

Special Issue: Journal of International Entrepreneurship

Special Issue on “Migrant and Diaspora Entrepreneurs in International Entrepreneurship”

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Submission Deadline: March 31, 2017

Background and Topic:

The broad theme of this special issue is on migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs in international entrepreneurship (IE) and their entrepreneurial internationalization (EI) as well as the ways they bridge international contexts and mobilize diverse entrepreneurial resources supporting internationalization processes (e.g., Jones & Coviello, 2005; Dana, 2007; Brinkerhoff, 2009; Terjesen & Elam, 2009; Emontspool & Servais, 2016). These entrepreneurs face complexities regarding business contexts, borders, transnationalism, and in-between dimensions that create theoretical and analytical challenges. The objective of this issue is to theoretically and empirically contribute to IE by exploring whether, how, and why the IE activities of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs differ from other internationally oriented entrepreneurs (cf. Etemad, 2004; Jones & Coviello, 2005; Jones et al., 2011).

The contextualization of entrepreneurial internationalization processes deserves particular attention. A significant body of research has addressed immigrant entrepreneurship and ethnic entrepreneurship with a focus on the host country context, while research on transnational entrepreneurship, transnational diaspora entrepreneurship, and cross-border entrepreneurship primarily examine the international dimensions between entrepreneurs' home and host countries (Brinkerhoff, 2009; Çavuşgil et al. 2011; Riddle & Brinkerhoff,

2011; Nkongolo-Bakenda & Chrysostome, 2013; Elo & Freiling, 2015; Smart & Hsu, 2004; Emontspool & Servais, 2016). Research on transnational entrepreneurship has shifted the interest from migrants' economic adaptation to the host country toward their international entrepreneurial activities for opportunity development in dual social fields (Drori, Honig and Wright, 2009). Still, research on internationalization beyond this duality remains underdeveloped, and very little is known about locational dynamics, mechanisms, and processes that contemporary migrants and diasporans employ in international entrepreneurship and international business (cf. Tung, 2008; Brinkerhoff, 2016).

Understanding the entrepreneurial internationalization processes and dynamics of migrants and diasporans may illuminate novel aspects for EI (cf. Jones & Coviello, 2005). These entrepreneurs cross borders and explore and effectuate business opportunities internationally often in demanding contexts that connect markets (Emontspool & Servais, 2016; Elo, 2016). This special issue invites exploration of these IE actors and their EI processes and behaviors. It welcomes the analysis of multiple international entrepreneurial activities, inward and outward internationalization, as well as cooperative arrangements (Welch & Luostarinen, 1993).

Conceptualizing the “international entrepreneur” in IE is a fundamental issue for theory development and requires further debating. This “who” question is highly challenging—both theoretically and practically—especially in the era of increased mobility due to globalization, which blurs the distinction between national and international contexts (e.g., Peiris, Akoorie & Sinha, 2012; Jones et al., 2011; Zahra, Korri & Yu, 2005; Etemad, 2004; Dimitratos & Plakoyiannaki, 2003; McDougall & Oviatt, 2000; Dana, Etemad & Wright, 1999). Beyond the complex nature of the entrepreneur-actor, EI is a dynamically adoptive phenomenon (cf. Etemad, 2004). Therefore, EI processes, their context, and their participants need more attention, for example, regarding respective preconditions, sequences, paths, and behaviors (cf. Drori, Honig & Wright, 2009; Elo, 2016). Differences in how these entrepreneurial actors behave when exploring and exploiting opportunities compared to other international entrepreneurs may stem from their market-specific knowledge, culture, or religion (cf. Riddle et al., 2010; Elo & Volovelsky, 2016 forthcoming). Their cultural, linguistic, religious, and other in-group and in-between features represent particular resources and competences for EI (e.g., Brinkerhoff, 2009, 2016).

Still, very little is known about these people and their particular capabilities or about how these capabilities influence EI. However, they appear to be unique and seem to have distinct mechanisms and advantages (cf. Johanson & Vahlne, 1990; Drori et al., 2009; Elo, Harima & Freiling, 2015; Brinkerhoff, 2016).

Capturing the economic potential and the roles of migrants and diasporans as change-making entrepreneurs in international business and economic development deserves research attention (Usher, 2005; Newland & Tanaka, 2010). Their effects for IE and globalization are broader than what has been acknowledged in the literature (Brinkerhoff, 2009; Riddle et al., 2010; Newland & Tanaka, 2010; Riddle & Brinkerhoff, 2011; Nkongolo-Bakenda & Chrysostome, 2013; Elo, 2016; Brinkerhoff, 2016). Engagements in EI and consequent international business are of importance to innovation, economic development, and competitiveness at the firm to the country level (e.g., Tung, 2008; Brinkerhoff, 2016). These connectors and interlocutors— together with their networks—incorporate multi-actor dynamics and embeddedness, which influence internationalization, its speed, and locus and provide opportunities, capabilities, and direct connections (cf. Johanson, & Vahlne, 2009;

Coviello & Cox, 2006; Jansson & Sandberg, 2008; Brinkerhoff, 2016). Global and digital diaspora networks appear to foster internationalization and expansion (e.g., Riddle & Brinkerhoff, 2011; Riddle et al., 2010). Additionally, diasporas and their in-between advantages may cultivate the development of both business clusters and institutions (e.g., Sonderegger & Täube, 2010; Brinkerhoff, 2016).

