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Academy of Management Annual Meeting 2019,  
PDW Proposal: ENT Division*

Title: **Digitalization, Disruption, Technological Changes and the New Frontiers of Entrepreneurship**

**Primary Sponsors:**

- **David B. Audretsch**, Institute for Development Strategies, Indiana University, USA
- **Alain Fayolle**, EMLyon Business School, France
- **Wadid Lamine**, Telfer School of Management, University of Ottawa, Canada

**List of Other Sponsors** (*confirmed*)

- **Magnus Klofsten**, Linköpings universitet, Sweden (**Confirmed**)
- **Sarfraz Mian**, School of Business, State University of NY, at Oswego, USA (**Confirmed**)
- **Satish Nambisan**, Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University, USA (**Confirmed**)
- **Phillip Phan**, Carey Business School, Johns Hopkins University, USA (**Confirmed**)
- **Yuliya Snihur**, Toulouse Business School, France (**Confirmed**)
- **Arati Srinivasan**, School of Business, Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island (**Confirmed**)

## **BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE WORKSHOP**

The proposed PDW aspires to gain knowledge about the implications of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution, defined by the convergence of digital technologies (bigdata, IoT, blockchain...), biotechnologies, and the physics of the infinitely small (IASP, 2019). It will examine the major changes that are likely to affect the entrepreneurial phenomenon in its capacity to transform itself within a digital, knowledge-based and mobility-centered economy. It aims to discuss the emergence of new theories and conceptions (in light of the technological changes now underway) of the entrepreneurial opportunity and process that would more fully reflect the realities of the new environment we are living in.

Entrepreneurship research is multidisciplinary whose primary object of study is the process of the creation, identification and exploitation of opportunities and how these opportunities are transformed into new products, services and businesses that create wealth and contribute to economic development (Shane & Venkataraman, 2000). These entrepreneurial opportunities result from, among other things, the spatio-temporal contexts in which they emerge and develop (De Massis et al. 2018).

Today, far-reaching technological developments are making a deep impact on societies and economic environments worldwide. Interactions between new digital platforms and infrastructure (fintech, data analytics, mobility, mobile business apps, nanotech, robotics, new space, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, cryptocurrencies, the internet of things, cloud computing, blockchain) are drawing us inexorably into a new globalized digital economy based on knowledge and mobility (Srinivasan & Venkataraman, 2018).

In this context of fast-paced change, new industries, still in a state of flux, have arisen while

others have disappeared, at least in their traditional form. Moreover, the intermixing of these new technologies has led to a redrawing of boundaries and an increase in their porosity (Nambisan, 2017); thanks to the links that have developed between the new and the traditional industries. This, it seems to us, extends the limits of entrepreneurship out towards new industries but also towards industries with high barriers to entry (De Massis et al. 2018) due to regulatory, technological or structural factors such as space, finance, aeronautics, IT hardware and health industries (Loderer, Stulz and Waelchi, 2016).

For a growing number of people, these new technologies, considered as “external enablers” (Davidsson, 2015), lead to a democratization of entrepreneurship (Aldrich, 2014) and a lowering of the barriers to starting up a company by reducing (or eliminating) the challenges inherent in the entrepreneurial phenomenon in its “classical” configuration, difficulties such as high resource intensity, uncertainty, limited time or information asymmetry (Briel, Davidsson and Recker, 2018).

This new context, by offering new spaces for the creation, identification and exploitation of business opportunities, clearly extends the range of possibilities for a discipline such as entrepreneurship. Moreover, digitalization has helped to break down the boundaries between the different phases of the entrepreneurial process (Huang, Henfridsson, Liu & Newell, 2017).

Few studies in the discipline, however, have examined the impact of these technological disruptions not only the existing paradigms, but also our very conception of the entrepreneurial phenomenon in its changing nature and shifting contours (Nambisan, 2017).

## **EXPLANATION OF SPONSORS' INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES**

Building upon this year's conference theme of "Understanding the Inclusive Organization" the overarching purpose of this PDW is to better understanding how the entrepreneurship research could include all these new convergent technological trends and various contexts (i.e., technological, political, social, financial, etc.). Digitalization is not only disrupting the status quo context for entrepreneurship but it also provides a new context in which to analyze entrepreneurship. Therefore, this PDW proposal follows the recommendations of Welter et. al. in the 2017 ETP Editorial by exploring not only a new context for entrepreneurship, but one that is likely to disrupt and transform the context for many entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial organizations. More specifically, this workshop invites entrepreneurship scholars to focus their efforts on the major challenges that are likely to affect the entrepreneurial phenomenon in its inclusive capacity to transform itself within a heterogeneous and rapidly changing context.

