

# **CONCEPTUALIZATION OF MIGRANTS IN INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP – A THEORETICAL REVIEW AND MAPPING**

Maria Elo

University of Southern Denmark, Department of Marketing and Management

and

Shanghai University, School of Economics

Belt and Road Institute of International Business,

and

University of Turku, Turku School of Economics

Per Servais

Linnaeus University, School of Business and Economics

Susanne Sandberg

Linnaeus University, School of Business and Economics

# CONCEPTUALIZATION OF MIGRANTS IN INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP – A THEORETICAL REVIEW AND MAPPING

## ABSTRACT

Migration changes the politico-economic context influencing internationalization and new venture creation by introducing different types of entrepreneurs into business. Advanced opportunity recognition and risk-taking, cross-culture competences and international experience are characteristics found particularly among migrants due to their life course and background. Migrant origin entrepreneurs are mainly excluded from international entrepreneurship (IE) theoretically, and conceptualized into other categories, e.g. immigrant entrepreneurs, ethnic entrepreneurs, transnational entrepreneurs, and diaspora entrepreneurs. Shedding light on these 'IE-related' terms, we review extant entrepreneurship literature on these distinct sub-streams of IE-research. We examine the concepts and produce a mapping highlighting the international entrepreneurship dimensions. The paper contributes to theorizing on different forms of entrepreneurship with international elements. We argue that inclusion of migrant-origin entrepreneurs into the broader IE debate fosters non-discrimination, socio-economic inclusion, policy-making, and development aspects.

**Keywords:** Migration, international entrepreneurship, immigrant- ethnic entrepreneurship, refugee entrepreneurship, diaspora entrepreneurship, transnational entrepreneurship, cosmopolitan entrepreneurship