

CALL FOR PAPERS

SPECIAL ISSUE in

Small Business Economics (SBEJ)

Economics and Strategy of Entrepreneurial Networks

Entrepreneurial networks, such as alliances, franchise chains, cooperatives, joint ventures and venture capital relationships, are important governance modes that enable entrepreneurial firms to achieve superior performance by collaborating with other firms over a specific range of value chain activities. As entrepreneurial firms with weak market and resource positions, they govern their collaborations by using contractual and equity relationships. Entrepreneurial networks enable them to improve their competitive position by exploring and exploiting new knowledge. Therefore, these firms use entrepreneurial networks to complement their resources and capabilities in order to realize static (exploitation) and dynamic (exploration) efficiency advantages.

This special issue calls for theoretical, conceptual and empirical papers that would help us better understand the strategy and governance of entrepreneurial networks. In particular, papers that develop new explanations and apply different theoretical perspectives on strategy and governance issues, and shed new empirical insights on collaborative entrepreneurship are particularly welcome.

Appropriate topics for the special issue include, but are not limited to:

1. Which governance structures and incentives do entrepreneurial firms use to improve their competitive advantage?
2. Which insights from organizational economics (transaction cost theory, information economics, property rights theory), organization theory (contingency theory, evolutionary theory), and strategic management perspective (resource-based theory, organizational capability theory, knowledge-based theory, real option theory) will enhance our understanding of the different forms of entrepreneurial networks?
3. What is the relationship between strategy and structure in entrepreneurial networks?
4. How do network capabilities (e.g. communication, negotiation, coordination, bonding, contract design) evolve over time?
5. How do network capabilities impact the choice of network forms? How do choices of network forms shape the development of capabilities?

6. How are control rights structured in entrepreneurial networks, and how does the structure change over time? How is formal and real authority allocated in entrepreneurial networks?
7. What is the relationship between decision and ownership rights between the network partners?
8. What is the relationship between the network structure (centralization/decentralization) and the choice of the knowledge transfer mechanism?
9. What is the role of contract in entrepreneurial networks? Which factors influence the contract design and contractual completeness in collaborative entrepreneurship?
10. Which role does informal governance (trust, fairness and emotions) play in collaborative entrepreneurship?
11. What is the relationship between formal and informal governance in entrepreneurial networks?
12. Which factors influence the dynamics of entrepreneurial networks over time?

All papers will undergo a standard double-blind review process.

The Guest Editors for this special issue are Gerard Cliquet (gerard.cliquet@univ-rennes1.fr), Université de Rennes, France, Thomas Ehrmann (30theh@ism.uni-muenster.de), University of Münster, Germany, George Hendrikse (ghendrikse@rsm.nl), Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands and Josef Windsperger (josef.windsperger@univie.ac.at), University of Vienna, Austria.

The deadline for submission to the special issue is **February 29, 2016**.

The paper must be directly sent to the editors of the SPECIAL ISSUE.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for the authors

When preparing manuscripts, please keep the following issues in mind:

First, make sure that you consider (1) the title, (2) the abstract, (3) the keywords, and (4) the JEL classifications carefully. Please make the title as short as practically possible; keep the abstract as brief as possible (although it is not a limit, you should try to keep it at about 150 words), and include all appropriate keywords and JEL classifications. Second, in order to help interested readers, please cite published (or online first) articles, including DOI (Digital Object Identifier) information for each reference. Third, please avoid having color images as these often do not reproduce well when printed in black and white.