
Editorial

Vanessa Ratten

A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
E-mail: vanessaratten@gmail.com

Biographical notes: Vanessa Ratten is an Assistant Professor at the A.J. Palumbo School of Business Administration at Duquesne University, USA. Her main research interests are international entrepreneurship, technology innovation and strategic management. She has presented and published her work in numerous peer reviewed academic journals and at professional conferences. She has published in journals including the *European Journal of Innovation Management*, *Journal of High Technology Management Research*, *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* and the *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics*. She has co-edited a research book on European Entrepreneurship and is currently finishing a co-edited research book on Asian Entrepreneurship. She is currently working on research that examines the relationship between entrepreneurship and sports marketing. In particular she is interested in the role of sustainability, corporate social responsibility and social entrepreneurship in the sports and technology industries.

This special issue is on the important topic of entrepreneurship and innovation. The first six papers are from the 2nd European Conference on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, which was held at the Utrecht School of Economics, the Netherlands, on 8–9 November 2007. The first six papers focus on a variety of issues and theories relating to entrepreneurship and innovation in the European context. The other two papers included in the special issue relate to the role of sports in entrepreneurship and innovation. Given the importance for Europe's continued economic success on entrepreneurship and innovation, it is crucial that the issues discussed in this special issue be given attention. The papers are written by a number of authors from countries within Europe and outside Europe. Country-specific papers are included that provide an interesting contrast to entrepreneurship and innovation that is happening in different European countries. The first paper by Silva and Leitão discusses the Portuguese experience of being entrepreneurial and innovative. The paper highlights the importance of the environment in influencing a firm's entrepreneurial innovation capability. The authors confer that a firm's external innovative partnerships are important to developing a countries entrepreneurship and innovative capabilities. The second paper by Rafailidis and Tselekidis focuses on the Greek experience of building innovation and dynamic capabilities. The authors highlight that the current fast-changing business environment necessitates a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. The third paper by Peltoniemi presents a case study analysis of the firms within the Finnish games industry. Peltoniemi argues that innovation is a social and interactive process that encompasses a number of

activities. The fourth paper by Cefis *et al.* is on the Dutch occurrence of entrepreneurship and innovation. The authors discuss the innovative characteristics of Dutch companies by comparing them to other European companies. The fifth paper by Loughnane provides a theoretical perspective and understanding about how innovation applies to businesses around the world, including Europe. Loughnane argues that innovation is a complex process that includes both upstream and downstream activities within the firms' context. The sixth paper by Hamid also focuses more on the theoretical notion of what innovation is by discussing the environmental context of entrepreneurship. Hamid stresses that the creative process of developing products provides a platform for businesses to encourage their innovative and entrepreneurial capabilities. The paper by Chen *et al.* examines franchises in Taiwan basketball. The Taiwanese basketball league discussed in this paper provides a great example of the entrepreneurial nature of sports in terms of how the basketball league is continually innovating. The paper by Schwarz examines entrepreneurship in sports through a discussion on the role of communities in sports marketing. Schwarz stresses that social capital in the form of entrepreneurship and innovation is an ideal way for the sports industry to remain competitive. The book review by Ratten further examines entrepreneurship by reviewing a book on family firms, which is useful as it includes a discussion on many multinational and well known brand name firms that have started off as family run enterprises.