

**Special Issue: Entrepreneurship in China**

**Call for Papers**

**Submission deadline (extended):**

Abstract (for the SI workshop) by Dec. 31, 2016;

Final full paper to the Special Issue: June 30, 2017

**Guest Editors:**

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**Special Issue Theme and Background**

China has become the world's second largest economy in merely three decades and entrepreneurship has been identified as a key driver of China's fast growth (Huang, 2010). The China Surveys of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor in the last fifteen years consistently indicate the country's high rate of entrepreneurship. Furthermore, China has been in transition from the predominance of necessity-based entrepreneurship to that of opportunity-based entrepreneurship since the mid-2000s. In the meantime, more Chinese entrepreneurs have started setting their sights on business internationalisation. Against the backdrop of a thriving entrepreneurial economy, China has also been experiencing economic slowdown, increase in inequality and worsening environmental problems since the turn of the century. While entrepreneurship has certainly offered solutions to the economic, social and environmental challenges the country is facing, entrepreneurship may also arguably be part and parcel of those problems in the first place.

A recent bibliometric review of Chinese entrepreneurship research using the Social Science Citation Index and Chinese Social Science Citation Index databases over the past 10 years finds that scholars of Chinese entrepreneurship research often use similar theories (for example, institutional theory and resource-based view of the firm) and follow similar quantitative methods and approaches (Su, Zhai, and Landström 2015). Moreover, Chinese management research is found to focus more on 'general theories' and pay less attention to contextual variables (Meyer, 2007). Yet, the Chinese context for entrepreneurship is unique and current theories arguably do not fully account for what appears to be a fascinating context. For example, institutions and business environment are not viewed as "friendly" to private entrepreneurs and businesses (Huang, 2010). The re-emergence of entrepreneurship is 'a history of struggle to overcome opposition and obstruction, to survive and grow' (Huang, 2003: 101), including "rule ambiguities" (Atherton & Newman, 2016), rent-seeking (Dong, Wei & Zhang, 2016), subsidies (Du & Mickiewicz, 2016), and institutional constraints such

as industrial barriers, difficulties in getting access to critical resources and weak property rights (Zhou, 2011). Unpacking how entrepreneurs remove such institutional barriers is essential to understanding entrepreneurship in China (Ahlstrom & Ding, 2014). Furthermore, cultural and institutional forces can moderate the behaviour of entrepreneurs in emerging economies like China from social psychological and organizational behaviour perspectives (Bruton, Ahlstrom & Obloj, 2008). However, while national culture and nation-wide institutions matter, entrepreneurship is ultimately a local phenomenon. Local conditions may mitigate institutional void as a result of better-developed social networks (Zhang, 2015), economic openness (Anwar & Sun, 2015), and policy entrepreneurship (Zhu, 2013).

Clearly, the rapid development of entrepreneurship in China presents a lot of ‘puzzling’ questions that the growing literature of Chinese entrepreneurship still has no answer (Huang, 2010; Zhou, 2011). In addition to the above mentioned paradox of national versus local environment, other puzzles and new development provide excellent opportunities for scholarship. For example, how entrepreneurs in China are able to thrive in an environment in which institutional void and ‘rule ambiguities’ persist? How has entrepreneurship developed and what mechanisms have supported its progress, especially since the Chinese government called for a new wave of “mass entrepreneurship and grassroots entrepreneurship”? In a highly unequal society, is inequality the cause or effect of entrepreneurship in China? And, what role has the locale (for example, local government) played in the development of entrepreneurship and what processes might impact on the progress of the move towards an entrepreneurial society? These are just some of the questions which might help us to understand the complexity of entrepreneurship in the China context.

In summary, more systematic and in-depth research is needed for a better understanding of entrepreneurship in China, in particular by taking more account of China context (Meyer, 2007; Su et al., 2015). Taking “context” seriously (Johns, 2006) may significantly advance the theoretical development of entrepreneurship (Zahra, 2007). Therefore, the special issue aims to seek original research that will help build a more informed theoretical account of entrepreneurship in the context of China.

## **Research Questions**

Possible topics and questions are included in but not limited to the following:

- The impact of formal and informal institutions on entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurial interactions between entrepreneurs
- Social capital/guanxi and entrepreneurship
- Small firm problems and solutions/growth and contractions
- Regional differences and consequences of entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurial competition and collaboration
- Internet entrepreneurship
- Internationalisation of small and medium sized firms
- Formal and informal finance for small firms
- Entrepreneurial growth and entrepreneurial exit

## Submission Guidelines

Extended abstracts (1,000 words excluding references) and full papers should be submitted in Word format by email with attachment to one of the Guest Editors of the special issue as listed below:

- Dr. Qihai Huang: qihai.huang@lancaster.ac.uk
- Dr Xueyuan Liu: x.liu@whu.edu.cn
- Dr Jun Li: junli@essex.ac.uk

The first page must contain the title, author(s) and contact information of the corresponding author. Papers suitable for publication in the special issue will be double-blind reviewed, following the E&RD's review process guidelines. For additional guidelines, please see 'Instructions for Authors': <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tepnauth.asp>. or in a recent issue of *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*.

## Special Issue Workshop

The guest editors of this special issue are planning a manuscript development workshop on Friday, 21 April 2017 in Wuhan University, China, sponsored by School of Economics and Management, Wuhan University, and Lancaster University Management School/China Management Research Centre.

The Keynote Speakers of the Workshop are: (both have confirmed)

- Professor Alistair Anderson, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Editor-in-Chief of E&RD, Aberdeen Business School, Robert Gordon University, UK
- Professor Garry Bruton, Professor of Management, Neeley School of Business, Texas Christian University, USA

Authors whose extended abstracts are accepted will be invited to submit full papers and react to their colleagues' papers during the workshop. Please be noted that presentation at the workshop does not guarantee acceptance of the paper for publication in the special issue, and attending the workshop is not a precondition for acceptance into the Special Issue.

## Tentative Workshop and Publication Schedule:

Activities	Key Dates/Deadlines
Extended abstract submission for the SI workshop	31 December, 2016
Notification of abstract acceptance for the workshop	15 January, 2017
Full manuscript submission for the workshop	1 March, 2017
Notification of full paper acceptance for the workshop	15 March 2017
The SI Paper development workshop (Wuhan University, China)	21 April, 2017
Final Submission to the special issue	30 June, 2017
Special Issue publication (tentative)	2018

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