
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Peter Nijkamp is Professor in Regional and Urban Economics and in Economic Geography at the Free University, Amsterdam. He has a broad expertise in the area of public policy, services planning, infrastructure management and environmental protection. In all these fields he has published many books and numerous articles. His main research interests cover plan evaluation, multicriteria analysis, regional and urban planning, transport systems analysis, mathematical modelling, technological innovation and resource management. In past years he has focused his research in particular on quantitative methods for policy analysis, as well as on behavioural analysis of economic agents.

Roger R. Stough NOVA Endowed Chair, Eminent Scholar and Professor of Public Policy; Associate Dean for Research, Development and External Relations; the Director of the Mason Enterprise Center and of the National Center for ITS Deployment Research (USDOT) – all at the School of Public Policy, George Mason University. Dr Stough's education includes a BS in International Trade and Economics, Ohio State University; a MA in Economic Geography, University of South Carolina; a PhD in Geography and Environmental Engineering, Johns Hopkins University. His research areas include leadership and entrepreneurship in regional economic development, regional economic modelling and transport.

The combined forces of ICT and globalisation are driving countries and regions to increasingly focus competition policy on firm formation or enterprise development and on growing firms and industries. While such policies include traditional approaches, such as infrastructure investment and business/industry attraction, focus is shifting increasingly to enterprise development and the growth of enterprises. In developed countries, this evolving interest is driven by the need for more effective competition against countries with large wage cost advantages. In developing countries, interest in this new emerging approach is driven by a belief that comparative advantage by itself is insufficient to maintain market advantage. Consequently, there has been a perception across both developed and developing countries that entrepreneurial behaviour is fundamental for sustained economic development. It is seen as important not only for the development of

private sector institutions but also for social and non-profit and public sector institutions including national, sub-national regions (states and provinces) and cities and city regions.

This broadening and application of the concept of 'entrepreneurship' into societal sectors that were not traditionally realms of investigation is creating new research questions and issues. The purpose of this special edition is to expose the reader to some of the dimensions of this new and expanded entrepreneurial focus. At the same time, the work presented is by no means a definitive treatment. Rather, it provides insight into some of the policy and research issues and questions that are surfacing as the meaning and use of 'entrepreneurship' expands beyond the private sector.

This special edition consists of six substantive papers. The general topics addressed include: the entrepreneurial city, the role of ICTs in building entrepreneurial capacity, gender and ethnicity in entrepreneurship, and public sector, non-profit and social entrepreneurship. All papers address some relatively new dimension of entrepreneurship or a new way of considering the impact of policy variables such as gender and ethnicity, and ICT on patterns of entrepreneurship and development policy. These papers were initially presented at a research workshop on new directions in entrepreneurship research and regional economic development, held at the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam in the summer of 2003; the event was co-sponsored by the School of Public Policy, George Mason University. Brief summaries of the papers follow.

The first paper by T.R. Lakshmanan and L. Chatterjee, entitled 'The entrepreneurial city in the global marketplace,' considers the city as an entrepreneurial agent that has emerged as a consequence of globalisation. The authors note that globalisation is not a new concept but that contemporary globalisation differs considerably from earlier manifestations on such dimensions as context, underlying processes and emergent organisational and institutional forms. As the most elementary form of public sector organisation, cities are seen as competing within a context dominated by the global corporation. Through economies of scale and scope and favourable factor prices (e.g. labour) this corporation has led to what is now seen as a globally organised production system that has created worldwide competition. This is a world where all places are potentially in competition with each other. The authors see the city as an input to the production process in the contemporary global market and thus, as a commodity that is being organised by its leaders to maximise returns on capital. Leadership is becoming increasingly entrepreneurial in nature as the city must identify and grasp new opportunities and provide appropriate hard and soft infrastructure as well as supportive local leadership. Thus, the authors highlight the role of the rise of the entrepreneurial city and with it, the redefinition of the role and nature of urban public goods. As a consequence of the authors' interpretation, this paper explores the spatial restructuring of urban activities and land use patterns. This interesting and novel paper illustrates a new and provocative application of the concept of entrepreneurship and its relevance in the global economic marketplace.

The second paper, entitled 'Gender differences in ethnic entrepreneurship', is written by T.B. Levent, E. Masurel and P. Nijkamp. It combines two fields of research – gender and ethnic studies – in an effort to examine the role of females in ethnic enterprises. They note that considerable gender-based research has focused on psychological and social characteristics as a basis for explaining differences in entrepreneurial characteristics and performance, and for explaining the lower status of women in society. However, the paper seeks to extend this body of research to investigate gender-based differences in ethnic

entrepreneurship by describing male and female profiles of ethnic entrepreneurs and enterprises. The results of two case studies in Amsterdam (Turkish, Indian/Pakistani and Moroccan male entrepreneurs; Turkish female entrepreneurs) are presented. The findings demonstrate gender-based differences in ethnic entrepreneurship that are similar to those frequently observed in more general gender-based entrepreneurship research. The authors conclude that gender is of greater importance (is a stronger driver) than ethnicity in the characteristics and behavioural attitudes of ethnic entrepreneurs. As such, this contributes to both gender and ethnicity knowledge bases, as well as to the entrepreneurship and regional/policy context, in that the evidence presented suggests gender patterns to be more robust and resilient.

