
Introduction

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Biographical notes: Robert Anderson is a Professor of Business Administration at the University of Regina, Canada. He is the Editor of the *Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship* and Co-editor, with Leo Paul Dana, of the *Journal of Enterprising Communities*. He is the President-Elect of the Administrative Sciences Association of Canada (ASAC) and Chair of the ASAC 2010 National Conference with the theme 'Enterprising our world: sustainable business in action' (<http://asac2010.uregina.ca/>). He has authored numerous peer-reviewed papers and made many conference presentations on economic development and entrepreneurship. More recent work has expanded to include corporate social responsibility, intellectual property mobilisation and sustainable development.

Leo Dana and I would like to thank the publishers of *GBER* for the opportunity to edit this special issue, and the authors who submitted. The contents of this special issue are true to its title. The eight papers centre on ethnicity and involve entrepreneurship in some manner providing a common theme, yet in spite of this common theme, they are without a doubt diverse.

The first paper by Kraybill, Wesner and Nolt examines how Amish communities build and sustain enterprises that produce and/or sell goods to both ethnic and non-ethnic markets. They demonstrate how culture, community, and ethnic context mediate the nature, size, and function of ethnic enterprises.

The next two papers look at entrepreneurial activity among indigenous people in Canada. The first by Kayseas, Schneider and Goodpipe, all of the First Nations University of Canada, explores gaming. They begin with the point that gaming is believed to have the potential to spur many new and diverse entrepreneurial ventures within First Nations communities, but stress that there has been little research on the actual impact of gaming revenues on the economic development of Canadian First Nations. They go on to develop a research agenda for the investigation of the impact of the gaming industry on the economic development of Saskatchewan's First Nations, which has applicability to indigenous communities elsewhere looking to gaming as a vehicle for development. The second paper is by Leo Dana, co-editor of this special issue. In his paper he indicates that in spite of the pressures of colonisation and modernisation, the Inuit have retained their language, a strong sense of identity, and community values. In this context, he goes on to explore the fact cooperatives have dominated the business realm since their introduction in the late 1950s.

Next, we move to Australia for two papers one by Pearson and Helms and the other by Nikolakis. In the first paper, the authors describe a partnership between the Yolngu of Arnhem Land and Forestry Tasmania in a remote region in the Northern Territory of

Australia. The authors observe that, while the project is promising, community investment in a range of managerial business competencies is critical for further development of indigenous self determination and economic independence. In the second Australian paper, Nikolakis focuses on understanding barriers to indigenous enterprise development on inalienable and communal land in the Northern Territory of Australia. He identifies mistrust and conflict, socio-cultural norms and values, lack of human capital, the institutional framework, and economic and social constraints as the primary barriers. Nikolakis concludes that these barriers must be addressed concurrently to improve indigenous enterprise development outcomes in the region.

Leaving Australia, we move to Ghana in Africa. Dadzie, Evens and Mack examine banking practises in the country. They observe that social and cultural influences are important determinants of marketing practices of banks' in Ghana and conclude that banks strategies should be tailored around instilling trust as reflected by the opinions of informal/formal societal leaders and family members.

The final two paper shift focus from indigenous populations in a colonised context to ethnic entrepreneurship by immigrant populations. Kariv, Menzies and Brenner examine the relationship between the success of businesses owned by visible, ethnic immigrants in Canada and measures of their prior employment status in their homelands, their co-ethnic involvement in Canada and their educational level. Their findings show that while they were mainly unemployed prior to immigration, no significant differences in educational levels were found between groups of visible and non-visible, ethnic immigrants. They also found that being more co-ethnically involved and possessing higher levels of education positively affected the success of businesses owned by non-visible ethnic groups but negatively affected the success of the visible ethnic groups. In the final paper, Tata and Prasad develop a theoretical model that proposes that ethnic community involvement influences the configuration of entrepreneurial social capital defined through three attributes (relationship strength, network diversity, and network size), which influence the actions taken by entrepreneurs to utilise their social capital and gain information and resources, which, in turn, influences ethnic business performance. They argue that their model can help promote a better understanding of ethnic enterprises and make a contribution to the development of improved approaches for the promotion and growth of such businesses.

Leo and I hope that you enjoy the diverse material in this issue and find the material thought-provoking.