



Call for Papers for a cosponsored SMS Conference

**NEW FRONTIERS
IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
Strategy, Governance and Evolution**

**Catania, Italy
May 23-25, 2007**

Co-Organizers

David Audretsch
Indiana University

Giovanni Battista Dagnino
University of Catania

Rosario Faraci
University of Catania

Robert Hoskisson
Arizona State University

Call for Papers for a SMS Special Conference on

**NEW FRONTIERS
IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP:
Strategy, Governance and Evolution**

Catania, Italy, May 23-25, 2007

Co-sponsored by:

Corporate Strategy and Governance Interest Group
Entrepreneurship and Strategy Interest Group
of the Strategic Management Society
and the University of Catania

Conference Co-Chairs:

David Audretsch, Giovanni Battista Dagnino, Rosario Faraci and Robert Hoskisson

Conference Purpose

Entrepreneurial processes are essentially driven by the desire to start a new venture, or re-invent and radically transform existing company. Entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial managers seek to shape the future of their businesses by visualizing and implementing new imaginative ventures and models. The desired outcomes are organizational genesis, growth and rejuvenation that are underpinned by new competitive advantages leading to new profitable opportunities. Research on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial processes has met with the greatest success at the dawn of the new millennium, stretching its frontiers from a peripheral sub-field of management studies into one of the most relevant spheres of strategic management.

This special conference is aimed at taking an in-depth analysis of both the theory and practice directly associated with entrepreneurship, especially with regard to nurturing strategic systems, governance arrangements and evolutionary paths in organizations.

The conference is therefore about discussing new developments and achievements in entrepreneurial research. We have chosen the title “New Frontiers in Entrepreneurial Research” because we wish to underscore the importance of two closely related themes: (1) connecting developments in entrepreneurship to current strategy thinking and practice, and (2) generating new and innovative ways to cultivate and develop entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial processes.

Consultants, executives and academics are encouraged to attend this conference to discuss new advancements, reflect on previous accomplishments and breakdowns with fresh conceptual and new empirical approaches.

The conference is organized jointly by the SMS *Corporate Strategy and Governance* and *Entrepreneurship and Strategy* Interest Groups and co-sponsored by the University of Catania.

It seeks to accomplish the following goals:

1. to identify new conceptual frameworks and models to foster research in entrepreneurship leading to the genesis of new ventures and the rejuvenation of existing firms and businesses;
2. to reflect on practical experience with entrepreneurship and new ventures;
3. to experiment with innovative entrepreneurship techniques that encourage the firm's and the new venture's strategic guidance, governance and evolution.

Conference Format

We consider that each group of SMS Members (the so-called ABCs; i.e., academics, business practitioners and consultants) has a unique ability to contribute to the development of new knowledge and practice in entrepreneurship. The format of this conference has been designed to take full advantage of the involvement and contribution of each group.

As Table below shows, the conference is intended to provide outlets for all three of the SMS core bases. Following previous successful experiences, we expect to create sessions in the program around specific topics and integrate presenters around different types of submissions (as indicated in the Table). For example, we could combine a research paper on how technology affects entrepreneurship and new ventures, an executive's presentation of his/her business experience, and an experiment in new venture design facilitated by a consultant.

The ultimate goal is to pollinate learning across the three SMS constituencies.

<i>Conference Stream</i>	<i>Participant Contribution</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Submission of</i>
Strategy, Governance and Evolution: New Concepts and Models	Research in entrepreneurship for nurturing creativity, vision and imagination	Academic papers presentations	Full paper
Reflections on Business Experience	Single- or multi-firm experience with entrepreneurial processes	Case presentations	Two-page abstract
New Techniques Experiments	Innovative entrepreneurial research techniques or experiential exercise	Facilitated workshops	Two-to four-page technique description and draft workshop agenda

Submission Criteria

We invite all the individuals who are involved in entrepreneurial research and practice to present their concepts, methods, experiences and applied techniques at the conference.

With respect to the conference theme, submissions will be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:

1. The extent to which they contribute to previous entrepreneurial literature, in particular in terms of its links to strategy.

We show interested in such specific topics as:

- the integration of entrepreneurial and strategic thinking;
- theory building in entrepreneurship;
- the role of creativity and imagination in the genesis and development of new ventures;
- the use of new information and knowledge management in entrepreneurship;
- the impact of technology on entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial firms;
- family business and entrepreneurship;
- how organizational networks influence the evolution of entrepreneurship;
- the governance of start-up in high- tech new ventures (i.e., board composition, incentive schemes, ownership structures, and so on);
- corporate governance of new ventures and spin-offs from existing organizations;
- the restructuring of existing organizations and the forms of entrepreneurship;
- the role of industrial districts or clusters in generating new ventures and business opportunities;
- the drivers of evolution and change in the entrepreneurial firm;
- early stage investors and sponsors of new entrepreneurship (e.g., venture capitalists, business angels);
- the relationships between diverse institutional settings and new entrepreneurship
- internationalization of new ventures (“born global” entrepreneurial firms).

