

CALL FOR PAPERS

4th Annual Entrepreneurship as Practice
Conference and PhD Symposium
3-6 April 2019
Audencia Business School, Nantes, FRANCE

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The 4th version of this conference aims to advance understanding of entrepreneurship-as-practice, foster network ties, facilitate collaborative writing relationships, and build a strong community of practice scholars. To do so, we have developed a Research Conference and PhD Symposium that educates interested scholars as well as develops empirical and conceptual papers regarding the ‘practice turn’ taking place in entrepreneurship studies.

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 bring together the growing community of researchers who embrace the “practice turn”. Initiated by such calls as Steyaert (2007) and Johannisson (2011), the entrepreneurship-as-practice movement is now gaining traction, witnessed by such contributions as De Clercq & Voronov (2009), Tatli et al. (2014), Goss et al. (2011), Keating et al. (2013), Chalmers and Shaw (2017), Dimov (2018) and Matthews et al. (2018).

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. Although there is no one definition of practice possible, they are fundamentally collaborative and relational activities, not solely reducible to the agents who carry them out. As they are defined by Schatzki, 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 (Dodd et al., 2016; Hill, 2018; Tatli et al., 2014). Consequently, EaP research aims to observe, theorize and unfold the practices—as ways of doing and saying things—carried out by practitioners (entrepreneurs and their partners).

Drawing on these shared assumptions, recent scholarship has advanced entrepreneurship research in several ways. First, entrepreneurship-as-practice continues to move away from understanding 'who' an entrepreneur is towards the importance of collaborative activity, performance, and work in the creation and perpetuation of entrepreneuring (Gartner et al., 2016; Keating et al., 2013; Matthews et al., 2018). Second, theories of practice help us understand the critical role of the body, practical know-how and material objects in organizing entrepreneurship. Third, theories of practice help us perceive and better understand the reproduction and transformation of practices and practical knowledge related to entrepreneurial phenomena across time and space.

However, emphasizing the intricate socially-situated nature of practices comes with considerable ontological, theoretical and methodological implications. These will be addressed during the Conference and PhD Symposium.

For background and information on EaP literature, prior conferences and other pertinent materials, please go to: <https://www.entrepreneurshipaspractice.com/>

STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE AND PhD SYMPOSIUM

The Conference will be held over three and a half days: The first day, April 3rd will focus on theoretical issues, the second day April 4th on methodological issues, and April 5th on a paper development workshop. The conference will include keynote lectures and workshops, a panel session on publishing entrepreneurship as practice research and a working paper development session.

Publication Opportunities (Download Calls for Paper [HERE](#))

- Following the Conference, on the 6th of April, we will run a **PDW for the Organization Studies Special Issue** "Organizational and Institutional Entrepreneuring: Processes and Practices of Creating in an Organized World". Best papers will be selected for participation in this workshop.
- Participants will be offered to submit their paper to the "**Research Handbook on Entrepreneurship as Practice**", *Research Handbooks in Business and Management series*, Edward Elgar Publishing

Participating scholars are welcome to choose one or more days of the conference when registering.

PhD candidates who want ECTS credits for their participation are required to attend all three days of the conference, as well as generate additional work beyond what is required by other participants in the conference.

We welcome papers addressing theories of practice and creative organizing from a variety of disciplinary and methodological perspectives. Entrepreneurship, management, strategy, social sciences, humanities studies are all welcomed.

Potential although not exclusive topics that may be addressed include:

Theoretical Challenges:

- What are the differences between the individualism, structuralism and practice traditions of entrepreneurship research and how can they be combined?
- How is the process approach to entrepreneurship (entrepreneuring) similar and different from practice approach?
- How can we carve out insights and theories without the traditional aim of reification and generalization, given practice theories' phenomenological roots?
- How can we theoretically cope with the enormous diversity of practices in which entrepreneurship is implicated?
- How can entrepreneurship studies help to theorize the reproduction and transformation of practical knowledge?
- How can we incorporate embodiment and sociomateriality into our understanding of practices related to entrepreneurship?
- How can an EaP perspective rejuvenate our thinking about traditional entrepreneurship related topics of innovating, creating opportunities, networking, venturing, strategizing, financing and organizing?
- What is the value of existing theoretical frameworks of practice for entrepreneurship research, and when should we employ or go beyond them?
- How can EaP be used as a platform for critical studies of entrepreneurship?

