

## Book Review

# *Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Local Development*

James W. Bronson

Luca Iandoli, Hans Landstrom, and Mario Raffa, eds., *Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Local Development*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, Inc. 2007. 279 pages. \$125.00

*Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Local Development*, edited by Luca Iandoli, Hans Landstrom, and Mario Raffa, is the second volume in a series of selected papers from the annual Research in Entrepreneurship conference (RENT). This volume contains 11 of the best papers out of the 131 presented at the 2005 RENT conference.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM), and the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), so it should be no surprise that all of the authors are affiliated with European institutes and universities. Therein lies a singular strength of the volume: The research is based in Europe. The European Union and its member nations constitute a source of data different in both qualitative and quantitative terms in comparison to data generally available in North America. These differences in available data translate into varying perspectives on otherwise familiar avenues of research. A second strength stems from the editor's introduction, which offers an excellent recapitulation of the history of entrepreneurship research with some emphasis on the European contribution.

### Organization of the Book

Following the historical review, the editors present a case for organizing the book's content into four major sections: (1) the local context as sociogeographic entity, (2) the importance of knowledge flow and creation in local networks, (3) organizational models and management issues for small firms operating within local networks, and (4) the role of entrepreneurs within networks. This four-part organization should increase the functionality of the book. However, the editors have chosen to present each paper alphabetically by first author, as a standalone chapter, thus obviating the potential linkages among papers.

### Synopsis of the 11 Chapters or Papers

*Chapter 1:* Bertoni, Columbo, and Grilli employ an econometric analysis to offer compelling evidence that, in Italy, venture capital financing stimulates firm growth as opposed to firm growth attracting venture capital.

*Chapter 2:* Bruyneel, Carree, and Peeters find that unemployment is not an incentive to become an entrepreneur in Belgium.

*Chapter 3:* Dijkstra, Kemp, and Lutz investigate the effect of entry barriers on new ventures in the Netherlands and reveal that accepted barriers are often not regarded by entrepreneurs as detrimental to entry.

*Chapter 4:* Domotor and Hader compare entrepreneurial traits to entrepreneurial attitudes finding that, in Austria, attitudes are better predictors of intent.

*Chapter 5:* Gabrielsson and Politis utilize a Swedish sample to find that career experience and career motives determine entrepreneurs' preference for causal or effectual modes of reasoning.

*Chapter 6:* Gibcus, de Jong-t hart, and Kemp use a longitudinal database to examine factors determining the growth of start-ups in the Netherlands.

*Chapter 7:* Terjesen and O'Gorman explore the role of gender differences in the supply of venture financing in Ireland.

*Chapter 8:* Uhlaner and van Santen investigate the relationship between contextual variables and knowledge management practices in technology-based Dutch businesses.

*Chapter 9:* Wauters and Lambrecht look at motivators for entrepreneurship in refugees located in Belgium and find that integration into the host society is a compelling rationale.

*Chapter 10:* Welter, Smallbone, Isakova, and Aculai investigate gender differences in the transitional environments of Ukraine, Moldova, and Uzbekistan. Their results indicate that environmental factors dominate gender differences.

*Chapter 11:* Wijbenga, Postam, and Stratling employ a Dutch sample to investigate the role of venture capital in the development and quality of control systems in entrepreneurial firms.

## Conclusion

If a readings book is to create value, that value must be in the selection of articles and the rationale behind the selection. *Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Local Development* does meet the criteria for creating value on the first count. The editors' introduction, with overview and categorization of entrepreneurship research, constitutes an excellent background for additional readings or research extension, while the originality and quality of the papers is worthy of the reader's interest. If the book has a failing, it is on the second

count. The editors have not provided linkages across the chapters, nor have they chosen to organize the chapters into the four research categories suggested in the book's introduction.

The editor's introduction to this volume stands alone, either as an introduction or as a refresher, to anyone desiring a brief history of entrepreneurship research. Beyond the introduction, this volume will be of value to researchers with an interest in European entrepreneurship research.



## About the Author



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