We also seek submissions on broader topics, including:

- entrepreneurship as a source of rents and competitive advantage,
- the evolution of studies on entrepreneurship;
- the evolution of governance in entrepreneurial firms;
- how entrepreneurship may lead to the creation, development and exploitation of firm capabilities;
- interactions among governance, capabilities and performance;
- innovation and entrepreneurship;
- international dimensions of entrepreneurship, including national differences;
- the strategic role of the entrepreneur and entrepreneurial firms.

2. The extent to which they contribute to the research and practice that govern our field.

We also encourage research submissions that use innovative research fields and employ new research methods in entrepreneurship.

3. The extent to which they promote interaction between relevant SMS groups.

Since the conference design invites and encourages interactions among academics, business people and consultants, we welcome proposals based on their potential to spark dialogue across these groups.

Featured Speakers

Richard D' Aveni (Dartmouth)
Igor Filatochev (King's College London)
Alfonso Gambardella (Bocconi University)
Mario Sorrentino (Second University of Naples)
Shaker A. Zahra (University of Minnesota)

Location

The conference will be held in the recently fully refurbished School of Economics and Business building of the University of Catania. The School of Economics and Business of the University of Catania compound is located in the new city center about fifteen minutes away from Catania Airport, and 2 hours from the Palermo Airport in beautiful Sicily. The Catania airport provides direct service to a number of European destinations and frequent connecting flights to the major airports of entry for international and overseas flights (i.e., Milan and Rome airports). Participants will be housed in neighbouring hotels (Grand Hotel Excelsior, Jolly Hotel Bellini, Katane Hotel), located within walking distance from the School with attractive room rates (Euros 105 single and Euros 120 double?).

Those who wish to extend their stay before or after the conference will benefit from the School's location in the Eastern part of the island of Sicily, in the very heart of the Mediterranean Sea. Nearby holiday destinations include spectacular Taormina, the *Magna Grecia* town of Syracuse (with the magnificent Ortigia island and its mythical Aretusa spring), the city of Messina with the wonderful Eolie Islands archipelagos, as well as Palermo, Ragusa and Agrigento.

Schedule and Events

A reception will kick off the conference at 7:00 pm on Wednesday May 23 and the program will end at 5:30 pm on Friday May 25. A special Sicilian food tasting is planned for Thursday evening when a reception will take place at the Catania's Grand Hotel Baia Verde, located on the scenic seashore just outside the city.

Submission of Papers and Proposals

The deadline for all submissions is **February 15, 2007**. Submissions should be in Microsoft Word format and should be uploaded on the dedicated web site <http://www.smscataniaconference2007.it>. Papers will be blind-reviewed and notices of the review committee's decisions will be sent out by the end of March 2007.

For full paper submissions please follow the manuscript style of the *Strategic Management Journal* and include your name, full affiliation and e-mail address. Please do not submit papers (1) that have been published or (2) that are under review for final publication.

The 2-5-page abstract submissions (Reflections on Business Experience or New Techniques Experiments) should include the names and affiliations of presenters or facilitators, including an e-mail address.

Conference Fees

The conference fee is Euros 200 (USD 260) for those who will register on-line by **April 15, 2007**. For registrations made after April 15 and for on-site registration, the fee will be Euros 250 (USD 325).

As a special introductory conference package, a registration that includes the first year of membership in the Strategic Management Society (SMS) is offered at Euro 300 (USD 390) for the early registration and Euro 350 (USD 455) for registrations after April 15, 2007.

Ph.D. students who wish to become SMS members are invited to take advantage of a registration fee of Euro 275 (USD 360) for the early registration and Euro 325 (USD 425) after April 15, 2007.

Organizers and Further Information

David Audretsch (Indiana University)
Giovanni Battista Dagnino (University of Catania, Italy)
Rosario Faraci (University of Catania, Italy), and
Robert Hoskisson (Arizona State University)
are the co-chairs of the conference.

For additional information, please visit the Conference web site at <http://www.smscataniaconference2007.it> (to be defined) or e.mail one of the organizers, daudrets@indiana.edu, dagnino@unict.it, faraci@unict.it, or robert.hoskisson@asu.edu