
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Daphne Halkias, PhD, is a distinguished academic, cross-cultural researcher, consulting psychologist and executive coach. Publications carry her name in research on entrepreneurship, women's issues, family business, organisational behaviour, education and clinical psychology. She is currently a Senior Research Fellow at The Center for Young and Family Entrepreneurship (CYFE) at the University of Bergamo, Italy, Research Affiliate at the Institute for Social Sciences at Cornell University and Affiliate at Institute of Coaching at McLean Hospital of Harvard Medical School. Her forthcoming applied research books are in the areas of international management, immigrant entrepreneurship and sustainability, father-daughter succession in family businesses and cross-cultural e-negotiation. She is Editor of *International Journal of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation*.

John O. Okpara, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Management at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, USA. He gained his BSc at the University of London (Birbeck College), MS at SUNY (Maritime College), MA at CUNY (City College) and PhD at New York University. He has been on the Faculties of New York Institute of Technology and the Universities of Phoenix (US) and Warsaw (Poland). He is a business consultant, and has published numerous papers, articles and book chapters and authored two of his own. He is Editor-in-Chief of *International Journal of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation*.

“For social innovation, it's time for entrepreneurs to deviate from the plan ...”

In the 1960s, the world social order went through a remarkable and democratic change owing to the passive resistance movement – propelled by Gandhi in the mid-20th century in India as a way for seeking social justice for his oppressed people – followed by hundreds of thousands of young social protesters around the world. In the following

generation, in the 1980s, the greatest change agents were young university students disenfranchised by an aging academic system that abandoned their classrooms to start companies that changed our lives forever with the advent of technology. Today, the most amazing young people are social entrepreneurs, those who see a social problem in society, use social media and new technology to find like-minded change agents and socially innovative solution, then roll up their sleeves and get to work. These young people, known as social entrepreneurs, as those of previous generations, want to see a *change* on their planet.

Yet, true change is neither the result of a singular idea or of a charismatic leader. Sometimes, not even hard work can change a society. What social entrepreneurs have discovered in the 21st century is that social innovation happens when strong alliances unite to build networks, on the ground and through technology, to sustain a lasting social change. Along the way, social entrepreneurs realised that their movement would grow as an interface between the local communities they were serving and globalisation. For social entrepreneurship can truly come of age once these 21st century ‘revolutionaries’ made peace with globalisation – once seen as a threat to social innovation and serving the needs of the most underprivileged. Today, social entrepreneurs recognise that globalisation is one of the most significant forces affecting our lives and cannot be ignored as we pose questions on what needs to change to prepare our planet for a more interdependent and highly interconnected world.

Social entrepreneurs are an important group of non-profit professionals formulating the answers to those questions. They have even forged an unlikely alliance with sustainable entrepreneurs, for-profit business people using the principles of social entrepreneurship to add a social mission to their agenda and “do well while doing good” in their communities. Social entrepreneurs view the community – whether it is in Africa or North America, Europe or Oceania, Asia to South America – as the solution to the problem, not the passive receiver of goods and services. Social entrepreneurs start with the premise of using community-based competence as their primary resource in meeting social challenges. This transformation is inevitably altering how society organises itself and approaches social problems.

As scholars, we must study and shape this emerging field of social entrepreneurship and innovation, making sure it is well grounded in high-quality research that will contribute to theory and create knowledge. Having high-quality research as their launch pad, social entrepreneurs can become one of the most powerful change agents for society, creating opportunities to redesign social systems using their knowledge of social sciences, technology and cross-cultural business management. Scholars can support these programmes and initiatives by designing innovative research methods to disseminate data creating sustainability and social value.

International Journal of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation (IJSEI) was developed as an interdisciplinary research initiative bringing together academics, researchers, policy-makers and entrepreneurs committed to developing innovation approaches to measure and deliver social change and value using the long-held principles of entrepreneurship. The Journal welcomes papers from colleagues working in all the functional areas of management, social sciences, public administration, NGOs, technology, engineering, and education and practitioners. *IJSEI*'s purpose is to disseminate information as a result of quantitative and qualitative research on complex social challenges such as education and literacy, poverty alleviation strategies, cross-cultural management, global/local environmental issues, microfinancing, the

challenges facing women, minority and immigrant entrepreneurs, social and economic policy, economics and sustainability, health and bioethics issue, technology and social innovation and technology-based social enterprises.

This field of practice in social entrepreneurship is advancing much faster than the body of knowledge that measures and examines the effectiveness of what entrepreneurs are doing for social change and innovation. The study of social entrepreneurship is a fresh area of scholarly opportunity, involving the study of the effectiveness of what some of these social enterprises accomplish, the study of the extent to which they generate innovation, preparing others for civic engagement, locally and globally. *Research in this field cannot be “business as usual” – it must address today’s global social challenges from a fresh, new perspective – including innovative research methods – to advance social justice, support peace initiatives and environmental sustainability. At International Journal of Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation, we look forward to receiving research and papers from colleagues “ready to deviate from the plan ...”*