

Editorial

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entrepreneurship from a systemic perspective and especially their contribution to economic, social and inclusive growth. She has publications in international journals such as *Research Policy*, *Technological Forecasting and Social Change* and *Journal of Small Business Management* as well as chapters in edited books.

Paul Jones is the Head of the School of Management and Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Swansea University's School of Management. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research*, Senior Editor at the *Journal Information Technology and People* and Associate Editor for the *International Journal of Management Education*. He is also an editor of the Emerald book series, *Contemporary Issues in Entrepreneurship Research*. He sits on the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ISBE). He is particularly interested in entrepreneurial research in developing world contexts such as Africa, Asia and South East Asia. To date, he has generated over £1.5 million in external grant income for entrepreneurship projects with the Nigerian Government, obtaining European structural funds, higher education academy grants and knowledge exploitation funds with the Welsh Government.

Vanessa Ratten is an Associate Professor at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. She has more than 20 years of university teaching experience. She has published a number of journal articles in international journals and published a number of books including *Sports Innovation Management* (Routledge) and *Frugal Innovation* (Routledge). She has also edited books including *Entrepreneurship in Creative Crafts* (Routledge).

David Jarvis is the co-director of the Centre for Business in Society (CBiS) at Coventry University. He has 20 years post-PhD experience as a research leader and analyst in both commercial and higher education settings. To date, he has delivered more than 70 business or policy research, consultancy and evaluation assignments for clients across the public, private and charitable sectors. This collaborative, cross-sector and inter-disciplinary activity has yielded more than 100 research outputs; including in excess of 30 journal and book contributions. His priority is impactful research that makes meaningful connections between academe, policy and practice. His persistent focus on various dimensions of socio-economic change is wrought of personal experience of deindustrialisation and includes a particular interest in the manufacturing industry – its renaissance, transformation and low-carbon transition – and transport, especially the ways in which mobility and access shapes places, economies and communities.

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This special issue in the *International Journal of Technological Learning, Innovation and Development (IJTLID)* is dedicated to better understanding the potential for entrepreneurship to generate transformational effects to bring about sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth. The intersection of innovative entrepreneurship and green entrepreneurship has the potential to generate transformative results (Baumol, 2010; Malerba and McKelvey, 2020; Demirel et al., 2019) and possibilities for leapfrogging towards inclusive and sustainable economic growth by increasing rates of small business ownership, scaling-up of enterprises and sustained job creation, in effect by reconciling economic and social disparities in society (Newey, 2017). Such transformation, however, is not a straightforward task. It requires out-of-the-box mindset and novel approaches at the individual level, and new business models and path-breaking approaches at firm level, which need to be initiated by entrepreneurial behaviour and supported by the institutional environment (Jones and Maas, 2019; Ratten and Jones, 2018; Yoruk and Jones, 2020; Radosevic and Yoruk, 2013).

Drawing from the rich tradition of research in entrepreneurship and innovation, the articles in this special issue contribute conceptually and empirically, and in the context of low- and middle-income economies. Although the vast majority of world's inhabitants live in middle and low income countries, which face the most devastating effects from climate change and inequality, in the extant entrepreneurship and innovation literature there is only limited research on experiences in these economies. Such countries have huge potential in human resources (i.e., young populations) to accelerate the process of greening and inclusivity through innovative new ventures (Dobson et al., 2020). They also have the vast majority of the world's poor citizens who would feel the greatest impact from such transformation via its effects on inclusive economic growth, which is about economic growth providing opportunities for good employment in all segments of the society (Klasen, 2010; Sissons et al., 2019). Inclusive growth approaches based on innovation focus more on equality of opportunity, and this resonates well with the concept of entrepreneurship (George et al., 2012; Peerally et al., 2019). At sectoral, regional or country levels, progressive, far-sighted and bold policies can link green and innovative entrepreneurship to inclusive economic growth aspirations and generate the transformational aspect of entrepreneurial activities.

Taken together, the papers in this special issue provide significant insights into the major issues facing researchers of entrepreneurship who are interested in exploring the diverse factors and dynamics that are at play in the formation of entrepreneurial activities in low- and middle-income economies at individual entrepreneur, sector, city-region and national levels. The papers use a variety of methodologies including qualitative analysis and analyses of econometric models.

The first article, 'The characteristics of a green, innovative and transformational entrepreneur: an example of transformative entrepreneurship in an efficiency-driven economy' by Kirby and El-Kaffass examines the case of an individual entrepreneur in Egypt, a country which shifted from a low-income factor-driven economy to an efficiency-driven middle-income economy. The remarkable story of Professor Abouleish, the founder of SEKEM, as a proactive, risk-embracing and compassionate entrepreneur has been shared with us through the lens of environmental, humane and transformative entrepreneurship. It sheds light on how transformative and green entrepreneurship practices can be driven by individuals to generate wider effects on large parts of the society.

