

2021 BABSON COLLEGE ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Welcome from the 2021 BCERC Directors



Andrew (Zach) Zacharakis
Director, BCERC
Babson College

I'm excited to be directing the 2021 BCERC, which due to COVID-19, we've opted to do 100% online this year. The Technical University of Munich (TUM) which was scheduled to host the conference for 2021, has graciously offered to host the in-person conference in 2024. For 2021, our plan is to have all accepted papers presented real-time via Zoom. We'll modify the presentation format a bit, and use both direct verbal feedback as well as online posting about your papers. This combined approach should give you more feedback than you might typically get during a traditional presentation. We also encourage our presenters to follow-up with those who provide you feedback to get more depth and insight as you move to improve your paper and research.

Since this conference is 100% virtual, we aren't confined in terms of attendance. We are opening the conference to everyone, not just those who have an accepted paper. Moreover, we're experimenting with pre-conference sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 8th and 9th. Conference attendees will have the option of joining these sessions on methods, research opportunities and so forth, all included in the conference registration fee.

We will all miss the social aspects of the conference. While we won't be able to chat with our colleagues over lunch, breaks or social hours, we will try to re-create these experiences online with senior scholars hosting breaks and social hours in Zoom breakout rooms. Of course, we won't provide the coffee, treats, lunches, dinner and drinks that are typical of our conference, but you can bring your own to the Zoom sessions. Since we won't have the usual expenses, we reduced the conference fee by \$700, meaning it will only cost \$250 to attend. We hope that this will make the conference more accessible. I am pleased to have professors Nicola Breugst and Larry Plummer as co-directors of the Doctoral Consortium Program. Together they have prepared an exceptional program for our doctoral students.

As the No. 1 leader in entrepreneurship for 25 consecutive years, Babson College is globally recognized for our one-of-a-kind Entrepreneurial Thought and Action® (ET&A) methodology that teaches undergraduates, graduates, and executives to balance action, experimentation, and creativity with a deep understanding of business fundamentals and rigorous analysis as the ideal approach to creating economic and social value. Babson College is an independent, not-for-profit institution, accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). In the 2018-2019 academic year, more than 2,100 undergraduate and 900 graduate students representing more than 80 countries attended Babson.

We look forward to seeing you in June.



Nicola Breugst
Co-Director, 2021 BCERC Doctoral Consortium
Technical University of Munich

My first BCERC was at Babson College in 2009 and I can still remember the experience very well. I was very impressed to see the faces to the names of the authors of so many articles I had read. And what was even more impressive: Everyone was excited about new PhD students who entered the field. I felt welcome right from the start and this feeling of being welcome has never changed at the many more conferences to come. While the 2021 BCERC will be a very special conference, Professor Plummer and I will do our best to offer you an inspiring experience in the Doctoral Consortium! We hope that you will learn a lot about the PhD journey and the next steps to come, that you will enjoy the interactions with the community of entrepreneurship researchers, and – perhaps most importantly – that you will make friends for life. We cannot wait to welcome you to the 2021 BCERC Doctoral Consortium!



Larry Plummer
Co-Director, 2021 BCERC Doctoral Consortium
Ivey Business School Western University

It's hard to believe that my first Babson Conference was Scotland in 2004, the year I attended the Doctoral Consortium! That conference also marked my very first research presentation at a conference and, well, let's just say it could have gone better. Since then, I have missed only a handful of conferences. While Prof. Breugst and I will

aim for a solid learning experience that might push and challenge you on your views and interests, we also will endeavor to help you appreciate what a community of entrepreneurship scholars can mean to you personally. In my case, (once COVID-19 is gone), each BCERC is a nice reunion with old friends, a chance to network with the field's top scholars, and a great opportunity to meet the next generation of promising research talent (that's you!). We are looking forward to a great consortium, positive and constructive interactions with your cohort, and plenty of fun along the way. See you in June!