

Revue de l'entrepreneuriat

Special Issue « Women Entrepreneurship » (Autumn 2014)

Guest Editors: Catherine Léger-Jarniou, Teresa Nelson, Annie Cornet, Stéphanie Chasserio

This special issue of the Revue de l'Entrepreneuriat will explore in our journal for the first time the state of research on women entrepreneurs in the Francophone community. We invite scholars worldwide with an interest in these entrepreneurs to develop and submit work that is investigative, comparative, empirical and theoretical. We seek to push the boundaries of what has been accomplished primarily in the Anglo-Saxon research tradition to include the historical and prospective position of women entrepreneurs in the Francophone community focusing on commercial artisan, growth-oriented, and family business contexts. Submissions in French and English are welcome.

Entrepreneurship is now universally recognized as a major avenue for state and regional economic recovery and growth. As a target population to lead this effort, women entrepreneurs now enjoy a light of attention not found in the past. Institutional actors (governments, local authorities, etc.) are now targeting policy to promote entrepreneurship in a substantial way (see, for example, European initiatives in this field).

Yet it is clear that in our French context, academic research in this area has not been in the spotlight. Thus, since the publication of the work of Ohran and Duchéneaut (2000), few studies have followed or have not yet received sufficient diffusion (exceptions are: Constantinidis and Cornet, 2003; Andria and Richomme-Huet, 2012). In contrast, academic research on women entrepreneurs appears by Anglo-Saxon colleagues with great vitality. The number of significant articles on this subject is increasing, as evidenced, for example, by the recent launch of the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship, including a special issue edited by Ahl and Nelson (2010) as well as the recent special issue of the journal Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice (Hughes, Jennings, Brush, Carter and Welter, 2012), and a substantial number of articles appearing in the mainstream English language entrepreneurship management journals as well.

In addition, international research orientations are now showing a real diversification of theoretical application with more robustness. There is a growing interest in studies of this specific population of women entrepreneurs (Carrier, Menvielle and Julien, 2006; Orser, 2007). Comparative approaches with men are certainly still present, but scholarship has pushed beyond simple empirical comparisons that fail to capture the intrinsic, outlier nature of entrepreneurship whether it be of men, women, or teams of either or mixed sex. Women have finally acquired the status of research interest on their own without necessarily being compared to the "standard" male and all of the social convention that that approach entails.

It is also observed that research on women entrepreneurs is an opportunity to question conventions regarding gender. Thus, a growing number of authors publishing in English call for a revival of traditional theoretical frameworks used in entrepreneurship as inadequate and/or underdeveloped to grasp the reality and potential of women entrepreneurs (Ahl, 2006; Brush and Welter, 2009; Calas, Smircich and Bourne, 2009).

We do intend to focus here on the commercial firm and we are most interested in applying entrepreneurial thinking to younger firms in development and growth stages. It is hoped, for this first

special issue on women entrepreneurs, to open a wide consideration on issues theoretical and methodological. Authors are invited to take advantage of other disciplines beyond entrepreneurship in business, the social sciences and humanities. We welcome research of all types – quantitative and qualitative, traditional and experimental.

The following topics are identified but others are welcomed:

- The growth and development of businesses created and managed by women
- Women as members of start-up and growth business teams
- Women as members of leadership in family businesses -- historical and/or growth oriented
- Women's involvement in traditional and renowned French industries such as fashion and beauty, viniculture, banking and financial services
- Women entrepreneurs and relational networks
- Women and creative financing
- The management practices of women entrepreneurs
- Alternative forms or innovative female entrepreneurship (e.g., the mother entrepreneur movement)
- The process of socialization and learning of women entrepreneurs
- Diversity of women entrepreneurs
- Consideration of existing theoretical frameworks to enhance the understanding of the entrepreneurial phenomenon of female entrepreneurship

Instructions to submit an article

Authors interested in submitting an article for publication consideration in this special issue should send their manuscript no later than May 15, 2013 directly to: soumission@entrepreneuriat.com. Identify your submission as one associated with the special issue "Female Entrepreneurship". Refer to the website of the journal editorial standards (<http://www.entrepreneuriat.com/pole-research/review>).

Other information

- Articles may be written in French or English.
- All authors are warmly invited to make known their intention to submit a paper before 15 January 2013 to Catherine Léger-Jarniou.
- For further information regarding this call for papers, please contact Catherine Léger-Jarniou (email catherine.leger-jarniou@dauphine.fr)