



The International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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Special issue call for papers: Championing Difference – Exploring Entrepreneurship Amongst the Socially Excluded

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Introducing the Special Issue

The topic for this special issue is the exploration of entrepreneurship amongst those who are socially excluded. Jeremy Peace proclaimed, in 2001, that “social exclusion” is a contested term’ (Peace, 2001: 17) and, despite the passing of a decade and a half, this situation largely remains. Nevertheless, Bhalla and Lapeyre (1997) frame social exclusion as a multidimensional construct including economic, sociological and political dimensions. This mirrors Marlier and Atkinson’s (2010: 285) definition of social exclusion as ‘the involuntary exclusion of individuals and groups from political, economic, and social processes, preventing their full participation in the society in which they live’. At a more granular level, social exclusion can include living in poverty, being excluded from gaining employment, being excluded from receiving important services and the satisfaction of basic needs (such as housing, education and financial services), being isolated from social relations with those in mainstream society, being denied social legitimacy and social status, and being denied civil rights (Bhalla and Lapeyre, 1997; Gordon et al., 2000; Peace, 2001).

We argue that social exclusion is not an absolute (i.e. individuals and groups can be socially excluded to different degrees) and that such exclusion is contextual in nature (i.e. individuals and groups who are socially excluded in one context may not be in another). Thus, depending on context, the study of entrepreneurship amongst socially excluded individuals and groups might include, but is by no means limited to, understanding entrepreneurship amongst those living in extreme poverty (Imas, Wilson and Westion, 2012), refugees and the migrant community (Ram, Jones and Villares-Varela, 2016), the LGBT community (Galloway, 2007), offenders and ex-offenders (Cooney, 2012), and the over 50s (Kautonen, Tornikoski and Kibler, 2011).

Exploring entrepreneurship within such under-researched groups has the potential to extend current thinking about entrepreneurship; challenging current assumptions of what entrepreneurship is, who entrepreneurs are, and what entrepreneurship can be. Indeed, we would argue that socially excluded individuals and groups have too often been excluded from entrepreneurship research itself; sitting at what Smith (2007: 245) calls the 'margins of entrepreneurship' research. We sense, however, that the tide is turning as can be evidenced by studies such as those cited above. This special issue is intended to contribute to and elevate this movement.

We welcome both qualitative and quantitative empirical studies based in developing or developed countries. Such studies should contribute to understanding entrepreneurship amongst any individuals or groups that can be considered to be socially excluded. We recognise that classifying certain groups as socially excluded is by no means simplistic and, as such, invite contributors to question extant notions of social exclusion and potentially work within new notions of what constitutes a socially excluded group. We also encourage examples of teaching case studies that illuminate instances of entrepreneurship amongst socially excluded individuals and groups.

Research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Challenges faced by socially excluded entrepreneurs in accessing entrepreneurial support services and education
- The agential use of entrepreneurial activity to mitigate political, economic and social exclusion
- New / innovative organisational forms and business models used by entrepreneurs from socially excluded groups
- Societal benefits of entrepreneurship amongst socially excluded individuals and groups
- Entrepreneurial activity that meets the needs of socially excluded groups (for example, social entrepreneurship, community entrepreneurship etc.)
- Papers that explore the power dynamics involved in excluding particular individuals and groups from entrepreneurial activity
- Comparisons between entrepreneurial ventures and activities undertaken amongst socially excluded groups and non-excluded groups
- Analysis of attempts to encourage and facilitate entrepreneurship amongst socially excluded groups
- Entrepreneurial self-efficacy amongst socially excluded individuals and groups
- Methodological difficulties involved in gaining understanding of entrepreneurship amongst socially excluded individuals and groups

This Special Issue of the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation will be supported by a symposium at The University of Huddersfield, held 7th September 2017.

Research articles should be in the region of 6,000 - 8,000 words, including tables and references. In addition to these articles, we will be selecting one teaching case study (with questions) of no more than 5,000 words. It is essential that submitted manuscripts follow SAGE style guidelines and that bibliographies are both complete and in the specified format. Please check the submission guidelines on the journal's home page before submitting your paper as any incorrectly formatted manuscripts will be returned to the authors: <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/international-journal-of-entrepreneurship-and-innovation/journal202559>

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Key Dates

Symposium: 7th September 2017

Article submission deadline: 2nd October 2017

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About the Journal

The International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (IJEI) is an international peer reviewed journal, published quarterly by SAGE, which provides a worldwide forum for the exploration and dissemination of ideas and experience relating to the development and application of entrepreneurship. The journal takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on the highest-quality work in business and management and in the social sciences.

Guest Editorial Team

Bejan Analoui is Senior Lecturer in Leadership. Bejan has experience of entrepreneurial leadership development, having worked for the Leading Enterprise and Development (LEAD) Wales programme, funded by the European Social Fund, the Welsh Government and Swansea and Bangor Universities. He has published in the areas of leadership and knowledge management, capacity development, and pedagogy. He is currently involved in projects examining barriers and enablers to interpersonal knowledge sharing in a variety of contexts, and is working on a series of articles examining the impact of internationalisation of higher education on staff, students and other stakeholders.

Alex Kevill is Senior Lecturer in Management. Alex's key research interests include entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship and understanding strategic development in micro and small-enterprises. He has been particularly keen to understand micro-foundations underpinning dynamic capabilities in micro-organisations and has focused on understanding how individual and social psychology can influence the enactment of such capabilities. Some of this work has recently been published in the *International Small Business Journal* (ABS 3*). Alex predominantly adopts qualitative research methods. Alex is also currently involved in an EU funded project investigating human resource management in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Dinuka Herath is Lecturer in Organisation Studies. Dinuka's research focus is on Organisational behaviour and Human resource management. He primarily uses quantitative research methods

including statistical methods, big data analysis techniques and computer simulations. Dinuka is interested in studying organisational structure and processes. Dinuka is currently organizing a symposium on Organization Plasticity. Dinuka has previously been involved in organizing and contributed to funded symposia on modelling organization behaviour (UK, 2014, Denmark, 2015; goo.gl/h5TdDY). Dinuka is also currently involved in an EU funded project investigating human resource management in small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

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