The second article, 'Revisiting innovation practices in subsistence farming: the net effects of land management, pesticide, herbicide and fungicide practices on expected crop harvest in Ethiopia' by Onjewu, Jafari-Sadeghi and Hussain investigates 7,625 rural family farming households in Ethiopia to shed light on sustainable subsistence farming practices. Implementing path analysis, the authors find that sowing traditional seeds (i.e., mixed cropping and row planting) as opposed to improved seeds reduces households' reliance on pesticides, herbicides and fungicides as well as increasing their harvest. These findings pave the way for more research into organic farming in developing countries.

The third article, 'Ecosystems of green entrepreneurship in perspective: evidence from Brazil' by Fischer, Bayona-Alsina, Lopes da Rocha and de Moraes examines how entrepreneurial ecosystems play a major role in the creation of green knowledge-intensive enterprise (KIE) projects in the developing country context. They contribute to the KIE concept by developing three subcategories: 'Green KIE', which address environmental challenges in projects; 'smart city and green KIE', which address environmental challenges through smart city related projects; and 'Bio-based KIE' which conduct bio-based projects. Using a GMM model, they show that activities related to research lie in the core of an ecosystem to support green entrepreneurial processes. In particular, research universities, and links with these institutions, strongly drive green entrepreneurial projects. These findings are very important in the context of upper-middle income countries seeking to shift to higher levels of income.

The fourth article, 'Inclusion of universities, enterprises, and regions of Kazakhstan in the process of technological upgrading of the mining industry: a triple helix approach' by Myrzakhmet and Begimbay investigates the traditional mining industry, which is one of the major sectors in Kazakhstan's economy. Using the triple helix model, authors show that links between universities and firms in mining regions of Kazakhstan have to be strengthened in order for firms to tap into universities' knowledge pools and for mining firms to drive economic growth. This paves the way for questions as to how universities can be involved in the greening of mining processes such that they may contribute to environmentally sustainable growth.

The fifth article, 'Manufacturing firms and entrepreneurial dynamics in less developed economies: Kosovo in comparative perspective' by Sahiti shows how very small entrepreneurial ventures driven largely by subsistence motives or self-employment determine the dynamics in Kosovo, a lower middle-income country. Contrary to the dynamics in many developed countries where exit rates for micro and small enterprises are very high, Kosovo case shows a high resilience of micro enterprises, but not necessarily for growth or job creation. Focusing on the positive implications of these findings, policymakers can exploit the resilience of small firms by supporting them with tools to innovate and scale-up, especially in environmentally sustainable and higher value added areas.

The sixth article, 'A bibliometric analysis of entrepreneurship research in Iran' by Emami and Keikhay Farzane is one of the few known attempts to examine the bibliometric aspects of entrepreneurship research conducted by Iranian scholars; Iran being one of the countries studied in the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM). As for scholarly contributions to the entrepreneurship field, the authors show that although these contributions have been growing in number significantly, and increasingly published in

reputable international journals in collaboration with international scholars, they originate from one of the main universities, namely University of Tehran. It would be interesting to see if these efforts can be widened to other universities in Iran in the next decade and progress to encompass more specialised topics in entrepreneurship to respond environmental and inclusivity issues.

The seventh article, 'Environmental entrepreneurship and inclusive growth: a three-fold approach to analysis' by Aleksin and Kalbakk-Bøhler uses GEM data to answer several questions in regard to the effect of entrepreneurship on inclusive growth in low- and middle-income countries. Through a series of regressions on panel data, they find robust evidence that as countries improve their development, entrepreneurship plays a less important role in improving household welfare. At higher income levels, entrepreneurial activity is more associated to innovation and higher value added. For instance, entrepreneurial activity generates pollution emissions, but for developed countries this effect is less. Testing for the effect of institutional environment in this process (i.e., political risk, business freedom, environmental pressure), the authors conclude that more favourable institutional environments in higher income countries may positively influence innovative and environmentally sustainable outcomes from the entrepreneurship activity.

The eighth article, 'Conceptualising the transformational power of entrepreneurship from an entrepreneurial ecosystems perspective focusing on environmentally and socially inclusive economic growth' by Yoruk, Johnston, Maas and Jones offers a conceptualisation of transformational entrepreneurship from an entrepreneurial ecosystems perspective. The authors point out the heterogeneous settings in which different forms of entrepreneurship can deliver transformative outcomes, enabling individuals and communities to better respond to economic, societal and environmental challenges. They suggest that the field of entrepreneurship should also focus on low-income places where entrepreneurship activity is regarded as subsistence markets. Finally, a new classification for improvement-driven opportunity entrepreneurship and purpose-driven entrepreneurship can provide useful background for future studies.

In conclusion, the transformative power of entrepreneurship is a relatively under researched but timely topic that offers a variety of opportunities for the exploration of novel entrepreneurial behaviours by entrepreneurship scholars. This inquiry is relevant not only for developed countries but also for the developing world. As the manuscripts collated in this special issue show, unanswered questions can be investigated through a wide variety of methods and conceptual lenses, and by focusing on different levels of entrepreneurship. It is clear that further empirical research is needed to extend understandings of transformational entrepreneurship, including how social enterprise can support that development.

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