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The Unfathomable Wealth of Entrepreneurship Research

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Entrepreneurship, this complex reality and concept, attracts the attention of many researchers around the world, coming from multiple disciplinary horizons, raising numerous questions and dealing with varied data requiring appropriate methodological treatments. This results in an incredible wealth of contributions. This observation and the perspectives it offers in terms of acute recombination are certainly an attractive element for researchers. These curious human animals, insatiable in their search for knowledge and understanding from which new questions arise in an almost endless Schumpeterian creative destruction but also a creative construction process, will undoubtedly find something to rejoice in it. In the meanwhile, it should be recalled that scientific knowledge is also built from a body of shared ideas and paradigms, and from consolidation.

For more than 40 years, entrepreneurship research is booming. Contributing originally to the exploration and to the quest for fundamentals, the six papers presented in this Special Issue were selected from the 6th ECFED International Workshop, June 14-15, 2018 at the University of Cantabria, Santander, Spain. All papers went through a thorough review process. They form a nice illustration of the diversity in topics being studied in contemporary entrepreneurship research.

As explicitly specified and even constitutive of its brand image, the Entrepreneurship, Culture, Finance and Economic Development (ECFED) International Workshop is designed to facilitate high level, high intense discussion and fruitful exchange between scholars involved in entrepreneurship research. It has shown a great success in its previous editions (Caen 2008, Cartagena 2010, Namur 2012, Klagenfurt 2014, Lyon 2016 and Santander 2018) gathering a voluntarily limited number of participants in order to support strong individual participation

and the development of convivial relationships. An ECFED-CLA, for ECFED-Central and Latin America, was organized in Aguascalientes (Mexico) in 2017.

The ECFED International Workshop proves to be fruitful in terms of leading scientific exchanges but also in terms of scientific productions, judging by the numerous resulting publications. Thus, this splendid Special Issue is to be included in a list of remarkable antecedents, to mention only publications that have been collected in common media (Bonnet et al., 2010; Bonnet et al., 2012; Bögenhold et al. 2016; Bonnet et al., 2017; Bögenhold et al., 2017).

As already mentioned above, taken together, the selected papers for this Special Issue reflect quite well the wide variety of research in entrepreneurship. This observation goes well with a similar one that could be made about a previous special issue of this journal devoted to the 5th edition of ECFED International Workshop (see Bögenhold et al., 2017).

Regarding the present Special Issue, the topics covered range, without respecting the order of occurrence, from social entrepreneurship (Mitra, Kickul, Gundry & Orr; Hermans & Angel) – social entrepreneurship was also, by the way, mentioned in the key theme for the 6th ECFED – to the well-being of solo self-employed (van der Zwan & Hessels), the impact of entrepreneurial engagement on growth aspirations (Henríquez Daza, Capelleras & Osorio Tinoco), a multilevel analysis focusing on the individual-level determinants of entrepreneurial activity and the moderating role that national cultures could play (Setti, Osowska & Jaworski); plus a stimulating discussion about entrepreneurship and self-employment, disentangling “an economic functional, a contextual-institutional and a social and individual view of actors” (Bögenhold; in this issue of the IRE, p. 146).

As may be noted, we are very pleased and excited to present this Special Issue. This goes hand in hand with the warmest thanks to all the local organizing team of the 6th ECFED International Workshop in Santander, all the authors and referees, and the editorial team of this journal, in particular Andrew Burke and André van Stel who did an extraordinary job. We also thank the readers for the attention that they will give to the contributions collected here, confident we are about the benefit they can get from their reading.

References

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