



Course Code & Title	LISS2007 Social and Sustainable Entrepreneurship		
Convenor(s)	Prof. Mine Karatas-Ozkan		
Institution		Department	
Academic Year	2025-26	Term	Summer
Number of Sessions	6	Length of Session(s)	4 hours each
Dates:	Start and end time:	Room Location:	
Thursday 14 May 2026 Thursday 21 May 2026 Thursday 28 May 2026 Thursday 4 June 2026 Monday 8 June 2026 Thursday 11 June 2026	12:00 – 16:30 (with 30-minute break)	Bush House South East Wing 2.10	
Enrolment Link:	Available to book on SkillsForge from December 2025 . Click to log in and register Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)		

Course Description:

Are you ready to turn your research into real-world impact? This dynamic course dives into the fast-growing world of social and sustainable entrepreneurship in the context of grand and complex societal, economic and ecological challenges from climate change and inequality to ethical tech and clean energy. You will be encouraged to connect your doctoral research to broader societal impact, developing transferable skills in critical thinking, stakeholder engagement, and strategic decision-making. Whether your path leads to academia, industry, policy or entrepreneurship, you will leave with the confidence and capability to lead change.

Across sectors and continents, international organisations (e.g., United Nations, World Bank), world-class universities, governments, public agencies, private corporations and entrepreneurial firms are championing sustainability-driven innovation. Employers increasingly seek researchers and leaders who can think entrepreneurially and act sustainably. There is also a bigger need for social and sustainable entrepreneurs to create start-ups in this space. This course equips you with the mindset, tools, and frameworks to do just that.

This course unpacks the popular concepts of social and sustainable entrepreneurship by bridging the conceptual frameworks with practice. You will explore how entrepreneurial thinking can be applied to a range of enterprise models: sustainable businesses, social enterprises, collaborative innovation networks, hubs, digital platforms and support intermediaries. Through real-world examples and interactive sessions, you will learn how to design and lead initiatives that embed economic, social, and environmental sustainability at their core.



Topics include:

- Building ventures that tackle poverty, inequality, and climate change
- Designing sustainable business models for social impact
- Creating circular economy models and solutions-based ventures
- Leading sustainability and change within global organisations through sustainability-focused innovation and effective collaborations and partnerships

Meet your course convenor:

Professor Mine Karatas-Ozkan: is Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the University of Southampton and Vice President of Talent Development for the European Academy of Management. Her research and teaching centre on social sustainability, diversity, equality, and inclusion in leadership and entrepreneurship. A pioneer of social entrepreneurship education in the UK, she introduced the subject into university curricula and has published reflective papers on her experiences as a thought leader and educator.

She has held several leadership roles at the University of Southampton, including Associate Dean of Research, Director of the Faculty Graduate School, and Founding Director of the Centre for Inclusive and Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Mine has led numerous collaborative projects funded by national and international organisations, working with academic and non-academic stakeholders such as social entrepreneurs, women leaders, refugee entrepreneurs, intermediary organisations, and policymakers.

Her commitment to women's leadership and supporting women from disadvantaged backgrounds led her to complete executive education on women's leadership at the Yale School of Management. She supervises doctoral candidates and early career researchers in areas including social and sustainable entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ecosystems, diversity management, gender and entrepreneurship, refugee entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility in SMEs, and strategy and institutional change in higher education.

Course Outline:

Session 1:

- Introduction to the course
- Building the class dynamics: introductions to each other
- Overview of social and sustainable entrepreneurship
- Sustainability trends and challenges across the globe
- Redefining new ventures and organisations from a social and sustainable entrepreneurship perspective



Session 2:

- Metaphor exercise for sustainable entrepreneur/leader!
- *Brace yourself for good fun!!!*
- *Case study for weeks 3 and 4 will be issued.*
- Shared value creation framework to develop sustainable and innovative solutions
- Sustainable business models for social/sustainable entrepreneurship

Session 3:

- Entrepreneurial process: opportunity creation and actualisation in the context of social and sustainable entrepreneurship
- Case study discussion I

Session 4:

- Meet the Sustainable Entrepreneur/Leader' session (TBC)
- Case study discussion II

Session 5:

- Entrepreneurial leadership for sustainability: Values, types, models and approaches
- Collaborations and partnerships for social and sustainable entrepreneurship.
- Let's play a game, shall we!
- Points of You Game: Coaching game

Session 6:

- Integrating course knowledge into a practical project: idea development
- Peer review and feedback sessions
- Course wrap-up and future directions in social and sustainable entrepreneurship

Learning Outcomes:

Having successfully completed this module you will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Understand social and sustainable entrepreneurship with a focus on a holistic approach to sustainability and blended value creation.
- Identify new opportunities, propose creative and useful ideas; collaborations and enterprises that require new strategic approaches, break with existing models and paradigms, promote progress and change.
- Apply frameworks and models to create business opportunities to start up and grow businesses for sustainable solutions in various local, national, and international contexts.



- Implement leadership for social and sustainable entrepreneurial action and inclusive (business) growth using circular economy principles, associated business models, and collaboration approaches.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

- Critically examine the social and sustainable entrepreneurship process from the perspectives of embedding all pillars of sustainability in business development and organisational transformation.
- Evaluate multiple and contextual understandings of sustainability to effectively implement the process of social and sustainable entrepreneurship from initial ideation to scaling up and inclusive growth stages.
- Demonstrate a strong understanding of the intentions and motivations for sustainable and inclusive business development and its implications on the leadership of such businesses for sustainable solutions.
- Compare and contrast different entrepreneurial leadership approaches and styles with collaboration and organisational forms pertaining to the nature of social and sustainable entrepreneurship, presenting context-specific opportunities and challenges.

Transferable and Generic Skills

- Work in and contribute more effectively to a wide range of organisations seeking entrepreneurial and leadership solutions to sustainability challenges, having raised your awareness and understanding of social and sustainable entrepreneurship.
- Develop generic skills to become thought leaders and change-makers motivated to transform organisations within any sector of interest.
- Recognise the challenges facing social and sustainable entrepreneurs, leaders, and change-makers, and identify techniques to tackle those challenges.
- Develop in-depth and critical evaluation skills using multiple and competing perspectives in constructing written and oral arguments.
- Carry out more effective searches mainly for qualitative and quantitative data using a wide range of sources.
- Develop effective communication, collaboration (including online collaboration), and networking skills in carrying out group work and engaging with the expanding learning community.

Reading list:

Two key books (additional reading list will be provided on a weekly basis):

- *Social Entrepreneurship. A Practice-Based Approach to Social Innovation*, *J. Howard Kucher and Stephanie E. Raible*
- *Sustainability and Business*, *Michael Blowfield*

Number of students:

Max: 40