

ENTREPRENEURIALISM AND SOCIETY

New Theoretical Perspectives

Edited by Robert N. Eberhart,
Michael Lounsbury and Howard E. Aldrich

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RESEARCH IN THE
SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS

VOLUME 81

ENTREPRENEURIALISM AND SOCIETY

The two volumes of the “Reversing the Arrow” series are a tour de force that serve to crystallize a novel way of conceptualizing the interplay between society and entrepreneurship. They have led to a sea change in scholarship on entrepreneurship and will inspire new and exciting research for years to come.

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Entrepreneurship has morphed from “what startups and small businesses do” into a pervasive ideology. From Shark Tank to university curricula, entrepreneurship is everywhere now. How did everyone become an LLC, ready to toss an elevator pitch at a moment’s notice? The articles in these volumes examine the societal impact of entrepreneurialism -- what happens when the process of starting a business becomes a set of values and a how-to guide for appropriate action far beyond the context of startups. They reflect an engaging mix of disciplines and methods taking on a vital problem.

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RESEARCH IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF
ORGANIZATIONS VOLUME 81

ENTREPRENEURIALISM AND SOCIETY: NEW THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES

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United Kingdom – North America – Japan
India – Malaysia – China

Emerald Publishing Limited
Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2022

Editorial matter and selection © 2022 Robert N. Eberhart, Michael Lounsbury and
Howard E. Aldrich.

Individual chapters © 2022 the authors.

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-80382-658-5 (Print)

ISBN: 978-1-80382-657-8 (Online)

ISBN: 978-1-80382-659-2 (Epub)

ISSN: 0733-558X (Series)



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

This volume is dedicated to the memory of Prof. William Miller who encouraged me to embark on a journey from being an entrepreneur to a scholar studying our new entrepreneurial world.

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FOREWORD: RESEARCH IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF ORGANIZATIONS

Research in the Sociology of Organizations (RSO) publishes cutting edge empirical research and theoretical papers that seek to enhance our understanding of organizations and organizing as pervasive and fundamental aspects of society and economy. We seek provocative papers that push the frontiers of current conversations, that help to revive old ones, or that incubate and develop new perspectives. Given its successes in this regard, RSO has become an impactful and indispensable fount of knowledge for scholars interested in organizational phenomena and theories. RSO is indexed and ranks highly in Scopus/SCImago as well as in the Academic Journal Guide published by the Chartered Association of Business schools.

As one of the most vibrant areas in the social sciences, the sociology of organizations engages a plurality of empirical and theoretical approaches to enhance our understanding of the varied imperatives and challenges that these organizations and their organizers face. Of course, there is a diversity of formal and informal organizations – from for-profit entities to non-profits, state and public agencies, social enterprises, communal forms of organizing, non-governmental associations, trade associations, publicly traded, family owned and managed, private firms – the list goes on! Organizations, moreover, can vary dramatically in size from small entrepreneurial ventures to large multi-national conglomerates to international governing bodies such as the United Nations.

Empirical topics addressed by RSO include: the formation, survival, and growth of organizations; collaboration and competition between organizations; the accumulation and management of resources and legitimacy; and how organizations or organizing efforts cope with a multitude of internal and external challenges and pressures. Particular interest is growing in the complexities of contemporary organizations as they cope with changing social expectations and as they seek to address societal problems related to corporate social responsibility, inequality, corruption and wrongdoing, and the challenge of new technologies. As a result, levels of analysis reach from the individual, to the organization, industry, community and field, and even the nation-state or world society. Much research is multi-level and embraces both qualitative and quantitative forms of data.

Diverse theory is employed or constructed to enhance our understanding of these topics. While anchored in the discipline of sociology and the field of management, RSO also welcomes theoretical engagement that draws on other disciplinary conversations – such as those in political science or economics, as well as work from diverse philosophical traditions. RSO scholarship has helped push forward a plethora theoretical conversations on institutions and institutional

change, networks, practice, culture, power, inequality, social movements, categories, routines, organization design and change, configurational dynamics and many other topics.

Each volume of RSO tends to be thematically focused on a particular empirical phenomenon (e.g., creative industries, multinational corporations, entrepreneurship) or theoretical conversation (e.g., institutional logics, actors and agency, microfoundations). The series publishes papers by junior as well as leading international scholars, and embraces diversity on all dimensions. If you are scholar interested in organizations or organizing, I hope you find RSO to be an invaluable resource as you develop your work.

Professor Michael Lounsbury
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The editors want to express the deepest appreciation and respect for the authors in this volume, the participants at the Reversing the Arrow conferences in Lake Tahoe, and the organizers of this research effort who devoted so much time and energy to make this a reality. This volume grew out of conversations among the organizers and participants of the CalO2 conferences at the University of Southern California, the annual West Coast Research Seminars, and the annual conferences at Lake Tahoe. The editors would also like to express gratitude to the Graduate School of Business at Stanford for supporting and hosting this project, the Stanford Technology Ventures Program for their educational support, and the Rocket Wagon Venture Studio and Palo Alto Venture Studio for their generous financial support.