The outcomes of this deliberation and collegial exchange and associated stream of research could lead the AoM researchers to gain a better understanding of the multifaced implications of the growing digitalization, disruption, and deep technological changes for entrepreneurship and innovation.

In this context, this workshop calls for research presentations and discussions that will explore key issues about the challenges and impacts of new technology trends such as: digitalization, AI, big-data, or new space for entrepreneurship. We intend to attract theory presentations and case studies using varied lenses and empirical papers that cross the main emerging technologies. Therefore, this PDW seeks to shed light on the role and influence of new technology trends on entrepreneurship and innovation. It aims to add to the body of knowledge in entrepreneurship and innovation by addressing the following topics:

- *The impact of different new technology trends on entrepreneurial process dynamics associated with the creation, discovery and exploitation of entrepreneurial opportunities*
- *How do new technology trends push entrepreneurship towards new frontiers and industries hitherto assumed to be inaccessible, such as health care, finance, aerospace, etc.?*
- *How do interactions between new emerging technologies provide new windows of opportunity and enable new transfer mechanisms within and between industries?*
- *The role of new technologies in enabling interconnections between existing and new industries*
- *How do new technology options and alternatives contribute to reducing the entrepreneurship entry threshold?*
- *New frontiers of entrepreneurship and their impact on society and public policy, with a view to improving human welfare.*
- *How do new technologies create boundaries and spaces between industries for the creation and identification of new entrepreneurial opportunities?*
- *Technological changes, digitalization and emerging entrepreneurship support mechanisms*

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PDW FORMAT

### List of participants and their roles:

<b>David Audretsch</b> , Indiana University, USA	Presenter/Chair
<b>Alain Fayolle</b> , EMLyon Business School, France	Presenter/Chair
<b>Wadid Lamine</b> , University of Ottawa, Canada	Presenter/Chair
<b>Magnus Klofsten</b> , Linköpings universitet, Sweden	Presenter
<b>Sarfraz Mian</b> , State University of New York, Oswego, USA	Presenter
<b>Satish Nambisan</b> , Case Western Reserve University, USA	Presenter
<b>Phillip Phan</b> , Carey School of Business, Johns Hopkins University, USA	Presenter
<b>Yuliya Snihur</b> , Toulouse Business School, France	Presenter
<b>Arati Srinivasan</b> , School of Business, Providence College, USA	Presenter

### 1. Proposed Agenda – Presenters

*Welcome and introductions, D. Audretsch, A. Fayolle, W. Lamine (10 minutes)*

*Presentation and discussion of digitalization, disruption, technological changes and the new frontiers of entrepreneurship (1h: 50)*

- Topic 1: Digitalization in the management of cluster initiatives - challenges and opportunities  
- **Magnus Klofsten**
- Topic 2: Digital Entrepreneurship in the new space industry – **Wadid Lamine**
- Topic 3: Are New Technologies Really Changing the Game of Crowdfunding Entrepreneurship? - **Sarfraz Mian**
- Topic 4: Rethinking entrepreneurial uncertainty in the digital age - **Satish Nambisan**
- Topic 5: Title to be confirmed - **Phillip Phan**
- Topic 6: Business model disruptors and new ecosystems in the digital age - **Yuliya Snihur**

- Topic 7: Digital Platform Strategy: Drivers of success for entrepreneurial platform firms and complementors' - **Arati Srinivasan**

2. **Open Plenary Discussion** – (30 minutes)

Finally, after presentations, the floor will be opened for Q&A and plenary discussion.

**LOGISTICAL NOTES**

A room a podium equipped with, projector and chairs is requested

A round table set-up is preferred

Attendance expected is 45-60 people

Time needed for the PDW is 2 hours and 30 minutes

All intended participants have indicated their agreement to participate for the entire workshop

AND that they are not in violation of the Rule of Three + Three.

**REFERENCES**

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