Track: Digital Technologies, Entrepreneurship and Innovation

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Track Chairs
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Description of the track

The long tradition of entrepreneurship research has mainly focused on “how, by whom and with what consequences opportunities to produce future goods and services are discovered, evaluated and exploited” (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000, p.200). Alongside the ongoing digital transformation of economies driven by the diffusion of digital technologies, a multitude of new entrepreneurial opportunities is emerging. Due to new requirements for work in a digital economy, work values have evolved to constitute a greater appreciation of teamwork and connectedness. This entails new cognitive (e.g. knowledge about digital technologies, digital literacy) and behavioural capabilities of working in and with digital platforms (e.g. co-creation, information seeking and sharing, tackling problems and seeing new opportunities, managing virtual teams). Furthermore, the accessibility to social capital (such as networks, business partners, mentors) and to formal and informal networks, the exploitation novel funding opportunities (e.g. crowdfunding), and the unlocking of tacit knowledge (e.g. online technical assistance, technical databases, communities of users and experts) are gaining increasing relevance (Smith et al., 2017; Li et al., 2018).

General management literature reveals some findings how digitalisation affects the demand for new workplace skills (Sousa & and Rocha, 2019) and competencies (Lobo & Whyte, 2017). However, little is known about how the characteristic context of digital transformation influences the nature of entrepreneurship. By now, the field of research about digital entrepreneurship is still fuzzy and relatively unexplored.

Key topics and research questions of the track

- What are the purposes digital technologies (platforms, apps, infrastructure) are used by startups and innovating actors? How does the same technology used by different actors in different contexts produce different innovation outcomes?
Do digital technologies help startups to be more successful than others, do they help rise startup activity in general and in what stage of the venture creation process do they create the most value?

How do digital platforms (e.g. social media platforms) help to create social capital on individual and on organizational level?

Personal characteristics are antecedents why entrepreneurs choose specific digital activities. How does the diffusion of digital technologies across different types of digital entrepreneurship affect and shape individual characteristics of entrepreneurs (commitment, determination and perseverance, risk-taking and risk seeking, drive to achieve and grow, opportunity and goal orientation, and persistent problem solving)?

Digital technologies are likely to affect both the scope and the nature of agency of entrepreneurial activities. How do these changes in the nature of entrepreneurial activities correlate with reconfigurations of individual dispositions and mind-sets of entrepreneurs?

Some types of digital entrepreneurship extend the traditional scope and borders of activities and goals. Do these dynamics result in broader settings of entrepreneurial groups or communities and/or increased opportunities for minority entrepreneurship?

We encourage theoretical and empirical research papers that extend and develop our understanding how digital technologies fundamentally change entrepreneurial and innovation behaviour. We welcome research that uses a variety of empirical methods and encourage interdisciplinary research that applies new perspectives on the transformative character of digital platforms and infrastructure.

References


The deadline for submissions is June 1st, 2020.

All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.

Download the submission template here
Submit your paper here

The registration for the conference is open until July 31st, 2020.
Register here