

**Announcement and call for papers:
Entrepreneurship for societal challenges**

Ancona, Italy, 21-23 May 2014

The current global crisis has made more severe numerous social problems plaguing our society. These challenges include, for example, inequalities and demographic changes, securing food, supplying water and energy, fighting climate changes and poverty, improving the quality of life and employment, providing public services in a more efficient way (i.e. reducing costs without deteriorating effectiveness). These problems are not exclusively relevant for emerging countries. For instance, advanced economies have also become more and more concerned about the environmental impact of production and consumption activities. Up to now, direct policy interventions to solve societal challenges turned out to be insufficient and ineffective. A particularly relevant question is: can entrepreneurship provide solutions for societal challenges?

The Early Career Research Conference “Entrepreneurship for societal challenges” will embrace different forms of entrepreneurship aimed at solving societal challenges (e.g. social entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship aimed at facing environmental issues, entrepreneurship in public administrations or institution) with the objective of providing the locus of debate for scholars and policy makers. The goal is to improve our understanding of the processes behind these forms of entrepreneurship and to inform policy makers on how to support it.

Among the topics worthy of exploration are, by way of example:

- non-profit entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship to solve social problems
- entrepreneurship as source of social innovation
- green entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship tackling environmental issues
- business opportunities driven by societal challenges
- technological and academic entrepreneurship: R&D and technologies to solve societal challenges
- political decisions that foster or hamper entrepreneurial behavior and social entrepreneurship
- multi-level policies to promote entrepreneurship to solve social problems
- institutions and ONGs in support to entrepreneurship
- entrepreneurial behavior in non-profit organizations
- entrepreneurship in public administrations, public services and utilities
- new sources of funding for early entrepreneurial ideas (crowd funding, etc.)
- business angels finance and new type of investors for social entrepreneurship

Audience: The workshop is aimed at a selected group of scholars (25-35 participants). Participation from scholars at the Assistant Professor level, at the post-doc or at early stages of their career is particularly encouraged. PhD candidates at the final stage of their dissertation are also encouraged to attend. Selection will be based upon presentation of a full paper or an extended abstract, as well as a CV (for PhD candidates). A selected group of delegates from companies, policy agencies (e.g. EU Commission, government and government agencies, ...), delegates from ONGs and non-profit organizations will also be invited to participate in order to favor networking and exchange of ideas.

Keynote speakers:

Dr. Sharon Alvarez - Koch Chair of Entrepreneurship, Management Department, Daniels College of Business



Dr. Sharon Alvarez is Koch Chair of Entrepreneurship at the Daniels College of Business. She has published research on opportunity formation and its epistemological origins, entrepreneurial theory of the firm, technology alliances between entrepreneurship firms and larger established firm. Alvarez won the Journal of Management Best Paper Award for her article, “How do entrepreneurs organize firms under conditions of uncertainty?” and the Fisher College of Business Undergraduate Program Teaching Award. She also has been awarded several Ewing Marion Kaufman Foundation grants and the Coca-Cola Foundation Research Grant. Alvarez is associate editor of the Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal and chair-elect for the Academy of Management entrepreneurship division.

Jay Bryan Barney - Presidential Professor, Management Department, University of Utah



Jay Barney is a Presidential Professor of Strategic Management and Pierre Lassonde Chair of Social Entrepreneurship at the University of Utah. Barney is among the most-cited strategic management scholars in the world. His lifelong research has focused on the relationship between firm skills and capabilities and sustained competitive advantage. His work has been cited more than 50,000 times. He has published more than 100 articles in a variety of journals—including *Management Science*, *Sloan Management Review*, and the *Harvard Business Review*—has published six books, and delivered scholarly papers at more than 70 universities around the globe, including the London Business School, Harvard Business School and the Wharton School of Business. He has been on the editorial boards at the Academy of Management Review and the Strategic Management Journal; he has been Associate Editor at the Journal of Management and senior editor at Organization Science and currently serves as editor of the *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*.

Sponsors: Eu-SPRI Forum <http://www.euspri-forum.eu>, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Politecnico di Milano

Organizing Committee: Andrea Bonaccorsi, Massimo G. Colombo, Diego D’Adda, Donato Iacobucci, Cristina Rossi Lamastra

Important deadlines:

February 15, 2014	Deadline for submitting full papers or extended abstract (3000 words)
March 15, 2014	Notification of acceptance
April 2, 2014	Confirmation (payment of conference fee)
April 21, 2014	Deadline for final papers submission
May 21-23, 2014	Conference

Submissions: Extended abstracts should be no more than 3000 words in length and specify the objective of the paper, its approach and results. Full-length papers, should be no more than 30 pages long, including figure and tables. Further details regarding the submission of full papers will be provided to successful authors on acceptance. All documents are to be submitted in DOC/DOCX or PDF format by email to euspri.ecc.ancona2014@dii.univpm.it

Selected paper will have the chance to be considered for publication in a special issue in a refereed journal (to be defined) on the theme of the conference.

Conference venue: Ancona, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Faculty of Economics (Caserma Villarey), reachable by foot from downtown Ancona.

Conference fees: Delegates invited to present a paper will be subject to the following registration fees (including reception, brown-bag lunches and conference dinner):

- EuSPRI members (1 delegate per paper) (fee waived)
- Non-EuSPRI members 200€
- Accompanying person to conference dinner 50€

Accommodation at special discount rates: EuSPRI PhD and early career (i.e. PhD completed less than 3 years ago) members can require accommodation in hotels near the conference venue (in double rooms), in which case costs are fully covered by EuSPRI (for a maximum of 30 participants). All other participants are advised to book their accommodations in downtown Ancona. Conference organizers will provide a list of hotels offering special rates.