

Preface

Entrepreneurship is becoming a well-established field of research. Entrepreneurship research now appears in the best journals in management, and some entrepreneurship scholars have a worldwide reputation in social and human sciences. However, the field still needs to improve its scientific legitimacy and most researchers need to improve their ability and skills in top-level research and writing. In particular, in a ‘publish or perish’ era, entrepreneurship researchers need to get published in the best entrepreneurship journals and also in the best journals in management, finance, economics, and so on. These thoughts led one of the editors of this book (Alain Fayolle) to design and set up for French-speaking researchers a four-day academic seminar entitled ‘Meet the Editors’ (of entrepreneurship journals).

The objective of this workshop organized in Paris with the help of the French Foundation for Management Education (FNEGE) was to support young entrepreneurship faculty members mainly from France in their effort to publish their research in the most prestigious outlets within the entrepreneurship discipline. Over a period of four days (23–26 January 2012), the editors of leading entrepreneurship journals¹ worked together with the 21 participants in an interactive way to provide hands-on advice on the research publication process. Topics of discussion included: how to submit a paper to a top journal, manage the review process and respond to reviewers; how to build up a successful research team; how to position a manuscript and clearly define its contribution to theory; how to get publication from a doctoral monograph; how to do a critical review of the literature and write a state of the art review; and how to get publication in leading American journals.

Mike Wright (the other editor of this volume), a speaker at the workshop, had for some time been involved in a number of meet the editor and paper development workshops, as well as writing articles on getting published, in his role as a journal editor and at the time Chair of the Academy of Management Entrepreneurship Division. He had observed the marked raising of the threshold needed to publish in leading journals and the demands this placed on entrepreneurship scholars to ‘tool up’ if they were successfully to meet this challenge.

At breakfast on the first day of the Paris workshop, there was a discussion between the two of us from which emerged the idea of the book. We believe together that the field of entrepreneurship is on the road to institutionalization. In such context young researchers need to be supported in their quest for socialization into the community of entrepreneurship scholars. Membership of the entrepreneurship division of the Academy of Management is a means towards this end. More specifically, keeping in mind the need to get published to fully belong to a community, we think that this book will add some value to the existing set of means.

We believe that this book will bring useful answers and insights to young entrepreneurship researchers' issues when taking the decision to commit to long and complex research processes in an emergent field. We advise them to keep in mind that research is not only a matter of the competences and talent they believe they have, but is above all a collective process. Getting published in entrepreneurship journals can thus be seen through the lenses of learning from the experiences and knowledge of experienced and successful scholars. We warmly thank all of our colleagues, editors and associate editors of entrepreneurship journals, who have accepted to contribute to this book in order to offer their expertise and share their experience.

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NOTE

1. *Journal of Business Venturing, Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Small Business Economics, Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal, Journal of Small Business Management, Entrepreneurship & Regional Development, International Small Business Journal and International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation.*