Maria Giaoutzi and Vassilios Vescoukis recognise the rising importance of entrepreneurship in regional and national development planning, policy and programming in the third paper, entitled 'The role of ICTs in building entrepreneurial capacity in the regions of the future'. This paper views the ICT industry as having a destabilising effect on economic and industry structure and thus, as a contributor to the radical changes in international division of labour observed over the past decade or so. Because of the impact of ICTs on entrepreneurial activity and its destabilising economic effects, the authors argue that a typology based on the experience level of the entrepreneur is needed to bring more structure to analyses of the relationship between entrepreneurship and ICT dynamics. They propose a four category typology for this purpose. The categories are: novice, habitual, serial and portfolio entrepreneur. Drawing on professional and scholarly literature and the typology, they provide an assessment of the 'deconstruction of the ICT firm' by type of ICT (e.g. hardware, software, content, e-commerce, value-added services) and by type of activity (e.g. design, production, assembly, management). Their conclusions are provocative and provide a different line of investigation into the relationship between entrepreneurship and ICTs. Underlying assumptions of the paper are that there is a strong link between ICT and the level of entrepreneurial behaviour, and that both are strong drivers of regional and national development experience today. Hidden behind the analysis is an assumption much like that offered in the first paper: that the contemporary form of globalisation is driving institutional and organisational change as well as new opportunities in the wake of its destabilising effects.

The possibility of extending entrepreneurship to the public sector is examined by G. Shockley, R.R. Stough, K.E. Haynes and P. Frank in the fourth paper, entitled 'Toward a theory of public sector entrepreneurship'. Like Israel Kirzner, the authors assume entrepreneurial discovery is ubiquitous in human action. They argue that much of the existing thought on this topic emphasises rational calculation in private sector settings and thus, is generally inadequate to explain observed entrepreneurial behaviour in the public sector. Their paper integrates Kirznerian and Schumpeterian concepts on entrepreneurship with elements from public choice theory, after Buchanan and Tullock, in an effort to establish a firm foundation for considering public sector entrepreneurship. As a product of their analysis they define public sector entrepreneurship as occurring, 'whenever a political or governmental actor is alert to, and acts on, potential political profit opportunities, thus equilibrating the policy sub-system in which the actor is embedded and moving it toward a new equilibrium.' The paper is primarily important for its rationale on why the seemingly contradictory application of entrepreneurship may be viable for the public sector. By extension, one may speculate on how to instil entrepreneurial behaviour in the individual public servant, politician or public sector service delivery agency.

In 'Non-profit entrepreneurship: extending the concept of profit opportunities,' the fifth paper, Peter Frank notes that the non profit sector is an increasingly important element of regional and national economic development. At the same time, he argues that the entrepreneurial element in the non-profit sector is largely unexplained. Thus he sets forth a conceptual or interpretive framework to understand the decision-making process of the non-profit entrepreneur, through an extension of economic literature on entrepreneurship to this sector. By extending the market notion of profit opportunity, the author shows how non-profit entrepreneurs act creatively, and discover and exploit opportunities in a non-market context to establish organisations that help coordinate individual plans and purposes. Frank concludes that his concept of the non-profit entrepreneur 'broadens market concepts to the burgeoning and increasingly germane non-profit sector' and thus expands and deepens our understanding of the sector. Of course, this also provides an enriched conceptual platform from which to consider the policy relevance and contribution of the non-profit sector to regional and national development.

The final chapter is by Dennis Young, entitled 'Social enterprise in community and economic development in the United States: theory, corporate form and purpose'. This paper focuses on social entrepreneurship as both a sub-element of non-profit enterprise and at the same time, as an element that envelopes it. He notes the relatively large importance of the role of social enterprises in the USA, ranging from the retail sector to counselling and community services. Furthermore, he notes that social enterprises are structured in diverse ways including non-profits, subsidiaries of for-profits, alliances among business corporations, etc. Commonly defined social enterprises are viewed as commercially-oriented ventures to create social as well as economic value, and various forms of these organisations show a diverse set of purposes, organisational forms and entrepreneurial motivations. This paper describes this diversity of goals and forms and establishes social entrepreneurship in organisational and non-profit economic theory. It also examines a sample of ventures taken from the Community Wealth Ventures data base. Results of this analysis are that economic and community development social ventures are most frequently non-profit corporations in form; they rely considerably on external collaboration and focus on achieving direct contributions to their social mission and net revenue generation. The latter finding provides insight into the need for better understanding and adoption of best business practices in social ventures. Dennis Young is President of the National Center for Non-Profit Enterprise, which focuses on bringing better business practice information to social enterprises and facilitating adoption.

This diverse set of papers provides new insight into different elements of entrepreneurship and enterprise development thinking, and provides insight into the relevance of research reported for regional and national development policy. Some of these papers, such as those by Lakshmanan and Chatterjee and Giaoutzi and Vescoukis, provide new links to various policy realms as the role of entrepreneurship in cities and regional competitiveness in the global marketplace. Further, the paper on gender, ethnicity and entrepreneurship contributes to a better understanding of the range over which gender-based entrepreneurship research findings apply. Finally, three of the papers provide enhanced definitions and conceptual and interpretive conclusions for extensions of 'entrepreneurship' beyond the private sector. These three papers offer enhanced clarity on the meaning of non-profit, social and public sector entrepreneurship and on possible links to the role of entrepreneurship in regional and national development policy.