

Workshop on
Refugee Entrepreneurship
Call for Participation
University of Bremen, LEMEX Chair
May 23rd, 2022 from 9 a.m. (CET) on
Hybrid format

Within the growing number of migrants, we can find an increasing number of refugees over the last couple of years. Reasons for this are wars, civil wars, and catastrophes of different kinds that make people leave their home country often completely unprepared. While many refugee waves are still unresolved social challenges, new refugee waves – like the most recent flight of millions of Ukrainians – expose the significance of this social challenges of the global kind. The legal status of many refugees is often uncertain and whether an integration into host country societies is possible, too. Self-employment, be it formally or informally, is an important option for many refugees to ensure livelihood in often precarious situations. This opens the door to refugee entrepreneurship as a still up-and-coming topic.

Refugee entrepreneurship emerged as a distinctive research field in entrepreneurship studies with a particular profile in terms of context, content, and process. The context of refugee entrepreneurship differs, among other factors, in terms of limited choice of host countries, lacking preparation, uncertain residence permits, or lacking host country socialization. In terms of content, we find predominantly necessity-driven ventures, often informal statuses of the venture, easy-to-implement (small and micro) businesses, and a stronger influence of bricolage when developing the business. The venturing process is characterized by coping with the sometimes traumatic events, the often fast way of starting and running the business, and a more disruptive run of events. While this sketchy profile does not claim to be comprehensive, it signals already a need to dive deeper into the reality of refugee entrepreneurs with potential emphasis on topics like that:

- What is the specific refugee footprint in entrepreneurship about?
- What are the main obstacles to venture development in refugee entrepreneurship?
- What are the factors that allow refugee entrepreneurs to launch their business and to provide strength?
- What are support services refugee entrepreneurs need to go for venturing and to implement it?
- How much does context matter in refugee entrepreneurship and what are important context factors?
- What is the role of family in refugee entrepreneurship?
- How much do networks and social capital play a role?

These and similar questions may stand at the forefront of the workshop. In methodical regards, we are open for any methodical approach to the core topic.

We invite interested scholar to participate in this workshop on refugee entrepreneurship by virtual or physical attendance. We offer slots for the presentation of papers and invite proposal for a discussion forum. The presentations should animate vital debates and intensive feedback.

How to attend:

- Please let us know your intention to participate by April 14th, 2022.
- If you want to hold a presentation, please send us a one-page abstract till May 2nd, 2022.
- If you want to suggest a topic for a discussion forum, please send us a half-pager till May 2nd, 2022.

The workshop aims at vital discussions and ideas to develop presented papers and topics. We do not offer publication opportunities. All abstracts and proposals should be sent to the following e-mail: freiling@uni-bremen.de. The participation is free.

We look forward to your participation.

The hosting team from University of Bremen: Jörg Freiling, Thomas Baron & Aki Harima