Track: Ageing and Entrepreneurship

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Track Chairs:
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Description of the track

Throughout the developed world population birth rates are falling and life expectancies are rising. As a result, the demography and workforce of societies are becoming markedly older. Researchers in a variety of fields have acknowledged this phenomenon and, according to Shepherd (2015), research on entrepreneurship must accompany societal mega trends such as ageing.

Self-employment and entrepreneurship have been gaining increased attention as feasible occupational strategies for older individuals (Kautonen and Minniti, 2014; Singh and DeNoble, 2003), and emerging either as a life style option or as an “inevitability” due to insufficient income and lack of opportunities in the formal labour market in later life. Early research mainly focused on what drives individuals to start companies at an older age and only recently some articles have brought about innovative theory-based approaches analysing entrepreneurial performance by seniors at an individual (Kautonen et al., 2017) and firm-levels (Gielnik et al., 2012).

By focusing on older people, this track aims to increase the knowledge on how entrepreneurial entry, development, outputs and outcomes might be shaped by the life stage of the individual.

Key topics and research questions of the track

- How does the increase in longevity change the way we deal with career and, in specific, with entrepreneurship?
- Does the effect of ageing on entrepreneurial entry, process and performance being affected by the indicator adopted (e.g. chronological or self-perceived age)? Is there one more appropriate than one another?
- What triggers older individuals to deal with such a psychologically demanding activity such as entrepreneurship, an activity where goal accomplishment depends overwhelmingly on the founder/entrepreneur?
- What is the role of social capital throughout individuals' life and its impact on entrepreneurial entry, process and performance?
• Are senior entrepreneurs' businesses technology-based? If not, why? What type of drawbacks do older individuals face during the creation and development of a technology-based business? What kind of needs do they have and how do they overcome problems?

• Is technology differently adopted among younger and older entrepreneurs? What about digital technology (platforms, apps, infrastructure)? Are both younger and older entrepreneurs aware of the opportunities’ digital platforms (e.g. crowdfunding) may enable?

• Which factors influence individual levels of achievement in terms of quality of life and income? Is there a potential discrepancy between motivations (e.g. necessity vs. opportunity) and outcomes achieved in terms of quality of life (Kautonen et al., 2017)?

• What is the cost and benefit of supporting entrepreneurship for (older) unemployed individuals? Should the impact unemployment have on the propensity to start a business being disentangled between short and long-term unemployment?

We encourage theoretical and empirical research papers that extend and develop our understanding on the relationship between the entrepreneurial process (pre-entry, entry, development, exit) and entrepreneurs’ age. We welcome research that uses a variety of empirical methods and encourage interdisciplinary research.

The deadline for submissions is 15th June 2019. 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 31st August 2019. Register here