Preface

Is European research in the area of entrepreneurship lagging behind the US? After all, bibliometric studies, citations and leading awards in this field of research seem to be dominated by scholars from the US. According to the editors of *Entrepreneurship and the Creation of Small Firms: Empirical Studies of New Ventures* this view is not only too simplistic but also inadequate. Rather, the explanation can be attributed differences in research traditions, both when it comes to publications, the way work is organized and language used. Using Sweden as their case, this book provides insights to these differences and stress that a number of important research contributions in this field do in fact emanate from outside the US. In particular, Swedish research was more oriented towards rigorous empirical, long-term and policy-oriented research. That confronts with research conducted in the US, focusing on shorter articles published in leading international scientific journals. Still, Swedish and European research has also rapidly adapted the US norm. At centre stage in this book are seven contributions by 11 Swedish researchers, spanning advanced methodologies that range from econometric analyses of extensive data sets to case studies and more qualitative approaches. The variety in research issues addressed is similarly impressive, including performance of new ventures, human capital and explanation to internationalization, to mention a few. Hence, this book provides solid evidence that a highly competitive and policy-relevant research tradition also exist in Europe.

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