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## **Editorial**

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### **Moreno Muffatto\* and Saadat Saeed**

Department of Industrial Engineering,  
University of Padua,  
Via Venezia, 1 – 35131 Padua, Italy  
E-mail: [moreno.muffatto@unipd.it](mailto:moreno.muffatto@unipd.it)  
E-mail: [saadat.saeed@studenti.unipd.it](mailto:saadat.saeed@studenti.unipd.it)  
\*Corresponding author

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This special issue on ‘young and innovative entrepreneurship’ addresses the special call from European Commission (2006), that emphasise on the need to promote entrepreneurship as a viable option among young adults across Europe with renewed call to developing entrepreneurial mindset. Entrepreneurship has become an economic panacea, which brings employment and economic prosperity in both developing and developed countries (Kuratko, 2005; Packham et al., 2010). In many countries, young people are receiving stimulus in order to explore and consider entrepreneurial careers. Models proposed by media, formal action in education for entrepreneurship, and global initiatives such as Global Entrepreneurship Week are promoting the idea that young, innovative entrepreneurs can contribute to economic growth and to the social improvement of local areas and nations.

The submissions for the special issue came from a total of 60 authors for 27 submissions, located in 19 different countries. For each submission, the special issue editors read the articles independently and made a decision on whether to send the article out for a more detailed review. Of the original 27 submissions, 15 articles were sent out to at least two reviewers who were acknowledged experts on the topic. After an extensive review process, involving several revise/resubmit/review cycles, we are thrilled to accept seven articles for this special issue. Our seven articles in this special issue consist of 22 authors from nine countries and three geographical regions (i.e., USA, Europe, and Asia). We are enormously thankful to the reviewers whose hard work and generous sharing of expertise and insights have contributed so much to making this collection possible.

Our first article in this special issue is written by St-Jean, Nafa, Tremblay, Janssen, Baronet, and Loué emphasise on the need to consider cultural and socioeconomic factors to explain entrepreneurial intentions and explains necessity and opportunity-based entrepreneurship phenomena among young adults. The purpose of this study is to compare the entrepreneurial intentions of university students in North Africa (Algeria) with those of students in Canada and Europe (France and Belgium), and to examine differences in the factors that influence these intentions.

The second article in the special issue, authored by Iakovleva, Kolvereid, Gorgievski and Sørhaug investigates cross-country differences between developing versus developed European countries on the kind of barriers young people perceive to business start-up. This article utilise institutional theory and found that the most important perceived barriers to entrepreneurship in all countries related to regulative structures, normative structures and cognitive structures. The results of this study aid in developing a theory of entrepreneurial barriers, which could be used to extend current entrepreneurial intentions theories in order to predict actual start-up behaviour better.

Third article by Saeed, Muffatto, and Yousafzai studies intergenerational influence on young adult's entrepreneurial intention and the underlying mediating effect of perceived desirability and perceived feasibility in starting a business. They apply underlying theory of family business context through Shapero and Sokol's model of intention in entrepreneurial events (SEE) and found that family background exerts a significant influence on the values, attitudes, and behaviour one adopts.

Fourth article by Tonia Warnecke, critically explores a variety of female entrepreneurship policies and programmes in China and India, providing a much-needed overview of the current state of support for women entrepreneurs in these countries and which economic sectors and actors (governments, non-governmental organisations, and private firms) are most engaged in providing this support. The article also evaluates which types and structures of programmes are more likely to promote upward mobility and opportunity entrepreneurship. Finally, the article presents an exploratory framework for considering five key characteristics of female entrepreneurship programmes (provision of money, goods, or services; skills training; business development services; professional networking services; and/or professional mentoring) and their relationship to necessity and opportunity entrepreneurship.

Fifth article by Hulsink and Koek focuses on 'What are the triggers for starting a business at a young age and how do young entrepreneurs mitigate the lack of education, experience, knowledge and other critical resources in the start-up process?' These results highlight the value of human, financial and social capital to new successful young entrepreneurs.

Next, Cannone, Pisoni and Onetti, examines 'born global' companies (BGCs) phenomenon for young entrepreneurs. Based on a multiple case study research, the article aims at providing some first evidence on the phenomenon of BGCs founded by young entrepreneurs, by analysing those age-related factors that facilitate or hinder young entrepreneurs to start a BGC. Results highlight that young entrepreneurs, being more financially constrained than old entrepreneurs, tend to move towards countries where those resources are more easily and widely available. Moreover, they found that young entrepreneurs seem to leverage on their social capital to countervail the young age effect. Finally, results suggest that – for young entrepreneurs – prior experience abroad has amplified relevance in the internationalisation process of a company.

Finally, Minola, Criaco, and Cassia address theoretical problematisation regarding the potential differences between younger and older entrepreneurs through systematic review of the literature. This article shows how the evolution of academic research in entrepreneurship can inform practice to shape the development of more advanced, detailed and customised interventions. This article demonstrates that young entrepreneurs are different from older entrepreneurs in several areas: accumulation of resources and skills (i.e., human capital); psychological, cognitive and motivational attributes; and reaction to influence from the environment, culture and norms.

## References

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