
Editorial

Vanessa Ratten*

Leadership, Ethics & Global Business Division,
A J Palumbo & J F Donahue Schools of Business Administration,
464 Rockwell Hall, Duquesne University,
600 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15282, USA
E-mail: vanessaratten@gmail.com
*Corresponding author

Isabell Welpé

TUM Business School,
Technische Universität München,
Leopoldstrasse 139, D-80804 Munich, Germany
E-mail: welpé@tum.de

Leo-Paul Dana

Department of Management,
University of Canterbury,
Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand
E-mail: leo.dana@canterbury.ac.nz

Biographical notes: Vanessa Ratten is an Assistant Professor in Strategy. Her PhD (University of Queensland) examined alliances in the technology industry. She has published in numerous journals including the *Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics*, *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business*, *Journal of High Technology Management*, *European Journal of Innovation Management*, *Journal of Management & Organisation*, *International Journal of Educational Management*, *Thunderbird International Business Review* and the *International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management*. Her research interests include entrepreneurship, technology innovation and sport marketing.

Isabell M. Welpé studied Management Science at the Ludwig-Maximilian-University (MSc in 1999) and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA (1998/1999). From September 1999 until 2000, she studied at the London School of Economics (MSc in 2000). In 2003, she obtained her PhD at the University of Regensburg, Germany. She has been a Visiting Professor at the Keck Graduate Institute, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Carlson School of Business at the University of Minnesota and an Advisor to the EU delegation to the United Nations in New York. After working at the Max Planck Institute for Economics she took over the Chair of Strategy and Organization at the Technical University of Munich, Germany. She has published her research in numerous journals including the *Journal of Business Venturing*, *International Journal of Technology Management*, *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Venturing*, *International Journal of Psychology* and *Financial Markets and Portfolio Management*.

Leo-Paul Dana holds degrees from McGill University and from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales. He is currently at GSCM Montpellier on study leave from the University of Canterbury where he has been tenured since 1999. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Faculty of Business Administration, at the University of Regina. He formerly served as a Visiting Professor of Entrepreneurship at INSEAD and Deputy Director of the International Business MBA Programme at Nanyang Business School, in Singapore.

This special journal issue on ‘community-based entrepreneurship’ in the *International Journal of Innovation and Regional Development* is on a rapidly growing field. The papers in this special issue are written by international authors from New Zealand, The Netherlands, Israel, Norway, UAE, USA, Germany, Australia and Sweden. We thank Professor Panayiotis Ketikidis, the editor of this journal, for his wonderful help and support in guest editing this issue.

The first paper by Diane Campbell-Hunt, Claire Freeman and Katharine Dickson is on community-based entrepreneurship and wildlife sanctuaries in New Zealand. The paper describes how community-driven initiatives are required to develop regional wildlife sanctuaries. The authors discuss how ecological outcomes are important drivers of community-based enterprises in developed economies.

The second paper by Carel Roessingh and Karen Smits is on social capital and Mennonite entrepreneurship. The paper describes how the Mennonites in Belize live in communities that are entrepreneurial. The social capital within a community used by the Mennonites is described as a basis of entrepreneurial activities.

The third paper by Sibylle Heilbrunn is on how kibbutz communities in Israel are currently in a process of change. The paper discusses how a traditionally collective orientated community has changed as a result of environmental influences. Also examined is the effect of different characteristics of communities and how they affect entrepreneurial motivations.

The fourth paper by Hilde Bjørnå and Nils Aarsaether is on local government strategies and entrepreneurship in the Nordic countries. The paper focuses on how in Norway many municipalities are given access to financial and organisational resources that can be used for community-based entrepreneurship. The paper stresses that an environment for entrepreneurial and innovative behaviour can be strengthened by the development of the municipal economy.

The fifth paper by Alun Epps is on using local community customers to develop marketing communications in Dubai. The paper points out that community collaboration between businesses and educational organisations is an important part of the entrepreneurship process. The role of fostering community collaboration is stressed through the involvement of numerous stakeholders in a community.

The sixth paper by Qingbin Wang, Kathleen Liang and Ken Bauer is on the development of the community entrepreneurship program at the University of Vermont. The paper states how community-based entrepreneurship facilitates regional and local development. The role of educational curriculum that collaborate with communities through service learning is stated.

The seventh paper by Julie Carmody and Bruce Prideaux is on how community perceptions can be measured in a World Heritage rainforest. The paper states how effective management of natural resources occurs when there is a strong level of

engagement with a community. The paper discusses how the Wet Tropics rainforest in Australia has build networks with the community.

The eighth paper by Mats Lundahl discusses the failure of community-based entrepreneurship in Haiti. Unlike the other papers in this special issue, this paper illustrates how community-based entrepreneurship does not exist in Haiti due to social and political forces. The paper discusses how social capital and trust are limited in Haiti that means that community-based entrepreneurship does not exist as much as it should.

The ninth paper by Sue Beeton is on regional community entrepreneurship through tourism. The paper discusses how Victoria in Australia has developed cycling rail trails that have enabled regional community development. The importance of community-based planning in developing entrepreneurial approaches to tourism is discussed.

The tenth paper by Emily Chamlee-Wright and Virgil Henry Storr is on the role of social entrepreneurship in the post-Katrina community recovery. The authors describe how different stakeholders in the community assisted in becoming social entrepreneurs in helping the region recover from the Katrina hurricane. The authors point out that a collective approach is important in rebuilding efforts in a region.

Overall, the papers in this special issue testify that community-based entrepreneurship, which describes ‘a community acting corporately as both entrepreneur and enterprise in pursuit of the common good’ [Peredo and Chrisman, (2006), p.310] is a relevant phenomenon for understanding regional development and innovation in the commercial and non-commercial sector. The manuscripts in this special issue also suggest that community-based entrepreneurship may work according to the same underlying principles as commercial entrepreneurship of individuals and teams, which have so far been the main focus of scholarly attention. We think that community-based entrepreneurship offers several opportunities for future research. First, it helps scholars to study the phenomena of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial behaviour in a non-business context. Second, it enables a multi-disciplinary look at entrepreneurship and third it links entrepreneurial behaviour and social or institutional innovation on a non-company level. Future research should continue to focus on how community-based entrepreneurship is encouraging regional development, e.g., the market conditions for community-based entrepreneurship (openness of markets, regulations, transparency of market and resource mobilisation), public and scholarly perception of community-based entrepreneurship, the impact of community-based entrepreneurship on regional innovation and development, the role of communities for the perception, evaluation and exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities, comparative differences in community-based entrepreneurship by countries, city, ethnic/national subgroup, sector and periods and comparative differences of social and institutional innovations as compared to classic business innovations.

References

- Peredo, A.M. and Chrisman, J.J. (2006) ‘Towards a theory of community-based enterprise’, *Academy of Management Review*, Vol. 31, pp.309–328.