARS

Our recent webinars have brought together leading scholars and practitioners from around the world to explore new perspectives on social capital, including its theory, measurement, and practical application across diverse contexts. Below you'll find the latest recordings, each offering valuable insights and examples of how social capital shapes our societies, organisations, and communities.

Please also feel free to browse our recent webinar videos here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRBjflPAka-YOXB05zle_4lsVN56CUZbo

Safety, Trust & Communication In Emergencies: Disability In Crisis

Mark Jenkins, Jeff Donaldson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ln2DL6Rim_U

Emotional Intelligence as Infrastructure: Designing Cultures that Scale Social Capital

Graham Hall, OD & Talent Strategy Leader, Rhythm Strategic Consulting

<https://youtu.be/7KVJyLwp0cA>

Social Capital and its influences on career aspirations and attainment

Dr Rob Schnieders, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Chief of Staff, Fairfield University

https://youtu.be/_kU9WsdIGI

Resonant Systems: Rethinking Social Capital and Cohesion from Social Systems Theory

Josè Maria Rodriguez

<https://youtu.be/oLhrAzTAC94>

Understanding the nuances of (dis-)connectedness of migrant entrepreneurs within entrepreneurial ecosystems

Dr Alexandra David, Senior Researcher, Westphalian University, Institute for Work & Technology

<https://youtu.be/TbtbgQgySZY>

Leading with Social Wealth: Relational Design for the Future of Work

Shelley Doyle, Social Wealth Strategist, The Commiverse

<https://youtu.be/BBnZu2dH-jg>

Dynamics of Social Interaction in Technology Adoption: Social Capital versus Social Learning

Dr Haluk Gedikoglu, Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics, Konya Food & Agriculture University

<https://youtu.be/dNO54PVbqSU>

Out of a Crisis Comes Resilience: Community Schools Potential to Generate Social Capital

Dr Jessica Shiller, Director of the Maryland Center for Community Schools, Towson University

<https://youtu.be/E-xgTGnBP1E>

Building Social Capital Through Mentoring Programmes At The Goa School In India

Jonathan Burton, Advisor to The Goa School and Madhuri Dass Woudenberg, Founder-Director of The Goa School

<https://youtu.be/fICWScw7cE8>

Toward a Unified Framework for Social Capital: What is it, how does it work, and why does it matter?

Tristan Claridge, Director of the Institute for Social Capital and President of the International Social Capital Association

<https://youtu.be/2Kq8VVy146U>

Unveiling Trends in Social Capital Research: A Bibliometric and Systematic Review Approach

Buddhini Amarathunga, Senior Lecturer, Department of Business Management, Faculty of Business Studies and Finance, Wayamba University of Sri Lanka

<https://youtu.be/WcU10SBI6yw>

Social capital in the age of AI: Does current pedagogy help students build real connections?

Sidney Peimer, Lecturer, Red & Yellow Creative School of Business

<https://youtu.be/V72GuIGmUw4>

Gbenopo as an expression of social capital in Badagry's Ogu musical culture

Dr Joseph Kunnuji, Senior Lecturer in African Music, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa

<https://youtu.be/xBZ1rpaEII8>

Social Capital in Action: A Blueprint from Petaluma's Civic Experiments

John Crowley, Executive Director, Aqus Community Foundation

<https://youtu.be/jOafgfZuTZs>

MIGHTY NETWORKS

Our community platform has been a bit quiet lately, so we have decided to improve access by making it available to non-members as well as members. This means you can invite people to join, even if they are not a member of ISCA. This will remove the barriers to participation and encourage more people to get involved. As our interest groups start to develop, this will be important to provide an easily accessible platform for interest group discussions. To invite someone to our Mighty Networks community, go to <https://intsocialcapital.mn.co/invite> and copy the link or you can invite people by email directly from that page. Be an ambassador for our association and get recognition for helping us grow.

Don't forget to subscribe

To view more on our YouTube channel:
[click here!](#)

OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

Some events being hosted by our network partners are below:

Social Connection Collective Book Club: The Paradox of Proximity: preventing Urban Loneliness

June 4 @ 12:00 PM EST / 6:00 PM CET / 17:00 UTC

Join the Social Connection Collective for a conversation with Ann-Britt Elvin Andersen and Jakob Norman-Hansen, founders of BLOXHUB and authors of *The Paradox of Proximity: Preventing Urban Loneliness*. This is an opportunity to discuss the book, explore how urban design shapes connection, and engage in Q&A with the authors.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqXIS_TvCReSF0LbMpmvzAJYMWw8c2rGbrljLUDax6-bxO9A/viewform

GILC Global Connection Forum: What Heals Division? Social Connection to Repair and Prevent Polarization

June 17 @ 3:00 PM EST / 9:00 PM CET / 20:00 UTC

A global convening of leaders across policy, health, philanthropy, and industry to move the dialogue to implementation. Join GILC during the 2026 Global Loneliness Awareness Week.

<https://www.gilc.global/event-details/gilcs-annual-connection-forum-1>

Countering Narratives of AI inevitability

June 17 @ 3:00 PM EST / 9:00 PM CET / 20:00 UTC

Join RSA US for a fireside chat exploring how creators can navigate AI in ways that strengthen connection, creativity, and human agency. Hosted by Christabel Nsiah-Buadi FRSA with Tania Duarte FRSA as part of the AudioDiaspora x RSA US series, the conversation will examine how we can engage with AI intentionally and ensure technology serves as a tool for deeper human connection rather than replacing it.

<https://www.thersa.org/events/2026/06/countering-narratives-of-ai-inevitability/>

Joyful Connection Masterclass with RSA US

June 18 @ 12:00 PM EST / 6:00 PM CET / 17:00 UTC

Connect and learn with fellow connection leaders at this interactive workshop hosted by Cove's Connection Crew, designed for people passionate about social health, belonging, and community. Build your toolkit with practical connection activities while enjoying meaningful conversations, peer learning, and new connections.

<https://luma.com/connectioncrewjun26>

GET INVOLVED

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- ISCA Webinar Series with Tristan Claridge
- [Disaster Resilience](#) with Jeff Donaldson
- [Social Capital Paradigm](#) with Tristan Claridge
- [Measurement Interest Group](#) with Eunice Park
- Research Design and Mentoring with Beverly Sloan



AN INVITATION TO SHARE YOUR WORK

Are you using social capital theory in your research, public-facing writing or practice? Please submit information about your work so we can share it on our website. Listings will not include the full text, but links to text or downloads can be included.

STAY IN TOUCH

We would love to hear from you and answer any questions you have about ISCA. ISCA board members can be contacted through the Governance page.

