

24th IIF Workshop on Forecasting for social good

12-13 July 2018, Cardiff Business School, Wales, UK

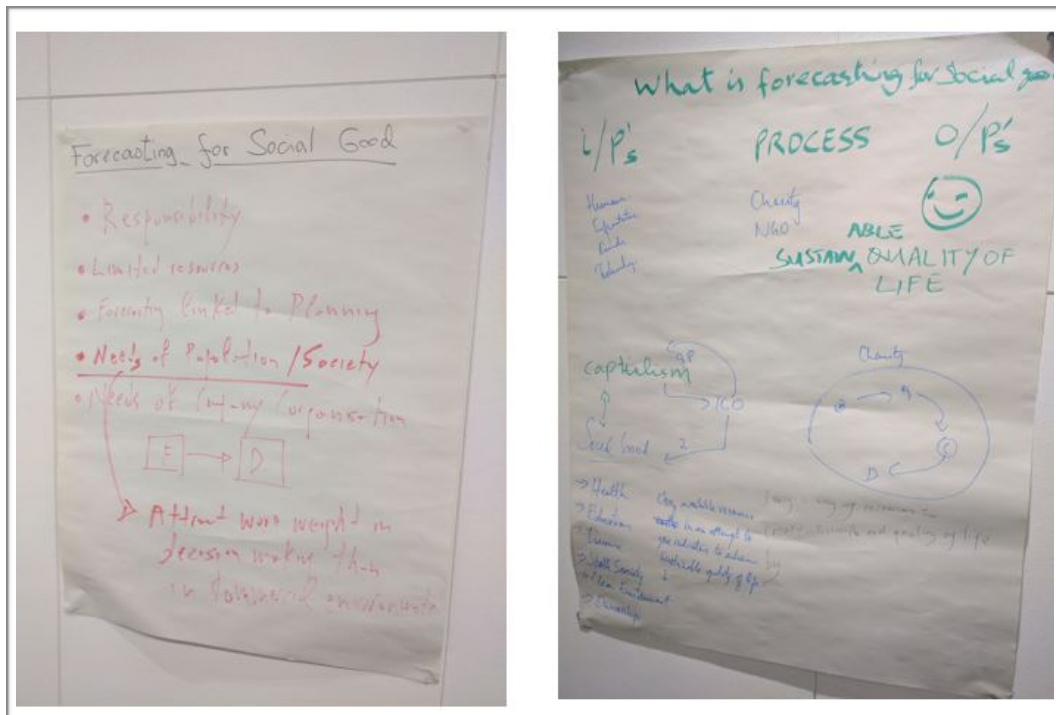
The first international workshop dedicated to “Forecasting for Social Good” took place at Cardiff Business School, 12-13 July 2018. This workshop was organised by Bahman Rostami-Tabar and Aris Syntetos from Cardiff Business School. It was sponsored by the International Institute of Forecasters and Cardiff Business School.

The workshop addressed a range of important topics with social impact such as health forecasting, forecasting for humanitarian and disaster relief operations, forecasting for government and policy makers, forecasting for public sector and forecasting in social services such as poverty and homelessness.

We had 38 participants from 8 countries (UK, USA, Australia, India, Norway, Switzerland, Germany, France) over two days. In particular, we had practitioners from organisations such as NHS, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nation High Commission for Refugees, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Welsh Government, Australian Government and Future Generation Commissioner for Wales. This proved to be an excellent achievement towards bridging the gap between academic forecasters and practitioners from organisations with social missions.



Based on feedback we received, it is fair to conclude that the workshop was a great success! “This was a great conference”, many of participants said to us! Their contribution turned it into a smoothly running meeting with very interesting presentations and an excellent atmosphere for discussion and networking.



We had a very interesting group activity to come up with a unified definition of Forecasting for Social Good. We are going to share it with other experts in the area and then publish what we think could be a precise and comprehensive definition of forecasting for social good.

Participants agreed that less attention has been given in the past to research on forecasting for social good in comparison to business forecasting. We believe we have made an important start to offer more attention to societal aspects of forecasting and we should continue doing it. Our roadmap for the near future is:

1. To create “Forecasting for social Good” workshops in other places, with biannual recurrence where we can meet and exchange ideas.
2. To organise invited sessions on “Forecasting for Social Good” at the annual symposiums of the IIF.

The full program with abstracts can be found here: <https://goo.gl/apH5Ri>

You can watch all the presentations here:

Day 1: <https://goo.gl/1khq3n>

Day 2: <https://goo.gl/oLZBdK>