Entrepreneurship - a form of organising

We challenge the dominant entrepreneurship discourse by shifting away from the traditional individualism towards social relatedness.

Economic Approach
- Entrepreneurship: "the function"

Socio- Behavioural Approach
- Entrepreneurship: "entrepreneuring"

Psychological Approach
- Entrepreneurship: "the entrepreneur"

Figure: Dominant approaches in entrepreneurship research and their main focus (adapted from Koskin (2015) and Deakins and Freel (2003))

Entrepreneurship - a form of organising - emerges in the complex responsive processes of relating, says Stacey (2000). We abandon the idea that entrepreneurial endeavours emerge solely from the autonomous individual’s agenda, and accept that entrepreneurial practice emerges in the interplay of many interdependent individuals intentions.

Research questions
- How are people doing entrepreneuring. What exactly happens and what does it entail?
- Is the entrepreneuring of opportunity and desire void of commercial interests before it is coded into those interests?
- What “other” values are in play? Why is it necessary to identify and describe the going-on?

Emerging in complex processes of relating

Participatory Entrepreneurship is an alternative, action-oriented approach to entrepreneurship that recognises its relational complexity.

Grounded in empiricism, we suggest that “one can reveal a going-on that is heavily influenced by the complex responsive processes of relating” (Stacey, 2001 in Heape et al., 2022). Entrepreneuring is a process of doing, a form of organising, in which the identities of interdependent individuals are co-created through mutual recognition and continuously transform in processes of ongoing human interactions. (Fellegi, 2022).

“Participatory Entrepreneurship is an iterative, social and complex relational practice of entrepreneuring”

(Heape et al., 2022)

What practices do we teach?
- Allow yourself to be influenced by others
- Recognize the temporality and dynamics of emergence between field actors
- Engage with stakeholders before you know what is at stake
- Think in on-going processes, not states: 'entrepreneuring'
- Toy with ideas - engage and allow the idea to emerge
- Engender an iterative process of becoming

Collaborative, process, and project oriented

We have developed a 10 ECTS master course in Participatory Entrepreneurship that offers students the opportunity to develop an entrepreneurial attitude of mind to engage in an entrepreneurship project with others. Students learn that entrepreneuring does not happen with individuals generating ideas alone - no matter how good those ideas might be. Entrepreneuring entails the dynamics of involvement and engagement of (many) stakeholders and other relevant people when working with and through an entrepreneurship endeavour.

The course draws upon complex processes of relating, collaborative design, design anthropology, pragmatism and organisational practice in particular. It clarifies the contrast to traditional entrepreneurship theories.

Central approaches

Multi-stakeholder opportunities: ‘The courses’ central aim is about creating opportunities that are collaboratively explored and matured with multi-stakeholders, in which the negotiation of value emerging in the project will be critical, rather than about solving problems.

Participatory Inquiry: a collaborative, project oriented task and practice based process of inquiry, driven by action research that engages both faculty and students in a generative and co-learning research and development endeavour.

Publications:

References: