

Book Review

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World Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship

by Léo-Paul Dana

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Léo-Paul Dana, the Editor of *World Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship* presents a variety of articles on entrepreneurship showing the multi-dimensional aspect of the concept of entrepreneurship. The *Encyclopedia* illustrates the 'boundary-free' nature of entrepreneurship, therefore attracting scholars from different disciplines.

The main focus of this comprehensive reference work can be seen in developing the subject of entrepreneurship and its conceptual foundations. The extensive and authoritative contributions of *World Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship* help in this ongoing process. It contains articles on numerous aspects of this particular field arranged in alphabetical order.

In his foreword, Robert Blackburn, Professor and Director at Kingston Business School, UK, mentions the vibrancy of entrepreneurship. The academic field has developed into a worldwide phenomenon, based upon the cornerstone of social sciences. More than 30 journals exist within the area of entrepreneurship and the figure is constantly rising. The number of universities and schools developing programmes in this field is also increasing. Different publishers recently focus on teaching books for entrepreneurship in theory and practice. Whereas a few years ago special areas of entrepreneurship were highlighted (e.g. Casillas et al., 2007; Landström et al., 2008), more recently teaching materials are published on not only basic theory but also practical aspects on launching and developing businesses supported by case studies (Barringer and Ireland, 2010; Nielsen et al., 2009; Storey and Greene, 2010; Westhead et al., 2011).

The editor and authors of *World Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship* aim to develop a shared understanding of the field of entrepreneurship. Renowned academics from all continents of the world contributed to this overview of the field of entrepreneurship. The Editor Léo-Paul Dana as a leading researcher and author of an impressive list of handbooks on entrepreneurship was able to assemble this *Encyclopedia*.

The subjects covered by the 55 contributions vary from deeper analysis of entrepreneurial processes to certain aspects of the field such as venture capital or family business. It was possible to divide this large amount of contributions into nine groups with similar themes.

The first four groups are mentioned three times each. Contributions on entrepreneurship policy show the lack of policy support resulting in a European paradox where entrepreneurial knowledge does not lead to economic growth. As one solution business angels or venture capital are seen as type of investment to support

entrepreneurial policy. Within the second theme of entrepreneurship, education teaching models and the learning effects of simulation games are discussed to help entrepreneurs in business planning.

The third group consists of examples on Hilton, Howard Hughes and the Hudson Bay Company showing the entrepreneurial activity in noteworthy case studies. The next theme on international entrepreneurship reflects an increasingly important aspect for small businesses. The three articles on internationalisation discuss models from a theoretical, historical and European perspective of entrepreneurship.

The next two themes are based on historical aspects and empirical research of entrepreneurship each appearing five times. The historical papers focus on definitions and the evolution of the field looking at its most important pioneers Cantillon and Schumpeter. The more research-oriented contributions are mostly new findings on entrepreneurial intention, personality and environment.

Then follow two groups of eight contributions on theory in general and entrepreneurship culture. The contributions on entrepreneurship theory look at processes, strategies and networks from different perspectives such as transaction costs, sociology and social capital. The articles on entrepreneurship culture deal with ethnic, indigenous and minority entrepreneurship as well as different religions or values such as Confucianism or Islam.

The last group includes 17 articles on different types or aspects of entrepreneurship that were difficult to classify. The types range from criminal, involuntary, mature age, pastoral to territorial entrepreneurship. Different aspects or phenomena of entrepreneurship were mentioned as family business, innovation, start-ups, signalling, team-building, self-efficacy and strategic processes.

Summing up, the *World Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship* covers a wide range of highly relevant subjects reflecting the 'boundary-free' nature of entrepreneurship. Therefore, the book can be recommended to a wide audience in diverse disciplines. This encyclopaedia provides its readers with a unique point of reference, as well as motivation for further research. For anyone interested in entrepreneurship, but particularly students, scholars and researchers, it is an indispensable tool.

According to Wiklund et al. (2011), the 'breathtaking pace of development in the scholarly field of entrepreneurship research will continue indefinitely into the future'. Over the past three decades, the field emerged from obscurity to the present level of legitimacy (McDougall, 2011). However, controversies exist whether entrepreneurship will be seen as bona fide individual field or rather as a research topic in a traditional field (Wiklund et al., 2011).

In conclusion, Léo-Paul Dana presented a book with recent entrepreneurship scholarship that indeed has the potential of raising the level of legitimacy of the field. Some of the contributions show developments of the field giving a basis for teaching. Now business schools need to build the axis of entrepreneurship programmes with a long-term commitment (McDougall, 2011). Wiklund et al. (2011) even stated that 'future entrepreneurship scholarship indeed has the potential of dealing with the issues that are central to the development of the world'. Thus, we can look forward to more publications in the field of entrepreneurship, especially on relevant subjects such as education and internationalisation which can be regarded as core subjects for the *IJGSB*.

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