



**Small Enterprise Research  
Special Issue Call for Papers**

**Title:** Resilient Growth and International Entrepreneurship

**Special issues editors:**

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Recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on entrepreneurship worldwide (Shepherd, 2020; Zahra, 2020), as the global foreign direct investments have decreased over 40% in the last year (UNCTAD, 2021). However, even in recessionary periods, economic development is driven by enterprises that seek fast growth (Greene & Rosiello, 2020). Such risk-taking is complemented by the fact that crises also open up opportunities for strategic renewal, where innovating is an important strategic response to crisis (Wenzel et al., 2020). Enterprises that are proactive and well-networked are those that can strategically reposition in response to uncertain events (Maritz et al., 2020). In sum, firms that are able to engage in proactive, innovative and risk-taking behavior – firms that are *entrepreneurially*

*oriented* (Lumpkin & Dess, 1996) – should be expected to grow and perform better even in such adverse conditions as the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has introduced.

International entrepreneurship is the combination of innovative, proactive, and risk-seeking behavior *that crosses national borders and is intended to create value in organizations* (McDougall & Oviatt, 2000). In the post-COVID world, agile and resilient<sup>1</sup> international new ventures will be able to take advantage of their entrepreneurial orientation and find opportunities in the upheaval that the pandemic has caused globally (Zahra, 2020). In such an environment characterized by high volatility and uncertainty, the importance of the *capabilities* of firms to integrate resources in recognizing new opportunities is also further heightened (Battisti & Deakins, 2017). The role of such capabilities as well as the role of entrepreneurial resilience (Bullough & Renko, 2013; Bullough et al., 2014) are differentiators between survival and failure of enterprises, and the speed with which international new ventures are able to learn can determine their growth and survival in the long term (Zahra, 2020).

The COVID-19 crisis also presents opportunities to firms for digitalization and business model change (Seetharaman, 2020). Behavior of rapidly internationalizing small enterprises known as *born globals* (Rennie, 1993; Knight & Cavusgil, 2004) in particular has been argued to come to depend on their business models (Hennart, 2014), and the role of digitally enabled internationalizing enterprises such as *born digitals* (Vadana et al., 2019; Monaghan et al., 2020), is expected to grow in importance for international entrepreneurship research and practice during and after a crisis. However, the role of business models and business model innovation (Clauss et al., 2019) in international entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial growth has remained an often-neglected topic of research, as only a few studies (Childs et al., 2017; Asemokha et al., 2019) have shed light on the dynamics of business models and international growth or performance in international entrepreneurship. Thus, there is a need for more clarity in international

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<sup>1</sup> *Resilience* is “an ability to go on with life, or to continue living a purposeful life after hardship or adversity” (Tedeschi & Calhoun, 2004).

entrepreneurship research on the role that digitalization, business models and business model change have in international growth and performance of enterprises.

This special issue welcomes contributions in these areas, seeking to shed light on resilient growth and international entrepreneurship during challenging times. The suggested topics of contributions for this special issue include but are not limited to:

- The concept of growth in entrepreneurial internationalization and in international entrepreneurship
- The role of entrepreneurial resilience in business model change and growth in international entrepreneurship
- Resilience of international entrepreneurs during times of crisis
- The role of business models and business model change in growth and performance of international entrepreneurial firms
- The role of capabilities related to growth and business models in international entrepreneurship
- The role of interorganizational partnerships and networks in international business models/growth models
- The influence of digitalization and technology in business change and growth in international entrepreneurship.

Submission Deadline:

Articles need to be written in English and submitted via the online system (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rser>) by **30<sup>th</sup> December 2021**.

**Instructions for authors:** Under the Select Article Type, please choose Special Issue Paper. Once you have uploaded your paper and have reached the section/category page, please select: Resilient Growth and International Entrepreneurship

**Special Issue:** Submitted papers will be double blind peer reviewed and published in a special journal issue of Small Enterprise Research in 2022 or early 2023. All queries about the special issue should be sent to lead Guest Editors.

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