

Foreword

I am delighted to have been asked to write the foreword for this fifth book in the series “Entrepreneurship Research in Europe” edited by Alain Fayolle, Paula Kyrö, Tõnis Mets and Urve Venesaar. The editors have compiled yet another interesting collection of chapters that both represents the richness in methods and demonstrates the conceptual diversity of the authors who are all members of the ESU network. Like the previous four books, this book is an outcome of the ESU conferences, a unique initiative that brings together junior and senior scholars from all over Europe to develop research that addresses those questions that really matter to European scholars. It is a trademark of the ESU that it is dedicated to assisting young scholars in developing their careers from the very beginning. Indeed, the community feeling among the members of the network is so strong that the young scholars tend to stay connected even when they have completed their PhD and have gained a research position.

There is an old English proverb that says “curiosity killed the cat”. However, in order to undertake interesting research, I find curiosity is a prerequisite. Indeed, researchers have to be curious and passionate about all those phenomena that they encounter in the world in order to produce interesting research. Fundamentally, I think that good researchers were born curious; however, in today’s environment research curiosity and creativity is far too often replaced by research mechanics, mainly due to the pressure to publish, a pressure that may result in research which just goes through the motions and which is basically boring. This is where a book series like “Entrepreneurship Research in Europe” really makes a difference. In general, books have the advantage over journal articles in that they can allow lengthier manuscripts, and sometimes that is really necessary to understand all the intricacies of research. Further, the time to publication is also usually shorter. A potential critique is that manuscripts in books are not generally reviewed. However, all manuscripts accepted for “Entrepreneurship Research in Europe” have been through a rigorous review process that has helped develop the full potential of the papers accepted for publication. Thus, this particular series enables not only senior scholars but also junior ones to get their voices heard and I can confidently say that I believe the chapters published in this volume

are addressing interesting questions that we should care about. I can only applaud the series editors for their initiative, effort and time in producing yet another exceptional volume.

Helle Neergaard
iCARE
Aarhus University
Denmark