
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Teresa Menzies is a Professor in the Faculty of Business, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, and teaches entrepreneurship and family business. Her research interests and publications concern entrepreneurship education, ethnic and minority entrepreneurship, and the process of new firm creation. She has formerly served as a President of the Canadian Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (CCSBE/CCPME), and past member of the board of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB). She is an advisor to Industry Canada.

The sub economies that exist within the various ethnic groups across global environments are of economic, social and cultural importance. There is a considerable literature on ethnic minorities within, for example, the migration, sociology and regional geography literatures, however, we are at an early stage of theory building within the ethnic entrepreneurship context. This special issue brings together an important set of papers which advance our knowledge in relation to how various ethnic minority entrepreneurs interact with their environment.

The use of social capital and the associated networks varies according to ethnic group (Menzies et al., 2003). Three papers in this issue deal directly with the type of 'capital' and the relationship to business success. Perreault, Brenner, Menzies, Filion and Ramangalahy, study Chinese, Italian, Sikh and Jewish entrepreneurs in Canada, to explore the connection between various types of social capital and its effect on business performance. Results point to increased business performance with less reliance on co-ethnic resources and more interaction with the wider community. Luthans, Norman and Jensen conceptualise regarding three types of 'capital', namely, human, social and psychological, and the effect on immigrant success in business creation. They propose that possession and development of a specific type of capital, and the leveraging of components of a specific capital, enhances business success. Piperopoulos and Ikonomu utilise a positive and negative push/pull framework in their study of eight immigrant groups in Thessaloniki, Greece. Their findings show that negative push factors predominate in self-employment decisions. The importance of the family in new and ongoing businesses is also explored.

Still within the social capital theme, two papers utilise a national, statistical methodology with a strong emphasis on public policy. Lowrey in a US study proposes that despite some outstanding successes by ethnic minority entrepreneurs, there is considerable disadvantage across racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups. Public policy is proposed as the most effective interjection for increasing the incidence and success of

ethnic minority entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, Mung and Dinh studying immigrant entrepreneurs in France, report a decrease in the incidence of entrepreneurship within the general population but an increase in the number of entrepreneurs within new immigrant groups. They indicate that various forms of capital are utilised to enhance new immigrant business success.

A qualitative study by Galperin, of the development of Cuban-American entrepreneurship in Tampa, Florida focuses on the factors, which have enhanced business success, for example, a strong reliance on family business, and also government programs, at various levels. A retrospective view of Chinese immigrant entrepreneurs in New Zealand by Cao highlights the importance of networking with co-ethnic entrepreneurs and the difficulty of building social capital with the local population. Madichie, explores the prospects for Nigerian restaurants in London, England, arguing that African restaurants are under-represented, and looks at the barriers and success factors facing this ethnic minority niche business. Overall, the papers included in this issue focus on three main themes of social capital, networks, and public policy, which have implications for theory and practice in relation to ethnic sub-economies in the global environment.

Reference

- Menzies, T.V., Brenner, G.A. and Filion, L.J. (2003) 'Social capital, networks and ethnic minority entrepreneurs: transnational entrepreneurship and bootstrap capitalism', in Etemad, H. and Wright, R.W. (Eds.): *Globalization and Entrepreneurship: Policy and Strategy Perspectives*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Northampton, MA, pp.125–151.