

Entrepreneurship and local development: symbiosis and/or dissonance?

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Entrepreneurship is a vector of innovation, development and prosperity. It contributes to the efficiency of the markets, allows uncertain projects to emerge and is favorable to job creation. Entrepreneurship has often been seen as a process making possible the renewing of the innovation and productive system from a global or from a local point of view.

In a context where regions are becoming increasingly important, the local perspective deserves to be analyzed in a systematic and detailed way, on one hand, because an increasing literature shows that firm performance depends on the context and, on the other, because regions are endowed with increasing competences leading them to be among the main institutions in charge of economic development. Until recently, the major part of research focusing on the relationship between territory and entrepreneurship has put emphasis on new firms and business creation. However, new firms and business creation represent only one aspect of the entrepreneurial process and, moreover, empirical literature brings evidence on the minor role of young companies in creating jobs. Considering that mature companies play a key role in economic growth and job creation at the local level, the different entrepreneurial functions identified in the literature are worth to be discussed with reference to the territorial or local context. The same goes for all the dynamic relationships between entrepreneurial functions and the territories.

Research in regional science has repeatedly highlighted the diversity of territorial trajectories. This geographical diversity echoes diversity in the intensity of the different entrepreneurial functions' application. In this respect, let us mention:

- the importance of the entrepreneurial function of innovation and its implementation within existing firms (intrapreneurship) compared to the impact of the creation or the takeover of firms;
- the seizing of opportunities and the efficiency of the markets, to which Kirzner's entrepreneurial alertness contributes;
- the attitude towards risk and uncertainty identified as a cultural factor specific to the region or territory,

- etc.

The special session, entitled "Entrepreneurship and local development: symbiosis and/or dissonance?", aims to broadly open the field of research examining the relationship between entrepreneurial functions and territory.

Expected contributions, theoretical, empirical - both quantitative and qualitative - or methodological, will address the following issues:

- Is diversity a critical dimension of entrepreneurial functions at the local level?
- What are the characteristics and the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems?
- What are the explanatory factors of the diversity in entrepreneurial functions' applications?
- What are the entrepreneurial factors determining the growth rate at the local level?
- Does diversity in entrepreneurial functions' applications explains diversity in territorial development trajectories?

References

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