Background of the Movements of Entrepreneurship workshops

"...students of entrepreneurship are like the alchemists, trying to explain complex phenomena with four blunt variables: fire, water, earth, and air" – Peterson & Horneth, 1982

The Movements of Entrepreneurship workshops is a series of four writers’ workshops with the aim to move the field of entrepreneurship by stimulating and exploring new ideas and research practices. The workshops complement the more regular conferences (typically organized around presentations and results) as they try to gather a small group of writers who discuss their research approaches, allowing for sharing questions and constructive feedback.

The first Movements of Entrepreneurship workshop took place in Stockholm’s archipelago at Djurönäset in 2001, and resulted in a book entitled New Movements in Entrepreneurship published by Edward Elgar in 2003. Taking water as its inspiration, it explored the variety of new streams that are flooding the field.

The second workshop was organized on Sandhamn in 2002. It tempted authors to experience the winds from the four corners of the island and to address new research practices. Narrative and Discursive Approaches in Entrepreneurship Studies was the result (2004).

The third workshop was organized in 2004 in the small village of Tällberg, close to the place where, around 360 million years ago, a huge meteor fell from space. Authors were invited to explore the metaphor of earth and to inquire into new groundings of entrepreneurship. Forthcoming is the book Entrepreneurship as Social Change (2006).

Order now!
Are you interested in the results of the first two Movements workshops? The hardback versions of New Movements in Entrepreneurship (2003) and Narrative and Discursive Approaches in Entrepreneurship Studies (2004) can be ordered with a 50% discount. Visit www.esbri.se for more information.

Entrepreneurial Fire:
Inquiring the Politics and Aesthetics of Entrepreneurship

A fourth and final Movements of Entrepreneurship publication workshop Organized by ESBRIn collaboration with Reykjavik University

May 21–24, 2005
Iceland

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This is a call for potential book chapters to be presented and discussed at a special writers’ workshop to be held in Bifröst and Reykjavík, Iceland, May 21–24, 2005. The thematic metaphor for this fourth book, following the earlier ones relating respectively to Water, Air and Earth, will now be Fire, this double force that can warm up and burn down, energy and destroy. If we understand entrepreneurship as the fire in society, organisation and economy, what can we expect entrepreneurship to do? Can entrepreneurship invoke social change and alter the potential of one’s life? Are we not expecting too much or only too little of entrepreneurship? How can entrepreneurship create and shaping our values, adding beauty to the world, energizing a polymorphous carnival of life, lighting fires? Is there a politics of entrepreneurship, that consists of a multi-dimensional evaluation of its effects/performance (its force and beauty; its power and ugliness; its strategies and lightness). The resulting works – after the thematic ‘Fire’ by focusing on the effects of entrepreneurship; the paradoxical process of “creative destruction”. We want to approach entrepreneurship as Fire, metaphorised by Fire. The workshop aims at gathering contributions that addresses of a broad range of issues distinguished by their references to fire, energy, beauty, warmth, horror, passion, destruction, invisibility. Fire symbolises both entrepreneurship as a paradoxical process of “creative destruction”. We want to approach this theme of ‘Fire’ by focusing on the effects of entrepreneurship; the double-sided impact entrepreneurial endeavour can have on our lives, businesses, organisations, communities, cultures and societies.

Entrepreneurship is a transformative force that sets free energies, overturns habits, changes the way we see things, the force of innovation created and the innovation this brings along is a chance to even or alter the present. We imagine fire and its association with Prometheus/Hephaistos as a particularly rich metaphor to address the role of entrepreneurship in society. Entrepreneurship as fire: with its geysers, lava landscapes and volcanoes, it can remind us of the forces of fire; furthermore, Iceland can form the ideal place for this theme of four workshops, as it accommodates also the other themes with water (its waterfalls and ice), air (island) and earth (lava). Finally, situated in between America and Europe, Iceland can form the ideal-enter-space where scholars from all continents can come, Iceland – a grand finals, so we hope. We will take ample advantage of the fascinating nature of Iceland and the cultural life in Reykjavík where at that time the Reykjavík Arts Festival is organized. The workshop’s theme is quite obvious. The Althing, established in the year 930 AD, is the world’s oldest functioning legislative assembly.

