

# Conference on Migrant Entrepreneurship Research: The state of the art & future perspectives

5-6 June 2023, at the Sorbonne

Call for contributions

<https://migrent.sciencesconf.org/>

Deadline for submission of abstracts: April 15, 2023

## Why an international conference on migrant entrepreneurship?

- to respond to public interest, to discuss the current state of knowledge, and to identify pressing issues the field faces; and
- to enable dialog between PhDs, early-career scholars and senior research fellows in order to focus debate, stimulate cooperation in research, and strengthen the research community.

## Conference Format

The Paris conference will include oral presentations by both senior research fellows in this field and graduate students and early-career scholars. Senior research fellows will provide keynotes that survey the field they address, and will be involved in interactive paper sessions. First keynotes are:

- Ivan Light (UCLA): Migrant entrepreneurship: History of Theory
- Leo-Paul Dana (Dalhousie U.): Return to the Azores

## Context

**Migrant entrepreneurship is pervasive and important in both low-tech and high-tech sectors. Immigrant entrepreneurs have established many successful start-ups in technical fields.** An example is BioNTech, a German startup founded by two Turkish scientists during the Covid pandemic. In the US, immigrants founded or co-founded 40 percent of high-tech start-ups. Immigrants are equally important and more visible to the general public in low tech fields, especially in service and retail sectors. Eleven percent of the population, immigrants in the United States create one-quarter of all new firms, and, in some states, 40 percent (Kerr & Kerr, 2020), whereas OECD (2021) reports, “The share of immigrants among the self-employed in the EU nearly doubled over the past decade, increasing from 6% in 2011 to 11% in 2020” (p. 23). At the same time, political crises have created migrations around the world with consequent increase in refugee entrepreneurship (Desai et al., 2021; Harima et al., 2021).

Analysts emphasize the increased interest in migrant entrepreneurship and deplore the fragmented state of knowledge (Dabić et al., 2020, Sundarajan & Sundarajan, 2015, Abebe, 2022, Wiers & Chabaud, 2023). This fragmentation a product of widely varying research

designs undertaken from a multiplicity of disciplinary starting-points (Aliaga-Isla & Rialp, 2013); in highly diverse contexts (Ram et al., 2017); and among migrant groups widely different in situation and characteristics. Among “immigrant entrepreneurs” one finds refugees, expatriates, ethnic minorities, skilled and unskilled, diasporic and transnational, and so forth (Sinkovics & Reuber, 2021). However, it is also useful to undertake integrative or global analyses of migrant entrepreneurship, in order to “identify significant gaps in extant studies” (Dabić et al., 2020) and “to build theory, identify assumptions, develop meaningful research questions and establish the ontological and epistemological base of this domain” (Dheer, 2018).

## Graduate Students and Early-Career Scholars

**Senior research scholars have agreed to present papers that summarize the current state of knowledge in their specialty areas.** Additionally, this conference solicits papers from graduate students and early career scholars. Their papers should respond to the general purpose of this event by contributing to the stock of knowledge regarding migrant entrepreneurship. Here are some general guidelines for appropriate papers.

- Addressing inter-disciplinary perspectives: Management, Social Sciences, Economics,
- The best uses of different methods,
- **Empirical research results of theoretical importance,**
- Theoretical synthesis

Below are some more specific areas:

- Distinction and overlaps among basic concepts such as: (Im)migrants, diaspora, expatriate, ethnic minority, refugees, transnational entrepreneurship, mixed embeddedness, ethnic economy.
- Methodological issues: Measuring the impact and operationalize the realities of (im)migrant entrepreneurship
- The diversity of migrant entrepreneurship:
  - o By status: refugees, expatriates, transnational, international...
  - o By gender and age
  - o Opportunity and necessity entrepreneurship
- Processes of migrant entrepreneurship: Necessity and opportunity dynamics
- Migrant entrepreneurship: evolution, stability and changes across time. Historical perspectives.
- Institutional perspectives, and cross-country comparisons: Home/Host-countries perspectives, developed and emergent countries, diversity of national approaches
- Migrations, networks, diasporas and embeddedness
- Migrations, entrepreneurial ecosystems and institutions: how to stimulate, attract and retain migrant entrepreneurship? Support policies, attractiveness and political issues.
- Cultural and family perspectives
- Migrant women’s entrepreneurship

The conference will provide opportunities to discuss these papers in interactive paper development sessions.

## **Submission instructions**

Persons wishing to participate are welcome to submit one of the following:

- Abstract (Max 1,500 words: introduction/objectives, literature review, approach/methodology, results, discussion, implications and limits)
- Teaching cases/teaching protocols are also encouraged given the educational issues

**Submission: April 15, 2023**

**Decision: May 1, 2023**

### **Fees:**

- Physical attendance: 250 € for senior and international scholars, 200 € for PhD students (please join a document to certify your status). This fee includes lunches and coffee breaks during the Conference, Conference materials, a complimentary bag at registration, and a dinner.
- Online attendance: 150 € for senior and international scholars, 100 € for PhD students. This fee includes access to all parallel sessions during the Conference and Conference materials.

### **Organization committee**

D. Chabaud (IAE Paris Sorbonne BS), Léo-Paul Dana (Dalhousie U.), Ivan Light (UCLA), Florent Pratlong (Paris I), Jean-François Sattin (Paris I), Jan Wiers (IAE Paris Sorbonne BS).

### **Scientific committee**

1. Marina Dabic (Zagreb U.)
2. Leo-Paul Dana (Dalhousie University)
3. Maria Elo (U. of Southern Denmark)
4. Steven Gold (Michigan State U.)
5. Calin Gurau (Montpellier, BS)
6. Yi Dragon Jiang (ESCP),
7. Séverine Le Loarne-Lemaire (Grenoble EM),
8. Ivan Light (UCLA)
9. Adnane Maalaoui (IPAG).
10. Orly Meron (Bar-Ilan U.)
11. Antoine Pecoud (U. Sorbonne Paris Nord)
12. Florent Pratlong (Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne)
13. Monder Ram (Aston U.)
14. Jan Rath (U. of Amsterdam)
15. Jean-François Sattin (Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne)
16. Min Zhou (UCLA)