

DOKTORANDENKURS - SoSe 2016

“CONTEXTUALISING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMALL BUSINESSES“

LSF-Nummer: 1051609981

Course content and aims: Entrepreneurship and small business activity take place in various contexts: industries, social contexts such as neighbourhoods, families and networks; spatial and institutional contexts and history. Researchers often underestimate the influence of contextual factors and the embedding of entrepreneurial and small business activities. Recognising the diversity of contexts for entrepreneurship and small business activity as well as the context of researchers can help us to understand the true richness of the entrepreneurship phenomenon. This course will study entrepreneurship as a contextualised event from different theoretical and empirical perspectives. We will also discuss challenges for entrepreneurship theory as well as implications for empirical research designs.

The course aims to introduce students to different contexts in which entrepreneurship and small business activities take place, with particular emphasis on the challenges this poses for theory, research designs and methodologies. Students will develop an understanding of how to contextualise in theory and empirical research. Students also will understand the relevance of the researcher's own context for researching entrepreneurship. Finally, students will contribute to the emerging research agenda on entrepreneurship and context, currently put together by William B. Gartner, Mike Wright, Shaker Zahra and the course instructor Friederike Welter, amongst others (Welter and Gartner 2016).

Course schedule:

29 April 2016	10-18	Session 1 and Introduction to course
3 June 2016	10-18	Session 2
17 June 2016	10-18	Session 3
15 July 2016	10-18	Session 4: Final conference / workshop

- In session 1, we will focus on defining context and on analysing how the participant's context (culture, background, etc.) impacts on their research designs and themes.
- In session 2, we will review the individual contexts of entrepreneurship, with particular emphasis on the agency of entrepreneurs in changing / influencing contexts.
- Session 3 focuses on the socio-spatial and institutional contexts of entrepreneurial activity, together with a close look at temporal and historical influences.
- For Session 4, students will jointly organise an open workshop in order to present and discuss their course papers.
- *Additional session with international guest speaker planned – speaker, contents, date and time to be confirmed (preliminary: 16th June, 10-14)*

Course assignments

- For Session 1: a poster which reflects on your “contexts”: How can you, as a “product” of your own specific context (personal, culture, etc.) contribute something novel to entrepreneurship research? To be presented and discussed at session. Individual assignment.
- Preparing a mini-lecture (30 minutes) as input for sessions 2-3: oral presentation and discussion of literature related to themes in sessions 2-3. Group assignment. Groups will be decided in session 1.

- Research paper on a selected topic related to course theme and presentation at final session (5.000-6.000 words). This paper should ideally be targeted towards a specific journal, workshop or conference within the entrepreneurship field or contribute to the participant's thesis. Individual assignment.
- Deadline for draft paper to reviewer(s) and course instructor: 1st July 2016
- Deadline for final paper to course instructor: 15th August 2016. Feedback until early October 2016.
- Written review (2 pages) on the research paper of course participants and discussant at final session. Individual assignment.
- Deadline to submit review to authors and course instructor: 7th July 2016.
- Joint organisation of final workshop to present and discuss course papers.

Attendees and application: The course has room for 12 participants and participants will be admitted until the course is full. Please send an email to Mrs. Tanja Sanchez (tanja.sanchez2@uni-siegen.de), including your name, your thesis topic (your university, if not Siegen) and a valid email address. Deadline for registrations: 29th February 2016.

ECTS: 5 creditpoints

Instructor: Prof.in Dr. Friederike Welter

Contact: welter@uni-siegen.de

Guest instructor: to be confirmed.

Course readings: The list below includes selected articles, which serve as introduction to the course topic. Participants are required to familiarize themselves with the course literature. As the topic of the course touches on other disciplines / research fields, participants generally are expected to complement the course literature with their own literature search, extending this, amongst others, to anthropology and ethnological studies, economics, economic geography, agricultural economics, rural studies, gender studies, (economic) sociology. Together with William B. Gartner, the course instructor is currently putting together a volume titled "A research agenda on entrepreneurship and context" – the introductory chapter of this book will be provided to course participants in January 2016.

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- Autio, Erko, Martin Kenney, Philippe Mustar, Don Siegel and Mike Wright (2014), 'Entrepreneurial innovation: The importance of context', *Research Policy*, **43** (7), 1097-1108.
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- Chalmers, Dominic M. and Eleanor Shaw (2015), 'The endogenous construction of entrepreneurial contexts: A practice-based perspective', *International Small Business Journal*. Online early.
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- De Bruin, Anne and Kate V. Lewis (2015), 'Traversing the Terrain of Context in Social Entrepreneurship', *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, **6** (2), 127-136.
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- Gartner, W. B. (2013), 'Creating a community of difference in entrepreneurship scholarship', *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development*, **25** (1-2), 5-15.
- Gartner, William B. and Sue Birley (2002), 'Introduction to the special issue on qualitative methods in entrepreneurship research', *Journal of Business Venturing*, **17** (5), 387-395.
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- Pollitt, Christopher (2013c), 'Preface: Context - a missing link?', in Christopher Pollitt (ed), *Context in Public Policy and Management The Missing Link?*, Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing, pp. xv-xx.
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