

## **Call for Chapters for the book titled “Research Agenda on Social Capital in Economic Development”**

### **Editors:**

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### **Deadlines:**

Submission of extended abstracts: 1st of December 2022

Decision on the abstracts: 1st of January 2023

Delivery of chapters: 1st of October 2023

Publishing of the book: June 2024.

Social capital is one of the most studied concepts in social sciences. A simple search on the Web of Science of the term “social capital” in the title, abstract and keywords turns about 27,000 hits. The versatile character of the concept attracted the attention of researchers in various fields. It won't be wrong to say that there is an extensive literature on social capital in almost every field of social sciences. Despite this accumulation, the concept of social capital still provides new avenues for research, as the recent Chetty et al. (2022a; 2022b) articles show.

Within this massive literature, one of the most investigated topics is the link between social capital and economic development. Since the seminal works of Putnam (1993) and Knack and Keefer (1997) linking social capital to economic development, there is a continuous stream of articles on this simple correlation differentiating based on the measurement of social capital, forms of development (growth, well-being, happiness etc.) mechanisms, and geography (Rupasingha, Goetz and Freshwater, 2002; Iyer, Kitson and Toh, 2005; Beugelsdijk and van Schaik, 2005; Sabatini, 2008; Dearmon and Grier, 2009; Peiro-Palomino, 2016; Muringani, Fitjar and Rodriguez-Pose, 2021). Researchers have found correlations between social capital and well-being (Sarracino and Piekalkiewicz, 2021), innovation (Hauser, Tappeinera and Walde, 2007; Akçomak and ter Weel, 2009, Doh and Acs, 2010, Peiro-Palomino, 2019) happiness (Rodriguez-Pose and Berlepsch, 2014), firm growth (Cooke and Wills, 1999), entrepreneurial outcomes (Westlund and Bolton, 2003; Bauernschuster, Falck and Heblich, 2010; Theodoraki, Messeghem and Rice, 2018). Some of this research empirically investigated the link between social capital and an economic outcome. Some have actually shown how social capital is translated to economic development focusing on a particular mechanism such as innovation, human capital, financial development, quality of government etc.

The edited book aims to shed on future research directions on a rather specific topic: the impact of social capital on economic development. In reflecting this aim, the book is planned to compose of three main sections. The possible topics and some research questions under each section are summarized below.

### Measurement of social capital:

- How have typologies and measures of social capital evolved over time? How will this evolution affect the future of social capital research?
- How can new techniques and data (big data, social media networks, web mining etc.) improve the measurement of social capital?

### Social capital and economic development

- What are the future research directions on the link between social capital and economic growth?
- What measures and indicators of economic development could be employed in social capital research? Does social capital affect different development forms (economic growth, well-being, poverty, happiness etc.)?
- How can new data and analysis techniques improve the research on social capital and development?
- Jonathan Muringani (University of Oslo), Isabel Neira (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela), Marta Portela (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) and Francesco Sarracino (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Luxembourg) and Hans Westlund (KTH Royal Institute of Technology) have already agreed to contribute on this theme.

### Mechanisms

- How is social capital translated to economic development? Which mechanisms are identified and what possible mechanisms may induce improvement in investigating the link between social capital and development?
- What are the new research directions on the link between social capital and innovation and entrepreneurship in a state of increased digital transformation?
- How could the changes in the financial system (fintech, cryptocurrencies etc.) affect the role of financial development as an intermediary between social capital and development?
- How is social capital related to formal and informal institutions in explaining economic development?
- What role can the quality of government and institutions play in leveraging the impact of social capital in a trend of declining democracy?
- How can new forms of education (distance, dual etc.) and the impact of digitalization on education, or other forms of human learning impact the link between human capital and social capital?

We initially ask the interested authors to send an extended abstract of maximum 800 words and communicate with the editors.<sup>1</sup> The extended abstracts will be evaluated based on the novelty and relevance to the main theme of the book. The selected contributors will then be asked to write a chapter of about 8,000 words (including the main text, tables, figures, and references) and submit it by the 1st of October, 2023. Since the book will appear in the Elgar Research Agendas<sup>2</sup> we expect the contributions to address the issues and questions below:

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<sup>2</sup> See examples of Elgar Research Agendas at: <https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/book-series/education/elgar-research-agendas.html>

- A summary of the current state of research on the specific topic
- What factors could affect the current state of research? Is it the availability of data, a new analysis method, a new theoretical approach that would induce change, or a new socio-economic change?
- How would such changes affect the future of the specific topic?

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