

Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice

Special Issue Call for Papers

Digitization and the Market for Entrepreneurial Finance

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Digitization changes quite dramatically both entrepreneurs' business models and their implications for the type and timing of finance that support them. At the same time, digitization opens new financial channels that rejuvenate traditional venture capital, debt and other entrepreneurial finance channels, e.g. by offering new target search technologies for venture capitalists or new methods to assess risk for debt providers.

The emergence of innovative funding sources for new ventures has substantially increased the complexity of the start-up financing eco-system. Different types of crowd-investors, business incubators and accelerators, initial coin offerings (ICOs), and venture debt have complemented traditional venture capital and business angel funding as providers of financing to innovative new companies. These new opportunities to raise funds for both new and established ventures however increase the risk of bubble formation, fraud and unintended consequences for investors. These increased risks warrant extended analysis and new regulatory policies.

Additionally, digitization has given rise to a new breed of entrepreneurial companies active in the financial services sector, including banking and insurance. These fintech or insurtech companies aim to either offer a better experience to the end customer or improve the efficiency of the financial services sector. While billions of dollars have been invested in the fintech industry around the globe, there is little research about the specific role of these fintech companies, about their impact on their customers, on other entrepreneurial companies and on incumbents, and about what drives their success.

Despite the profound impact of these innovations on the entrepreneurial ecosystem, our knowledge of their functioning, of the interactions between companies and financial backers, and between different financial backers with potentially diverging goals and interests, is still limited.

Potentially interesting themes include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Digital business models and the demand for entrepreneurial finance
- Alternative platform-based financial channels

- Scaling and time compression of digital sources of finance
 - Digitization of traditional entrepreneurial finance providers
 - New forms of digital-based corporate venture capital
 - Role, impact and success of fintech companies
 - Digitization and the geography of entrepreneurial finance
 - How do traditional and new investors work together
 - New and differentiated funding paths available to startups with an innovative mix of investors
 - How new forms of finance and fintech innovations shape entrepreneurial companies
 - The changing startups ecosystem and the challenges for regulatory authorities
 - ICOs as a new segment of traditional capital markets
- The impact of ICOs on the evolution of crowdfunding and other funding sources

Papers adopting novel methodological approaches, for example based on data analytics, would be particularly welcome.

Authors of papers that get a “revise and resubmit” or “(conditional) accept” decision after the first review round, will be invited to a workshop organized by emlyon business school to further enhance the quality of the papers.

Deadline for submission to the SI: June 30, 2019