

Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal

Call for Papers for a Special Issue

**HISTORICAL APPROACHES TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH:
Investigating Context, Time, and Change in Entrepreneurial Processes**

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In recent years, scholars have grown increasingly interested in the promise of historical approaches to entrepreneurship research. History, it has been argued, can be valuable in addressing a number of limitations in traditional approaches to studying entrepreneurship, including by providing multi-level perspectives on the entrepreneurial process (Tripsas, 1997; Forbes and Kirsch, 2010; Agarwal and Braguinsky, 2014), in accounting for contexts and institutions (Baumol, 1990; Welter, 2011; Haveman et al, 2012, Zahra and Wright 2011), in understanding the relationship between entrepreneurship and economic change (Schumpeter, 1947; Casson and Godley, 2005; Baumol and Strom, 2007; Lippmann and Aldrich, 2014), and in situating entrepreneurial behavior and cognition within the flow of time (Popp and Holt, 2013). History, in this regard, points the direction to both valuable sources and data for addressing such topics (Forbes and Kirsch, 2010) and to a body of historical theory from which to conceptualize context, time, and change analytically (Wadhvani and Jones, 2014; Wadhvani, 2010). Indeed, it is for many of these same reasons that Schumpeter (1947) called on theorists and historians to collaborate in the study of entrepreneurship.

For this special issue, we seek theoretical and empirical work that significantly advances our understanding of whether and how historical research and reasoning can contribute to our understanding of entrepreneurship. In this regard, we encourage submissions that not only make contributions to entrepreneurship research and theory, but also engage the methodological and theoretical issues involved in using historical approaches in the management disciplines (Ingram, et al, 2012; Bucheli and Wadhvani, 2014; Rowlinson, et al, 2014; Kipping and Üsdiken, 2014). We welcome a broad range of ways to conceptualize and integrate history in entrepreneurship research, including as a set of sources and methods, as context (e.g. industry evolution), as an independent variable (experience at firm or founder level), as a mechanism (process, path dependency, or way of interpreting the past), or an outcome (e.g. historical performance). Motivating questions might include:

- Can the theory and philosophy of history and historical change be used to understand strategic entrepreneurship in new ways?
- Can the analytical and interpretive approaches to time and context used by historians contribute to our understanding of entrepreneurial behaviour and the entrepreneurial process? In what ways can those approaches help provide new insights into strategic entrepreneurship?

- How can historical sources and methods contribute to our understanding of strategic entrepreneurship?
- How does “history” or “the past” manifest itself in the entrepreneurial process? Is it constraining or enabling, and if “it depends,” then on what conditions does it depend?
- How is history “used” by entrepreneurs and innovative firms and in the entrepreneurial process? What is the relationship between narrative and history within the entrepreneurial process?
- Can historical contextualization of the current moment in entrepreneurship thought and practice help shed light on how entrepreneurship in the present is similar or different from the past?
- Can a deeper engagement with entrepreneurship theory allow us to understand history in new ways and produce new historical interpretations?

Timeframe

Interested contributors should prepare their submissions following the *SEJ* Style Guide, which is available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/%28ISSN%291932-443X/homepage/ForAuthors.html>. Submissions can be made via the *SEJ* website at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/sej> by July 15, 2016. Be sure to complete the “special issue box – Historical Approaches”. If you have questions about this special issue, or wish to discuss a potential submission, please contact the special issue Guest Editors: R. Daniel Wadhvani (dwadhvani@pacific.edu); William B. Gartner (wbg.mpp@cbs.edu); David A. Kirsch (dkirsch@rhsmith.umd.edu); Friederike Welter (welter@ifm-bonn.org); Geoffrey Jones (gjones@hbs.edu).

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