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Introduction to Volume X of International Journal of Entrepreneurship & Innovation

Welcome to the first edition of the International Journal of Entrepreneurship & Innovation of 2021. Following Professor Gerard McElwee's stewardship over the last two decades of what is now an established, quality academic journal, we are keen to introduce ourselves to readers as the new Editors in Chief. We share this role along with our established Associate Editor for teaching case studies and two new Associate Editors for Innovation and our new feature of Essays respectively. Please have a look at the journal's homepage for more information about these developments, which will start to emerge throughout 2021.

This current edition includes a set of papers that reflect the quality of critical engagement and rigorous study that has become typical of IJEl. In particular, there are several contributions here that are particularly timely as we enter an unprecedented era of challenges for business, entrepreneurship and employment. The paper *The driving motives behind informal entrepreneurship* by Eunice Santos, Cristina Fernandes and João Ferreira is particularly pertinent to this. It explores the effect of the (previous!) financial crisis on informal entrepreneurship in Europe. The authors find evidence of survival strategies in the absence of reasonable work alternatives, and informal entrepreneurship as a means of avoiding regulations in the formal economy, quite distinct drivers with implications for policy, support and our understanding of independent work and enterprise. In another of the papers in this edition, Tina Shabsough, Anil Boz Semerci Semerci and Azize Ergeneli explore if and how social networking affects the entrepreneurial intentions of women who feel underemployed in organisations and frustrated by their lack of advancement. In the paper, *Women's Entrepreneurial Intention: The Role of Sticky Floor Perception and Social Networking*, the authors find a strong effect of social networking on the entrepreneurial outcomes for these women, and from there they extrapolate evidence-based implications for knowledge about the drivers of women's enterprise and for support and practice.

In a paper on entrepreneurship and finance, Nunzia Carbonara explores the link between location and success of crowdfunding. The paper *The role of geographical clusters in the success of reward-based crowdfunding campaigns* reports a positive relationship between being in an innovation-oriented geographic cluster and success amongst crowdfunded enterprises. Carbonara points to the exchange of ideas, support and human capital benefits as key to underpinning this relationship.

On the topic of innovation, this edition includes two papers, each with specific contribution. First, Sean Kruger and Adriana Steyn present *A conceptual model of entrepreneurial competencies needed to utilise technologies of Industry 4.0*, that looks specifically at innovation in the technology era. The authors make the case that competencies are key to success of business in terms of innovation in the tech age and suggest approaches to developing such competencies. Following and complementing this, Joan Freixanet, Jessica Braojos, Alex Rialp-Criado and Josep Rialp-Criado present an empirical account of the process of innovation in their paper *Does international entrepreneurial orientation foster innovation performance?* The research reported tests the relationship between international entrepreneurial orientation and innovation, particularly with regards to open innovation and social media usage. The authors highlight a step-quality of the innovation process, finding that entrepreneurial orientation is affected by open innovation application, which in turn is affected by social media engagement and use.

Included in this issue is also one of the last book reviews we will have as we retire this feature of the journal. But what a timely book review it is: *The North East after Brexit: Impact and Policy* by Liddle and Shutt as part of Emerald's Brexit Studies Series.

While this edition comprises articles submitted, reviewed, edited and accepted before we took over as EiCs, we are pleased to see the papers here represent the high quality and rigour the journal has maintained since its inception. This has all been made possible by the work of Professor McElwee, and by the support of the reviewers and the editorial board. We are very grateful for their – often considerable – contributions of time and effort and we aim to continue the legacy of contributory, robust knowledge-making. In particular, as this edition exemplifies, the range of topics in entrepreneurship and innovation is broad but inclusive. We seek to maintain both this range and the high calibre of outputs, and to develop the journal further in the coming years.

Laura Galloway and Deema Refai