

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**Special Issue of *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*:  
“SECTOR STUDIES IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP: TOWARD A DEEPER  
UNDERSTANDING OF INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC DETERMINANTS, PROCESSES  
AND OUTCOMES OF ENTREPRENEURIAL PHENOMENA”**

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The primary concern of entrepreneurship is the existence, discovery, and exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities. Entrepreneurial opportunities come in a variety of forms, including new technologies, information asymmetries and environmental shifts, all of which tend to be industry-specific. The industrial sector is a key variable in any organization's business environment. Organizations and individuals interact in numerous ways with peers and competitors, customers, regulators and other stakeholders who altogether are perceived as an industry. Such industries can differ significantly in terms of their political, economic, socio-cultural and technological conditions. In turn, these differences are likely to shape the determinants, processes and outcomes of entrepreneurship. Moreover, entrepreneurial opportunities are strongly intertwined with the goals, beliefs, intuition, heuristics, and accurate and inaccurate information that derive from individuals' experience within an industry.

Unfortunately, however, there are not consistent and adequate conceptualizations of industrial environments for the development of theoretical models and the design of empirical work in the area of entrepreneurship. Moreover, researchers tend to consider industry variables only to the extent that they sensitize their theories to possible situational or temporal constraints or boundary conditions, typically focusing on simple “top-down process” of how industry variables affect lower-level variables and relationships. Despite the potential influence of industrial sectors on entrepreneurship, and despite industry variables have long dominated individual- and organization-level variables in studies of opportunity creation, discovery and exploitation, the underlying mechanisms through which the industrial sector shapes entrepreneurial phenomena and the “bottom-up” processes through which individuals, organizations and industries interact in creating, discovering and exploiting entrepreneurial opportunities remain largely undertheorized and little understood.

This Special Issue calls on entrepreneurship scholars to narrow their focus and concentrate their efforts on observing and explaining entrepreneurial phenomena within particular, specified industrial contexts, developing new theories of entrepreneurship from unconventional settings, and creating generous opportunities for future research aimed at extending these theories and searching for cross-context patterns and regularities. The Special Issue aims to present cutting edge research consisting in sector studies that explore both empirical and theoretical perspectives on industry-specific entrepreneurship, i.e. on the sectorial implications on determinants, processes and outcomes of entrepreneurial

phenomena. We encourage submission of empirical, conceptual, and literature review papers that can provide a unique perspective using diverse theoretical and methodological approaches. Authors are also encouraged to propose different and novel approaches that are particularly suited to capture the peculiarities of entrepreneurship within specific industrial sectors.

Examples of relevant topics include but are not limited to:

- The impact of different industrial sectors on the dynamics and processes associated with the creation, discovery and exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities
- How the industrial sector influences individual and corporate entrepreneurship
- The industrial underpinnings for different forms of entrepreneurial organizations (e.g., start-ups, joint ventures, spin-offs and spin-outs, family enterprises)
- The role of industry-specific factors in shaping entrepreneurial phenomena
- Industry specific boundary conditions to established theory
- Tension between creation and discovery in different industries
- Context specificity of entrepreneurial behavior and outcomes
- Industry specific challenges for entrepreneurship (e.g., distinctive challenges to entrepreneurship in emerging industries and established sectors; the role of formal and informal knowledge and intellectual property protection; the role of industry-specific human and social capital)
- The sectorial implications on the determinants of entrepreneurial phenomena
- The sectorial implications on the outcomes of entrepreneurial phenomena
- How and when changes in industrial sectors affect the temporal evolution of entrepreneurial phenomena

Submissions should be prepared in accordance with ET&P's guidelines and submitted via Manuscript Central (<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/etp>) between April 1-30, 2016. When submitting, be sure to indicate the submission is for the special issue on Sectors Studies in Entrepreneurship in the appropriate box.

Questions regarding the special issue may be addressed to any of the guest editors at their email addresses provided above.