Methodological and Empirical Challenges:

- How does one begin an EaP study, such as selecting and entering a site for observation?
- As theories of practice guide us to study the real-time and unique instances of practices related to entrepreneurship, how can we observe, analyze and theorize about these unique instances, whilst still accounting for their relations to other practices?
- What are some common research questions that can be formulated and answered using an EaP perspective, and which practice theory is appropriate for which research questions in entrepreneurship?
- How can one catalogue and rigorously analyze large amounts of video-based ethnographic data?
- What can we methodologically learn from the history of the Strategy as Practice (SaP) community?

Abstract / Paper Submission

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 **December 15, 2018** to 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 January 15, 2019. **Full working papers are due for February 28, 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.

Important Dates:

December 15, 2018	Abstract Submission Deadline PhD Symposium and Research Conference
January 15, 2019	Notification of Acceptance PhD Symposium and Research Conference
February 28, 2019	Full Paper Submission Deadline
March 1, 2019	Registration Deadline
April 3 - 5, 2019	Conference Dates
April 6, 2019	Organization Studies Special Issue PDW

Conference Fees:

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

Organizing Committee (extract)

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

William B. Gartner (Babson College and Linnaeus 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 3-6 2019. Founded in 1900, Audencia Business School is one of France's elite Grande Ecole higher education institutions – ranked 6th 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 city. 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

References

- Chalmers, D. M., & Shaw, E. (2017). The endogenous construction of entrepreneurial contexts: A practice-based perspective. *International Small Business Journal*, September(1967), 19–39.
- De Clercq, D., & Voronov, M. (2009). Toward a Practice Perspective of Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurial Legitimacy as Habitus. *International Small Business Journal*, 27(4), 395–419.
- Dimov, D. (2018). Opportunities, language and time. *Academy of Management Perspectives*, in press.
- Dodd, S. D., Pret, T., & Shaw, E. (2016). Advancing understanding of entrepreneurial embeddedness: forms of capital, social contexts and time. In F. Welter & W. B. Gartner (Eds.), *A research agenda for entrepreneurship and context* (pp. 120–133). Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Pub.
- Gartner, W. B., Stam, E., Thompson, N. A., & Verduyn, K. (2016). Entrepreneurship as practice: grounding contemporary practice theory into entrepreneurship studies. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 28(9–10), 813–816.
- Goss, D., Jones, R., Latham, J., & Betta, M. (2011). Power as practice: A Micro-sociological Analysis of the Dynamics of Emancipatory Entrepreneurship. *Organization Studies*, 32(2), 211–229.
- Hill, I. (2018). How did you get up and running? Taking a Bourdieuan perspective towards a framework for negotiating strategic fit. *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, 1–35.
- Johannisson, B. (2011). Towards a practice theory of entrepreneuring. *Small Business Economics*, 36(2), 135–150.
- Keating, A., Geiger, S., & Mcloughlin, D. (2013). Riding the Practice Waves: Social Resourcing Practices During New Venture Development. *Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice*, 38(5), 1–29.
- Matthews, R. S., Chalmers, D. M., & Fraser, S. S. (2018). The intersection of entrepreneurship and selling: An interdisciplinary review, framework, and future research agenda. *Journal of Business Venturing*, (June 2016), 1–0.
- Steyaert, C. (2007). 'Entrepreneuring' as a conceptual attractor? A review of process theories in 20 years of entrepreneurship studies. *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, 19(6), 453–477.
- Tatli, A., Vassilopoulou, J., Özbilgin, M., Forson, C., & Slutskaya, N. (2014). A Bourdieuan relational perspective for entrepreneurship research. *Journal of Small Business Management*, 52(4), 615–632.