Preface

This *Handbook of Research on Innovation and Entrepreneurship* compiles the outstanding expertise of leading researchers in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship. Such a project inevitably goes back to Schumpeter, and we adopt the motivation of his entrepreneur as our starting point. ‘The joy of creating, of getting things done’ allows us to revisit and connect seminal contributions in the research on innovation and entrepreneurship. Hereby we assume that just as entrepreneurship is needed for the innovative process, without innovation, entrepreneurship would be of little economic interest.

As a first step, we selected a collection of seminal contributions in innovation and entrepreneurship to be included in Edward Elgar’s *International Library of Entrepreneurship* (ISBN 978 1 84844 099 9). This volume includes research beginning with the history of economic thinking, continues with the macro-level modern growth theory, the process of innovation, zooms in on the entrepreneur as the individual and, finally, considers institutions as determining framework conditions.

It was during the process of choosing articles for the aforementioned volume that we thought to ask leading scholars in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship research to share their current thoughts on this topic with us. The result is a marvelous collection of contributions that cover many fields within innovation and entrepreneurship research.

This volume starts with analyses of the social desirability of innovation and entrepreneurship, with contributions by William Baumol, Israel Kirzner, Marcus Dejardin and Mirjam van Praag. Contributions by Philippe Aghion, Dietmar Harhoff, Susanne Prantl, William Kerr, Ramana Nanda, AnnaLee Saxenian, Charles Sabel, Kathy Fogel, Kevin Lee and William McCumber then investigate institutions as determining framework conditions for innovation and entrepreneurship. The impact of new knowledge and knowledge spillovers on growth is analyzed in contributions by Gilles Duranton, Maryann Feldman, Gil Avnimelech, Pontus Braunerhjelm, Bo Carlsson, Zoltan Acs, David Audretsch and Max Keilbach. These contributions also reveal the geography of innovation and entrepreneurship. Closely related to the aforementioned topic is the role of technology transfer for innovation and entrepreneurship, which is studied in contributions by Richard Jensen, Albert Link, Charles Wessner, Donald Siegel, Daniel Spulber and Werner Bönte. Contributions by Simon Parker, Michael Fritsch, Uwe Cantner, Marco Guerzoni, Gabriele Pellegrino, Mariacristina Piva, Marco Vivarelli, Erik Stam, Bart Nooteboom, Alfred Kleinknecht, Gerben van der Panne, Andreas Eisingerich and Tobias Kretschmer look inside the firm and analyze in detail the firm’s innovation process. Finally, Nicos Nicolaou, Scott Shane, Oliver Falck, Robert Gold and Stephan Heblich study the making of the entrepreneur.

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