



SIG 03 - ENT - Entrepreneurship

We invite you to submit your research to explore the theme of *The Business of Now: the future starts here* for the EURAM 20th Conference.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

T03_17 - Solo self-employment and freelancing in the modern economy

Proponents:

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Short description:

This track calls for papers on the self-employed without employees, an under-researched area in the field of self-employment, that describes a heterogeneous category of self-employment that range from successful high-earning freelancers to precarious, contingent workers, with little job security and low income. As well as research on the characteristics and well-being of these workers, we are also interested in the factors that motivate entry into this mode of employment as well as transitioning out of solo self-employment into self-employment with employees.

Long description:

The share of solo self-employed, i.e. those working on their own account without employing other people is very high in developing countries and rapidly increasing in developed economies. Yet, this segment of labour force participants receives relatively little attention in the scientific literature. In fact, until two decades ago, solo self-employed were often characterized as a homogeneous group of workers who simply served as cheap substitutes for employees (Bögenhold 2019). However, over the last two decades solo self-employed (alternatively called freelancers or independent professionals) in modern economies have transformed from a predominantly precarious shadow workforce to a far more diverse community incorporating also high earning and highly skilled people who contribute to the economy by providing flexibility and innovation to both small and large businesses (Burke, 2015).

Apart from the labour economics perspective, the growing share of solo self-employed calls for deeper assessment of this phenomenon from the entrepreneurship perspective as nowadays one may speak of a sizeable and fast growing “intermediate zone” between classic employment and running a business with employees (Cieślik, 2015). These developments call for attention by not only the research community but also policymakers and government agencies in implementing labour market and entrepreneurship policies. The latter approach may draw from the theoretical base of entrepreneurship and labour economics, but this should also be extended to sociology and general issues of well-being of solo self-employed.

The conference track on this special topic invites papers related to any aspect of solo self-



employment and freelancing, including (but not limited to) papers that deal with

The benefits and challenges of solo self-employment in the 'gig' economy
 'hybrid' self-employment (self-employment in addition to a wage job)
 social aspects as antecedents of self-employment
 transitioning from solo self-employment to self-employment with employees
 solo self-employment in the context of gender or age
 solo self-employment and migration
 challenges and problems of definitions and statistical classifications of solo self-employment and freelancers
 solo self-employment, freelancing and the organization of labour
 solo self-employment, freelancing and their embeddedness in an individual's "personal situation" (organization of social partnerships/families, work and leisure, organization of week cycle, consumption patterns)

Keywords:

Solo Self-employment
 Freelancer
 Self-employment

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

Goal 3: Good health and well-being for people, Goal 4: Quality education, Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, Goal 10: Reducing inequalities, Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals.

Publication Outlet:

The best papers of the track will be considered for publication in a special issue of the International Review of Entrepreneurship.

For more information contact:

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AUTHORS GUIDELINES

<http://www.euramonline.org/submissions-guidelines-2020/authors-chairs-dicussants-guidelines.html>