



**Professor Christof Brandtner**

Assistant Professor of Social Innovation  
Emlyon Business School

**Biography**

Professor Christof Brandtner is an organizational and economic sociologist, an Assistant Professor of Social Innovation at Emlyon Business School, and a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Hong Kong (in April, 2024). He is also a senior research fellow at Stanford's Civic Life of Cities Lab and a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar at the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research. He received his PhD in sociology from Stanford in 2019.

His research explores the reciprocal relationship between organizations and society, particularly in the contexts of social innovation, the civic life of cities, and the digital transformation of the economy. He studies how mission-driven organizations contribute and respond to calls to make cities more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. Professor Brandtner's empirical work is theoretically grounded in sociological institutionalism, which understands organizations' behavior as co-evolving with their external social and cultural environment. Methodologically, he combines quantitative, comparative analyses of many organizations with specific knowledge of the cases he studied, taking him into the domains of qualitative interviews, experiments, and computational text analysis. He regularly builds new datasets of cities, neighborhoods, and organizations to test his arguments.