

Proposal for a Special Issue to the journal

ENTREPRENEURSHIP and REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Topic: Entrepreneurial Process and Social Networks: A Dynamic Perspective

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Today there is a widespread consensus among researchers that network theory offers one way to enhance knowledge and understanding about the entrepreneurial process (Jack, 2010; Slotte-Kock & Coviello, 2010). Indeed, it is recognized that network interactions contribute to the identification, evaluation, access and exploitation of business opportunities, as well as the way ventures are formed, operate and function. For example, network ties can provide access to external opportunities and vital resources in a way that facilitates successful (or unsuccessful) firm emergence, development and performance (Hite, 2005).

The bulk of research on social networks in the field of entrepreneurship focuses on network content and network structure (Hoang and Antoncic, 2003), usually at a given moment in time (Schutjens & Stam, 2003; Greve & Salaff, 2003; Drakopoulou-Dodd, Jack & Anderson, 2006). In spite of the extent of previous studies, there are still gaps in the literature that need to be filled (Hoang & Antoncic, 2003; Jack, 2010; Slotte-Kock & Coviello, 2010). 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 (Anderson, Drakopoulou-Dodd & Jack, 2010). 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.

In this Special Issue we consider that one of the critical challenges for entrepreneurship researchers is to advance knowledge on how do entrepreneurs build and mobilize new social ties and manage their evolution. We also need to improve our understanding about the effects

of such evolution on the entrepreneurial trajectory. Thus, the aim of this Special Issue should be to develop a greater understanding on how, when and why entrepreneurial networks emerge, develop and change over time. The Special Issue, therefore, seeks to publish leading edge research that will contribute significantly to our knowledge and understanding of the social network dynamics during the entrepreneurial processes. 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/programmes on the entrepreneurial network development

The editors intend to bring with this Special Issue a significant value to entrepreneurship researchers, policy-makers and practitioners. Scholars interested in submitting a research work to the Special Issue should, in the first instance, submit a 2-3 pages abstract to Wadid Lamine (wadid.lamine@get-mail.fr).

Full papers should be submitted by Email Word attachment to the Special Issue Editors. First page must contain the title, author(s) and contact information for the corresponding author. For additional guidelines, please see 'Instructions for Authors' from a recent issue of *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development* or visit: <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tepnauth.asp>.

Papers suitable for publication in the Special Issue will be double-blind reviewed following the ERD's review process guidelines.

Timetable

The Special Issue is scheduled to be published in 2014 or 2015. The following timetable/deadline dates are given for your information:

1. Submission of the abstract - **by 1st October 2012**. Feedback will be send to the authors by 15 November 2012 at the latest.
2. **Submission of the full papers – by 30 April 2013.**
2. First Feedback from reviewers - by 31 July 2013.
3. Expected delivery date to E&RD - by 31 March 2014.

Please feel free to contact one of the Guest Editors if you have any queries about the Special Issue.

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