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## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Mary Han is an Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Ryerson University. She earned her DBA in Innovation Management from the University of Strathclyde. Her research focuses on new venture creation, strategic process, organisational adaptation and internationalisation of SMEs.

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## 1 Introduction

The main objective of this issue of the *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* is to examine the internationalisation of SMEs in Europe. As Europe continues to grow, more emphasis is being placed on examining how firms in Europe internationalise. We take the perspective in this special issue that the theory on international entrepreneurship is a useful theoretical framework in which to examine internationalisation of firms in Europe. International entrepreneurship is “a combination of innovative, proactive and risk-seeking behavior that crosses national borders and is intended to create value in organizations” (McDougall and Oviatt, 2000, p.903). As a theoretical framework international entrepreneurship is useful as it takes into account multiple units of analysis including that of the owner manager, the firm and interorganisational relations. In this special issue we are contributing to the gap in the literature suggested by Zahra *et al.* (2005) that more theoretical perspectives that take into account both the international and national institutional environments in understanding entrepreneurship is needed. Hence, as international entrepreneurship is a contextualised activity in cross border coordination (Fletcher, 2004), we take the perspective that the context of Europe is a useful geographic domain of inquiry.

The first paper by Gassman and Keupp discusses the role of born globals in the international environment. It proposes a framework to examine born global activity utilising international entrepreneurship literature combined with literature on organisational learning and competitive advantage. Similarly, the second paper by Hessels highlights the importance of innovation and international involvement for Dutch Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs). It suggests that there are different measures of innovation that can be used to analyse international involvement. In the third paper, Kinkel *et al.* examine manufacturing offshoring activities of German SMEs. It suggests that many SMEs in the manufacturing industry have international production experience.

Loane *et al.* examine an innovative area of research by looking at the internet adoption behaviour by rapidly internationalising SMEs. It highlights that the many firms utilise the internet as an information mechanism to facilitate their international growth. Abecassis-Moedas conducts an industry-specific analysis of international entrepreneurship. She examines the UK clothing industry. Her results suggest that there are a number of survival strategies that clothing firms can utilise to operate more successfully in the international marketplace. The sixth paper by Zucchella *et al.* look at entrepreneurial capabilities through an analysis of the dialysis industry. It suggests that firms need to develop new capabilities in order to succeed in the international environment. The seventh paper by Kollmann *et al.* analyses entrepreneurial orientation in the venture creation process. It highlights that nascent entrepreneurial activities are influenced by the environment in which the entrepreneur operates.

Lechner and Leyronas discuss the importance of cluster dynamics in the French high-technology industry. They propose a new model for cluster dynamics through the interplay between strategic and regional networks.

Finally, Ratten *et al.* examine international entrepreneurship through a comparative analysis of firms in Europe. Their paper highlights the importance of policy in facilitating internationalisation of firms.

**References**

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