

ENTREPRENEURSHIP GENERAL TRACK

SIG Chair: *Lucrezia Songini*

Eastern Piedmont University, Novara, Italy (lucrezia.songini@eco.unipmn.it) and Bocconi School of Management, Milan, Italy (lucrezia.songini@unibocconi.it)

SIG Co-Chairs:

Hans Lundberg, Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden (hans.lundberg@lnu.se)

Claire Champenois, Audencia Nantes School of Management, Nantes, France (cchampenois@audencia.com)

Abstract

Entrepreneurship is a working attitude, a mode of thinking, a concrete everyday practice and increasingly an identity marker for ways of being and living within liquid modernity. Entrepreneurship is nowadays a broadly endorsed and accepted signifier for forms of organizing that targets human, organizational and economic renewal and growth. While empirical evidence for these politically and individually appealing ends are to be found, the contingency and contextuality of the myriad of entrepreneurial forms of organizing may humble us in face of the apparently Zen Buddhist quality of entrepreneurship; the more determined the efforts to pinpoint, box and fence it gets, the more elusively it retreats back to various in-between voids. Such a quality is unbearable for conceptual monopolists and impractical for those in positions where efficiency and effectiveness are agenda setting norms, why the discourse on entrepreneurship is a constant prey for unidirectional advocates.

Accordingly, and in line with our mission – methodological, theoretical and empirical pluralism in entrepreneurship research – we welcome contributions from all areas related to entrepreneurship that are not explicitly covered by other entrepreneurship related tracks. Papers adopting different theoretical lenses, using different research methods, analyzing different types of organizations and exploring entrepreneurship less common empirical contexts are strongly encouraged.

The foundation of this general track is the following five sub-tracks intended to capture new and emerging research areas within as well as classical areas of study:

a) Democratizing Senior-Entrepreneurship: Issues and Emerging Trends

This sub-track aims at inviting any contribution that should enhance research on Senior Entrepreneurship and better help in understanding the singularity of such a phenomenon.

List of main topics:

- Seniors and intention to become entrepreneur,
- Senior-Intrapreneurship,
- Seniorpreneurship and stress, health and well-being,
- Help for promoting Senior-Entrepreneurship,
- Experience and Seniorpreneurship,
- Seniorpreneurship and networking,
- Seniorpreneurship and nascent entrepreneurship,
- Seniorpreneurship and business opportunity,
- Seniorpreneurship and socialization
- Seniorpreneurship and teampreneurship,
- Senior-Entrepreneurship and innovation.

b) Entrepreneurial Process, Social Capital and Social Networks

Today there is a widespread consensus among researchers that network theory offers one way to enhance knowledge and understanding about the entrepreneurial process. The bulk of research on social networks in the field of entrepreneurship focuses on network content and network structure, usually at a given moment in time. In spite of the extent of previous studies, there are still gaps in the literature that need to be filled. This has led to calls for more work around issues like the process involved in building, developing and using network ties as well as the way that networks change over time. One way to further understanding might be to consider the networking process during the different stages or phases of the entrepreneurial process and/or in response to entrepreneurial requirements.

We propose that this session helps to fill these gaps, in advancing knowledge on how, when and why entrepreneurial networks emerge, develop and change over time. Specifically, it will be interesting to understand how do entrepreneurs build and mobilize new social ties and manage their evolution and how this affects the entrepreneurial trajectory. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Conceptualization / theorization of networking dynamics

Evolution of the entrepreneurial network configuration over time

Change of the entrepreneurial network content and structure during the various entrepreneurial process stages

- Entrepreneurial network evolution and learning dynamic of the entrepreneur
- The impact of entrepreneur's social skills on the networking process
- The role of social capital on the entrepreneurial networking processes
- The impact of entrepreneurial project nature on the entrepreneurial network structure
- The role of Science and Technology Parks on the entrepreneurial networking process
- The role of technical artifacts in the entrepreneurial networking process.
- Skills and competences of enroll and mobilize new actors and shareholders
- The different types of strategies and stages of the entrepreneurial network development
- The impact of government policies/programs on the entrepreneurial network development

c) Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies

The distinctive institutional contexts in emerging economies, shaped by a combination of historical, political, social and cultural factors, have created unique environment for entrepreneurial endeavors. A better understanding of entrepreneurship and the role of entrepreneurs in emerging economies will not only advance our knowledge about emerging markets, but also provide a new foundation for us to evaluate and/or improve the existing theoretical and methodological framework of entrepreneurship.

List of main topics:

- Theoretical and methodological frameworks to understand and investigate entrepreneurship in emerging economies
- The entrepreneurial process of new ventures in emerging economies
- The link between entrepreneurship and innovation in emerging economies
- Business ecosystem and emerging industries in emerging economies.

d) External SME Business Transfers and Firm Acquisitions

SME transfers to external (non-family) persons appear to be a rather overlooked area of research. The aim of this sub-track is to get external business transfers out of its shadowy existence in comparison to the multitude of academic activities to be found in the areas of start-ups or family business succession respectively. We welcome studies, which focus on the takeover of SMEs and/or family businesses, and the characteristics and special problems of the actors involved.

List of main topics:

- What are the challenges for (external) buyers taking over family firms?
- What is the added value of advisory services in selling/buying SMEs?

- How well do (bank) criteria for financing takeovers and firm acquisitions predict post-transfer performance?
- How could third parties to the business transfer better be incorporated in research, like suppliers, customers, spouses, and employees?

e) Entrepreneurship & Aesthetics

We invite researchers from diverse fields to propose their scholarship on all variances of relationships between entrepreneurship and aesthetics, i.e. to reflect on art, culture, beauty, nature, etc. and entrepreneurship. Share with us emerging trends involving aesthetics of all varieties and dimensions, in relation to enterprising, in order to further our understanding of both. We wish to construct a broad, rich and diverse track, accommodating the formal, informal, traditional and avant-garde, so to radically challenge and question ourselves and to bring forward this strong and essential discussion that is clearly emerging.

List of main topics:

- Art and aesthetic experience
- Aesthetic economy
- Aesthetics as critical perspective on entrepreneurship research
- Culturepreneurship

Please, specify if you want to link your submission to the general track to any of these five sub-tracks.

If you do not want to link your submission to any of these five sub-tracks, please submit your paper to “Entrepreneurship General Track” without any further specifications.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship, Venturing, Research Pluralism