
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Kevin Hindle is Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship, Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia. He has held visiting professorships in entrepreneurship at several international locations, is the author of over 80 refereed publications and is the winner of multiple international awards including the Academy of Management Entrepreneurship Division and McGraw Hill Award for Innovation in Entrepreneurship Pedagogy.

The essence of entrepreneurship is the identification of unmet or undersatisfied needs and related opportunities, and the creation of enterprises, products and services in response to those opportunities. Two polar challenges in the spectrum of research required to illuminate such a diffuse and multi-faceted research domain are first, to identify and explain the commonalities, if any, involved in all successful entrepreneurial practice and second, to identify and explain the particularities which distinguish one successful entrepreneurial practice from another. It seems to me that the polar tension between commonality (in the sense of universally sound practice) and particularity (in the sense of sensitivity to unique circumstances) is a unifying aspect of the papers published in this issue.

Schaper's search for an emergent global pattern in small firm distribution is an intriguing quest to detect commonalities as is Pereira and Fernandes' investigation of whether the development of clusters has universal relevance as a factor in competitive advantage. Hisrich *et al.* with their examination of female entrepreneurship in the Ukraine provide insight through articulation of particularity as do Naude and van Der Walt in exploring spatial determinants of entrepreneurship that are unique to South Africa. Milton-Smith demonstrates some common mistakes in particular examples of the disconnection between an overly techno-centred approach to innovation and the generic importance of recognising the power of intangible, aesthetic and emotional sources of customer value. Smallbone and Walter consciously seek for balance between commonality and peculiarity in their quest to conceptualise entrepreneurship in the context of transitional economies. And Hindle argues that greater commonality and precision in the nomenclature, measurement and reporting of international entrepreneurship policy research would actually enhance our understanding of the particular priorities and issues which policy needs to address in different nations.

The collection of papers in this issue continues IJESB's laudable objective of enhancing communication between diverse constituencies interested in understanding and addressing the multiple challenges faced by entrepreneurs in the global economy.