

# DISCOtech 2018 Summary Report

AOM ENT Session 193, August 10, 2018, Chicago, IL, US

By Marjan Gorgievski, Chair DISCOtech 2018

## Rationale and aim

On August 10, 2018, DISCOtech (Development of International Scholarship Collaboration Opportunities and the techniques) was organized for the third consecutive time as an annually recurring social event at the AOM annual meeting. DISCOtech aims to grow global entrepreneurship scholars. Globalizing entrepreneurship research has the potential to enhance its scientific rigor and practical utility. Cross-national collaborations encourage scholars to critically reflect on the historical and social embeddedness of their topics and concepts, the applicability of their methods across situations, and the cross-national generalizability of their findings. DISCOtech aims to empower scholars to connect to individuals from other countries and to develop broad collaborations that cross national, methodological and disciplinary boundaries. In order to reach this goal, DISCOtech provides scholars the opportunity to meet face-to-face in an informal setting and to share ideas, expertise and experience.

## Format and Attendance

The format for DISCOtech 2018 was as follows. After a walk-in with drinks and lemon cake, there were two plenary rounds of presentations followed by round table sessions.

The first plenary round was a panel of editors featuring:

- Prof. Ute Stephan for Applied Psychology: an International Review (AP:IR);
- Prof. Lois Shelton for the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior Research (IJEER);
- Prof. Leo-Paul Dana for the International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business (IJESB)/Journal of International Entrepreneurship (JIE);
- Prof. Norris Krueger for the Elgar book series "Impact of entrepreneurship research".

The second plenary was a round of "seeking international collaboration pitches" featuring:

- Prof. Andrew Maxwell: Failures in Funded Ventures, an International Comparison;
- Prof. Benson Honig: Refugee Entrepreneurship;
- Prof. Philipp Sieger: the GUESSS project;
- Prof José Ernesto Amorós: Science and Technology in New Ventures.

AOM's International Themes Committee chair Radha Sharma presented the aim and activities of the ITC.

Over the past three years, DISCOtech has developed an active, committed core of 10 to 15 contributors and a growing flexible shell of interested scholars. In spite of the huge competition of social events that were organized in parallel, DISCOtech 2018 has attracted slightly more participants than last year; we had 33 registered visitors.

## Content of the Presentations

To share some insights from the editors panel and round table discussions:

- *AP:IR* would especially welcome research focusing on psychological mechanisms in cross-

national contexts and submissions on international replications. Other topics, such as entrepreneurship and well-being, burnout research or research on work-life balance are also welcome, especially with well-balanced gender samples. SSCI impact factor for 2018 has raised to 2.5.

- *IJEER* is interested in receiving manuscripts on the human side of entrepreneurship and dynamics associated with new ventures and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, in specific cognition, opportunity recognition, and gender or minority entrepreneurship. *IJEER* encourages the use of different methodologies and mixed method designs. *IJEER* is indexed in the SSCI since 2018, starting with an impact factor of 1.7.
- *IJESB and JIE* publish research on Internationalization of Entrepreneurship and SMEs. They are interested in topics that go out of the box and beyond firm economics. Questions they raise are: do lessons learned to date apply across countries, specific regions, for small versus large companies and across different branches?
- The *Elgar book series* provides opportunities to edit books and monographic chapters that focus on relevance of entrepreneurship research for policy making and most importantly, entrepreneurship education.

Summary of the pitched ideas:

- The *business failure project* aims to provide a better understanding of business failure in order to find ways to prevent it. It also aims to investigate the real costs of failure in international comparison. Currently, Israel and Canada are involved, but replication across a wider range of countries would be welcome. Interested researchers can contact Andrew Maxwell: [andrewlmaxwell@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlmaxwell@gmail.com)
- The *refugee project* focuses on how research can support the integration of refugees in society, amongst others through (social) entrepreneurship. There is a growing number of refugees and immigrants around the world and it is important to investigate what we can do to help refugees solve their problems related to health care, education, linking into the community, etc. Cross national comparisons are important to explore the impact of different political and social environments and management approaches on refugees around the world. Interested researchers can contact Benson Honig: [bhonig@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bhonig@mcmaster.ca)
- The *GUESSS project*, hosted by the St. Gallen University, is a large, global research project addressing student entrepreneurship. Global datasets have been collected in the past on topics such as students' entrepreneurial intentions and activities, actual business founding, social identities, effectuation, the funding process. (<http://www.guesssurvey.org/>). Future datawaves have been planned. The GUESSS project works with a contact person responsible for coordinating the data-collection on national level. Interested researchers can contact Philipp Sieger: [Philipp.Sieger@imu.unibe.ch](mailto:Philipp.Sieger@imu.unibe.ch).
- The aim of the *technological ventures* project is to connect people with access to new technology and new ideas to people who have managerial backgrounds in order to create more effective entrepreneurial teams. The project currently has quite a strong practical basis and there is a need for developing a stronger theoretical foundation and review of the literature on topics such as lean startups, the role of mentors in entrepreneurial teams and low cost innovations. Interested researchers can contact José Ernesto Amorós: [amoros@tec.mx](mailto:amoros@tec.mx).

## **Synergies and Lessons Learned**

The attendants showed a wide range of research interests and were open to explore new topics and synergies for future collaborations. Here are some examples:

- Expat, emigrant and immigrant entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship, balancing social impact, economics, innovation and growth
- Jugaad (low cost) technology and innovation
- Entrepreneurship and ethics,
- The dark side of entrepreneurship, Illegal and informal entrepreneurship
- mentorship of entrepreneurs, negative mentoring through value incongruence and power distance. The role of mentors in entrepreneurial teams.
- locomotion and assessment,
- entrepreneurship in agricultural sectors,
- mompreneurship,
- identity research
- entrepreneurs' well-being and resilience
- Entrepreneurial behavior, leadership, project management.
- Entrepreneurship and failure
- Effects of demonatization
- Replicating field experiments for teaching entrepreneurship

## **To conclude**

We look back on a very enjoyable and dynamic social event. We can conclude that the foci of the presented journals resonate well with the mission of DISCOtech and participants' interests, which is international entrepreneurship research both in terms of international research addressing entrepreneurship and in terms of research on international entrepreneurship. Next year at AOM we hope to see and hear how the nascent collaborations have developed and led to mutual products.

## **Acknowledgements and List of Registered Attendants**

The organizers, Marjan Gorgievski, David Urbano and Norris Krueger, like to thank the ambassadors Benson Honig, Esra Memili, Inna Kozlinska, Maribel Guerrero, and Punit Arora and all attendants for their active participation, which has to a great extent contributed to the success of the DISCOtech 2018 event.

Registered DISCOtech 2018 Rockstars: Aakash Safru, Andrew Maxwell, Benson Honig, Caren Scheepers, Carlos Valladares, Darlene Alexander-Houle, David Urbano, Esra Memili, Etienne St. Jean, Ingrid verheul, Inna Koslinska, Jose Ernesto Amoros, Leo-Paul Dana, Lois Shelton, Maribel Guerrero, Marjan Gorgievski, Nicole Siebold, Norris Krueger, Ofer Zwikael, Pamela Robinson, Payal Kumar, Philipp Sieger, Przemyskaw Zbierowski, Punit Arora, Radha Sharma, Ronit Yitshaki, Sebastian Aparicio, Shawna Chen, Sunita Ramam Rupavatham, Theresa Vermeulen, Ute Stephan, Vicor Martin-Sauchez, Yipeng Liu.