

## Call for Papers

# Research Handbook on Entrepreneurship as Practice

*Research Handbooks in Business and Management series, Edward  
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### About the Research Handbook

The editors invite extended abstract submissions for consideration in the Research Handbook on Entrepreneurship as Practice. The research handbook aims to publish exemplary empirical studies that start from a practice ontology and use appropriate methodologies to further theoretical development on existing topics (e.g. networking, pitching, resourcing) or develop new insights on new topics (e.g. sociomaterial, embodied sensemaking, politics and power) in entrepreneurship studies. **Extended abstracts are due 31 July 2019 to Neil Thompson at [n.a.thompson@vu.nl](mailto:n.a.thompson@vu.nl)**

### Introduction

Entrepreneurship as practice (EaP) research has been gaining ground in entrepreneurship studies ([www.entrepreneurshipaspractice.com](http://www.entrepreneurshipaspractice.com)) [1]. Practice theories provide a means to advance entrepreneurship research by moving away from a theoretical focus on 'the' individual entrepreneur towards the importance of joint activity, performance, and work of entrepreneurship [2]. Practice theory helps us understand that entrepreneurship is essentially composed of collaborative activities (practices) in which many practitioners, not just entrepreneurs, are involved [3]. In doing so, it also highlights the critical role of the body and material objects in the doings of entrepreneurship. Moreover, the practice perspective directs empirical attention towards better understanding the reproduction, transformation and consequences of practices and their associations across time, space, and individuals. Initiated by such calls as Steyaert [10] and Johannisson [11], the entrepreneurship-as-practice movement is now gaining traction, witnessed by such contributions as De Clercq & Voronov [12], Tatli et al. [9], Goss et al. [13], Keating et al. [14], Chalmers and Shaw [3], Dimov [15] and Matthews et al. [4].

Practice theorists of entrepreneurship studies share a number of common assumptions. First, instead of thoughts and ideas hidden inside individual entrepreneurial minds, the central focus of inquiry are the spontaneously expressed, living, responsive, relational practices occurring out in the world between us for all to see. Second, practices are seen

as the relevant unit of analysis for the exploration of entrepreneurial phenomena [4]. Although there is no one definition of practice possible, they are fundamentally collaborative and relational activities, and not solely reducible to the agents who carry them out. As they are defined by Schatzki [5,6], practices are organized by the enactment of sequential bodily activities, mediated by ‘things’ and their use, and drawing upon practical knowledge. Practices bring together actors, activities and contexts, thus interrelating social structures and human agency [7–9]. Consequently, EaP research aims to observe, theorize and unfold the *practices*—as ways of doing and saying things—carried out by *practitioners* (not just ‘the’ entrepreneur).

While much conceptual clarification and communication about what the practice ontology consists of and implies for the study of entrepreneurship still lies ahead, empirical studies of practices are greatly needed to evidence (and challenge) this perspective. The purpose of this Research Handbook therefore is to attract promising empirical studies that deftly balance the relationships between situated action and the social structure in which the action takes place to explain entrepreneurial phenomena [7,9]. We invite authors to observe and explain the dynamics of a given practice or association of practices to clarify the questions of (1) the ways in which practices move to new contexts and circulate; (2) how practices and associations are composed and transformed and with what (political, power, historical) consequences in their context; (3) how do practices and associations intersect and overlap with other practices and associations (4); why do some practices and associations persist, continue or die out; (5) how are mental phenomena (e.g., imagination, sensemaking, emotions, perceptions) shaped and shaping the enactment and transformation of practices and associations; (6) how are bodies, technologies and materials enabling and constraining the performances of practices and associations; and (7) how practical knowledge is put to use, learned and transformed in practicing entrepreneurship. We reiterate that articles accepted for this Research Handbook will report on empirically based fieldwork rather than focus on or elaborate theoretical conjectures.

**Submission Guidelines:** We invite extended abstracts that focus on fieldwork that explores practices to answer research questions related to entrepreneurship. Papers should be clear on the methodological approaches used for studying practices and provide linkages between the practice ontologies grounding their theory with the methods used and evidence offered. We are not particularly interested in theory development papers or papers that offer speculative methodological innovations that are not applied to actual settings. All submissions are subject to the single blind review process. Manuscripts must be original, unpublished works not concurrently under review for publication at another outlet and are expected to follow the standard formatting guidelines (which will be communicated upon abstract submission acceptance).

Extended abstract submission should be submitted to Neil Thompson ([n.a.thompson@vu.nl](mailto:n.a.thompson@vu.nl)).

### **Research Conference**

Interested scholars will surely benefit by attending the 4<sup>th</sup> EaP conference being held on 3-5<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Audencia Business School in Nantes, France. The conference will

offer keynote lectures, opportunities for networking, pitch presentations and round-table collaborative paper development sessions.

Building on the first (February 2016 at VU Amsterdam), second (February 2017 at University College Dublin Quinn School of Business) and third (April 2018 at Linnaeus University) Entrepreneurship as Practice conferences, this conference and PhD symposium brings together the growing community of researchers who embrace the “practice turn”.

All scholars who are interested in the paper development workshop and PhD candidates wishing to attend the conference should **submit an abstract** (of less than 1,000 words) **by 3 December 2018** to [eap4@audencia.com](mailto:eap4@audencia.com).

Abstracts should not exceed two single-spaced pages, and may not exceed the maximum limit of 1,000 words. They should present the purpose of the research, the relevance of the problem, the literature review, the methods and the main findings. 3 to 5 keywords and an indicative Topic of the Conference should be included. Authors will be notified of acceptance or otherwise by December 15, 2018. **Full working papers are due for February 15, 2019.**

Full working papers should have the following structure: introduction, literature review or conceptual framework, methodology, results, discussion and conclusion. The text should be 10-15 pages, characters Times New Roman 12, single spacing. Abstracts and papers should be written and presented in English.

All working papers will be assigned to discussion groups. Each group member will be responsible for providing feedback on the papers received during the working paper session on April 5.

#### **Conference Fees:**

Fees for PhD Symposium and Research Conference attendees are to be determined and posted by October 1, 2018.

#### **Organizing Committee (extract)**

Claire Champenois (Audencia Business School), Miruna Radu-Lefebvre (Audencia Business School)

Bill Gartner (Babson University), Bruce Teague (Eastern University Washington), Neil Thompson (VU University Amsterdam), Ola Byrne (UCD Dublin)

#### **Audencia Business School & Nantes**

EAP4 will be held at Audencia Business School, Nantes, France on April 2-5 2019. Founded in 1900, Audencia Business School is one of France's elite Grande Ecole higher education institutions – ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation (SIGEM). World renowned for education and research in business and management, it ranks among the top 100 worldwide (The Economist). Among the 90 tenured faculty members, seven focus on Entrepreneurship.

<http://www.audencia.com/en/>

Nantes is a modern innovative and green city with old-world flair. It is two hours from Paris (by train), one hour from London (by plane), and 45 minutes from the Atlantic Coast (by car or train).

### **For Further Information and Questions:**

Please contact [eap4@audencia.com](mailto:eap4@audencia.com)

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