The organizational forms, resources, and locations employed by these entrepreneurs may inherently differ from those of other international entrepreneurs. They may access diaspora, inter-ethnic, inter-firm, and international resource systems and networks that are often invisible to outsiders, such as Guanxi and Chaebol, but central for their entrepreneurial activities (e.g., Park & Luo, 2001; Ellis, 2011; Manolova, Manev, & Gyoshev, 2010). Moreover, this special issue examines the plurality and collective dimension of these participants and stakeholders as well as their different roles and positions as entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, family business owners and managers, business owners and managers, venture capitalists, and change makers (e.g., Elo & Riddle, 2016). Research often overlooks the fact that some family businesses, founded by migrants/diasporans and continued by their descendants, grow to become leading firms and expand beyond their countries of residence. These firms often connect back to their countries of origin from their very outset. Such undertakings may involve a collective approach by members of one or several generations of migrant families (Discua Cruz, Howorth & Hamilton, 2013). Further, this process may be strongly supported by hard-to-imitate resources that have been nurtured over a long period of time by migrant/diasporic families anywhere in the world (Sirmon and Hitt, 2003). However, the way in which migrant resources and international entrepreneurship are intertwined may seem unusual at first because of prevailing misconceptions about migrant families in business around the world (Discua Cruz & Basco, 2017), and insights into how such processes occur have been elusive.

Diverse perspectives around migrant families' conceptualizations, family dynamics, long-term intentions, and even succession paths that foster IE may provide a more nuanced understanding of migrant family businesses (Basco & Rodríguez, 2009; Howorth et al., 2010).

The main purpose of this special issue is to advance IE research on migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs and their entrepreneurial internationalization and on the respective opportunity risk management, directions, motivations, location choices, processes, participants, and critical events. This special issue calls for research on transnational and multi-cultural resources, organizational forms, contextual settings, and actor types that provides novel insights that advance EI theory. For example, according to Riddle and Brinkerhoff (2011, 670) "Diasporans who establish new ventures in their countries of origin comprise a special case of international ethnic entrepreneurship." To complement our theoretical and empirical understanding on these variants of IE, studies exploring such firm, business-network and industry dynamics, and processes in bifocal and multifocal contexts are invited. Multi- and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome.

In summary, building on the extant literature on the broad theme¹, this special issue aims to provide a platform for theory development and for the exploration of these special cases in IE.

The Special Issue Seeks to Accomplish the Following:

- Explore the diversity of the “who” in IE and the respective roles, effects, and organizational forms.
- Explore and explain migrant-driven EI in terms of both inward and outward internationalization.
- Examine the dynamics of entrepreneurial diasporic networks and the “glue” of cooperation in internationalization/international business (Schotter & Abdelzaher, 2013).
- Increase understanding of the different transnational and supranational contexts in IE beyond the dichotomy of home and host country.
- Identify special resources—namely, the “talent” (Tung, 2008)—stemming from migration and diaspora.
- Analyze how networks for migrant and diaspora entrepreneurship are developed and used for internationalization and cooperation.
- Identify success factors in business models of migrant and diaspora IE.
- Explore international migrant/diasporic family businesses and the extent to which migrant families in business approach IE based on country of origin networks.
- Analyze the role of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs as new “international” Argonauts, (cf. Saxenian, 2007) innovators, and change agents.
- Explore, map, and analyze the international scope and aggregation of migrant and diaspora entrepreneurship and respective international linkages.
- Examine the impact of differences in socio-cultural and institutional environments between home and host contexts on migrant and diaspora entrepreneurs.
- Understand how institutional perspectives and policy frameworks influence migrant and diaspora EI.

Focus Themes:

- *International and transnational entrepreneurs*
- *Migrant and diaspora entrepreneurship*
- *EI, cross-border entrepreneurship and international business*
- *Diaspora networks in IE and business*
- *Migrant/diasporic families in international business*
- *International and transnational resources and mechanisms*
- *Impacts of geographical scope and mobility factors on EI*
- *Entrepreneurial dynamics and socio-cultural drivers*
- *Diaspora business models and multi-context entrepreneurship*
- *Institutional perspectives on bifocal and multifocal contexts*

Timeline and Submission

All submissions should be uploaded electronically at

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/jien/default.aspx> for this special issue between **March 1 and March 31, 2017**.

See the Journal of International Entrepreneurship website for format, style, instructions, and other requirements: <http://www.springer.com/business+%26+management/entrepreneurship/journal/10843>

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¹ This highly focused and specialized literature was initiated by a special issue of the *International Business Review* in 2011 on international ethnic entrepreneurship and was followed by a special issue of the *Journal of International Management* in 2013. The forthcoming special issue of the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* has further extended the literature. Authors are encouraged to examine these special issues.



<http://www.springer.com/journal/10843>

Journal of International Entrepreneurship

Editor-in-Chief: Etemad, H.

ISSN: 1570-7385 (print version)

ISSN: 1573-7349 (electronic version)

Journal no. 10843