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## Foreword and acknowledgements

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This book has emerged from a long engagement with some of the intriguing and challenging research problems that belong to the many ways entrepreneurship and organisation are related. Many of these problems are discussed and explored within the pages of this *Handbook*, others are identified for the purpose of calling for future novel research. Still others, this is our hope, are there yet to be discovered by readers that can hopefully continue what writers contributing to this volume have initiated.

Why this *Handbook*, now? Businesses and organisations struggle with the on-going transition from an industrial into a postindustrial economy and society. This, in turn, happens in an accelerated process of globalisation, boosted in many ways by information technology. This requires that new organisation is created, opening the way for new ideas and solutions. ‘Making the new happen’, responding to, as well as driving, the transition, is a process in which entrepreneurship and organisation are intimately related. Indeed, some of us would argue that at the core of entrepreneurship, there has always been this organisation-creative element that differentiates it from other forms of creativity and from merely efficient handling of existing resources and without which there are neither organisations nor entrepreneurship.

This *Handbook* explores a number of approaches and perspectives through which the question of the relationship between entrepreneurship and organisation is multiplied. It also invites you into fields of research, practices and politics concerning the relationship between entrepreneurship and organisation. The point being that presently there needs to be much more focus on and much more knowledge concerning organisational entrepreneurship in order for us to understand how the world (not only business) is becoming new. Businesses achieve being *in* organisational forms that differ from what the industrial era made us expect as normal. Businesses achieve being *through* organisational forms that constantly change and that more often take forms we do not recognise as related to ‘organising a start-up’. This *Handbook* is timely also in this sense; focusing on an entrepreneurship–organisation axis we believe will be crucial for how business/societies are presently changing and how such changes will affect our future societies/businesses.

The *Handbook* is not restricted to the context of business organisations for it is via various hybrid forms of organisation (and governance),

including private and public organisations, that society/business further themselves into the future. We need to learn from multiple organisational contexts in order to understand what organisational entrepreneurship is and can be about. Organisational entrepreneurship, so this *Handbook* shows, is part of corporate contexts, strategic processes, firm-formation processes, societal change, public organisations, collective creativity, creative industries, art, cities and leadership.

The book opens up, i.e., increases the connective capacity of, a number of problems and discussions, by itself contextualising those processes/practices mentioned above. This is done by applying a range of different theoretical perspectives while addressing the question of how entrepreneurship and organisation are related. We realise we will not have covered the full breadth of this topic, but hope to have moved ahead and thus potentialised the field in a way that will fuel future research debates and discussions.

Several persons' great efforts (including organisational skills) need to be recognised as absolutely indispensable for the becoming of this volume. Hallur Sigurdarson was a key force in the first wave of preparing the manuscripts. Lena Olaison, who joined the project towards its end, has done a tremendous job in finalising the manuscript and preparing it for publication. I owe both of them many thanks for their efforts. Finally, may I also extend my gratitude to the contributing authors who have generously devoted time and energy to this project, making the organisation of this creation into an entrepreneurially delightful endeavour.