



HEALTH OF SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS/ENTREPRENEURS

Call for papers

Montpellier Business School and Erasmus University Rotterdam

Montpellier, France, September 29 and 30, 2016

Scientific committee

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Subject

The sustainability of small businesses is closely linked to the personal situation of their owners including their physical and mental health. Surprisingly little is known about business owners' health and its interplay with the performance of their businesses. On one hand, health researchers remain primarily devoted to paid workers (Cocker, Martin, Scott, Venn, & Sanderson, 2013). On the other hand, entrepreneurship scholars are likely to describe small business owners as Schumpeterian heroes, bypassing "trivial issues" like their physical or mental health (Torrès, 2013).

There are two major questions. **Is the health of the small business owner a determinant of the success, or of the failure, of its business?** A poor health could indeed deter aspiring entrepreneurs to create a venture (Rietveld, van Kippersluis, & Thurik, 2014). Conversely, the good health of the owner could be an important resource for the smooth running of the firm (Vinberg, Gundersen, Nordenmark, Larsson, & Landstad, 2012; Gielnik et al.). But systematic investigations are lacking to assess the contribution of a healthy/happy leader to the performance of its business. **What are the health consequences for those that create a new venture or run a small firm?** To work for one's own account and risk may generate specific health risks or improvements (Torrès, 2013). The mediating role of stress, satisfaction and emotions could also explain health variations of the small business owners (Omoredede, Thorgen, & Wincent, 2015, Stephan & Roesler, 2010).

Examples of suitable topics

How entrepreneurship affects smoking, alcohol consumption, dietary and sport habits, sleeping patterns and other lifestyle factors that may influence health;

The effect of physical and mental health on entrepreneurial behaviour and success;

Entrepreneurship and (the perception of) stress and burnout;

The relation between entrepreneurship and health using biomarkers (genes, hormones) and psychomarkers (dsm type measures);

Complementarity between initial socio-economic and health conditions and entrepreneurship;

How education and skills shape the entrepreneurship-health nexus?

How culture shapes the entrepreneurship-health nexus?

How entrepreneurship, skills and cognitive abilities affect the perception of health, stress and well-being?

Disentangling the endogeneity of entrepreneurship in health: identification strategies and estimation issues;

How health influences entrepreneurial exit;

The role of health insurance in the relation between entrepreneurship and health.

Special issues

Selected papers will be invited for publication consideration in *European Journal of Epidemiology* and *Small Business Economics Journal*

Organizers

Olivier Torrès (Amarok, LabEx Entreprendre) and Roy Thurik (EURIBEB)

Contact

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Extended abstracts

To be sent to obs.amarok@gmail.com before May 1, 2016.