The conference will be held on the campus of the Bifröst Business School, located in the Nordhurland eyra some 100 km from Reykjavík. The place is located literally in the middle of a lava field rendering the views of old lava fields, the power of fire, the power of water (its waterfalls and ice), the power of life and death. We will be continuously reminded of the power of fire.

Construction of the event

Participants are expected to arrive on Saturday afternoon for a get-together event in downtown Reykjavík. Afterwards, we will travel together by bus to Bifröst where we will have dinner. Sunday and Monday is reserved for paper sessions, key note activities and field walks. Monday afternoon we will return to Reykjavík for a dinner-party to celebrate the final Movements workshops. On Tuesday morning, there is an Art-bench event to say goodbye from where there will be a possibly to individually discuss the chapter contributions and to initiate post-conference activities in Reykjavík and surroundings. A detailed time schedule of the programme for May 21–24 will be given when acceptance of abstraction is notified.

Chapter submission

The work is aimed at 20,000 words giving a clear indication of the potential contribution to the theme and of the structure of the book is expected by February 14, 2005. Abstracts will be selected on the basis of their innovative contribution to the workshop theme, and on how each author can make a strong and original contribution of chapters for a book-edition. First-draft papers for discussion at the workshop have a preferable length between 20 to 25 double-spaced pages (maximum 30 pages). Editorial expectations for the publishable version of each chapter will be given at the workshop. Participants have a considerable time to rework and to submit their contribution, enriched by the discussion, feedback and synergies created during the discussed work. Editors for the book are Daniel Hytham and Cita Stewart.

Dimensions of this thematic can be oriented towards:

1. Politics: Conceiving effects of entrepreneurship
   What can we expect entrepreneurship to do and not to do? If entrepreneurship is such a broad transformative power, how does that impact the way entrepreneurship policies are developed and implemented? How to re-frame what we consider to be the entrepreneur/potential for society? This requires an in-depth account for a critical analysis of how new entrepreneurial policies are conceived and evaluated beyond the more economic growth expectations.

2. Aesthetics: Conceiving entrepreneurial interventions through aesthetics
   By relating entrepreneurship to fire, our conceptions can be opened towards understanding the emotions, intuitions, senses, spirits and creativity - qualities which remind us of art(facts) - that play a part in entrepreneurial and that show the aesthetic base through which entrepreneurship has been established and intervene in society. How does the recent aestheticisation of society/business (e.g. the emphasis on design) affect entrepreneurship? How can entrepreneurship effectuate this recent shift? How can aesthetic concepts enrich our understanding of entrepreneurial processes? How can the aesthetic dimension of entrepreneurship alter government policies or influence where entrepreneurship is taught at universities?

To support these themes and the interaction during the workshop we bring in some external relevant. For this year’s workshop, we have invited Paul du Gay to situate the politics of entrepreneurship. Paul du Gay is Professor of Sociology and Organization Studies, and Co-Centre for Art and Management. The conference will be held on the campus of the Bifröst Business School, located in the Nordhurland eyra some 100 km from Reykjavík. This place is located literally in the middle of a lava field rendering the views and walks. We will be continuously reminded of the power of fire.

Payment and subscription

For the fee participation (two nights at Bifröst, workshop participation, conference documentation, bus transport, all meals and social events) is 600 Euros. A choice of rooms in Reykjavík for pre- and/or post-conference stay will be available (within 100 and 150 Euros). Doctoral students can apply for a discount on the participation fee when sending their abstract.

Upon acceptance of their abstract, participants will be asked to confirm their participation and receive information concerning payment. It should be noticed that participants have to confirm their participation at the workshop by payment (of both conference fee and additional hotel rooms in Reykjavík) at the latest May 15. Payment will be considered the only valid form of confirmation.

Major milestones

February 14, 2005:
Notification of acceptance decision
March 15, 2005:
Deadline for sending in reworked version
May 2, 2005:
Deadline for sending in final draft of paper
May 9, 2005:
Deadline for sending in reworked version
Publication of the book

Publication of the book