
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL SYSTEM
ARCHITECTURE & STABILITY

CALL FOR PAPERS

“The Role of Cooperative Banks in Promoting Financial Stability and
Sustainable Economic Development”

The 2016 inaugural meeting of the IWFSAS is dedicated to discussing the Cooperative Financial Institutions (CFIs). CFIs appear to have weathered the 2008 global financial crisis better than commercial banks. For instance, European cooperative banks, which represent about 20 percent of the European banking sector, were responsible for a much smaller portion of the direct losses and write downs of the European banking sector during the crisis. While commercial banks retreated somewhat from the credit markets during the period of 2007-2010, CFIs expanded their loans to the private sector in this time frame. Despite this, the role of cooperative banks, credit unions, and other types of financial institutions with alternative forms of ownership, to be missing from the current discussions and debates about financial stability and regulatory reforms.

We welcome both theoretical and empirical contributions on this topic. Each paper will be reviewed by two members of our scientific committee before we make acceptance decisions. The workshop program will include formal discussions of all papers selected for presentation. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The role of CFIs in strengthening the financial system and its resilience to crisis
- Competition and bank risk-taking: are cooperative banks different from commercial banks?
- Financial stability risks of cooperative banks vs commercial banks;
- Cooperative banks impact economic growth and income inequality
- Impact of CFIs on financial inclusion and access to finance
- CFIs and relationship lending
- CFIs in developing and emerging markets
- The *raison d'être* of the cooperative banking model in the 21st century;
- Regulating CFIs versus other Financial Institutions
- Safety nets and moral hazard: Commercial banks versus CFIs
- Corporate governance and internal structure of CFIs
- Services by CFIs in small and large communities
- Fintech and the role of CFIs

Registration

Registration fees will cover coffee breaks, two lunches and one dinner, as per the following schedule (all amounts in CAD):

Early registration (on or before June 30)	\$150
Late registration (between June 30 and August 15)	\$250
PhD Students (early)	\$50
PhD Students (late)	\$100

Further details about payment options will be posted on the conference website (<http://www.uvic.ca/iwfsas2016>).

Conference Venue: University of Victoria

The University of Victoria is situated 10 minutes drive from the city center of Victoria, British Columbia.