IT and Entrepreneurship Minitrack

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This minitrack provides the first forum for exchanging new findings and to advance empirical and theoretical knowledge on a range of issues involved in the application of modern IT to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship in the IT field. These two critical areas, both academically and in industry, have previously been looked at through one lens or the other, but have not been examined together.

This minitrack seeks to break new ground by bringing to light an interesting variety of issues through six outstanding papers presented across two sessions.

The first session has a technological flavor: how technology has broadened the scope of entrepreneurial activities.

The first paper of the first session is, "Opportunity Discovery and Creation in Cloud Computing" by Arto Ojala and Vesa Puhakka. This paper examines how entrepreneurs discover or create opportunities for cloud computing. The authors conclude that created opportunities have a long-term competitive advantage.

The second paper is "Entrepreneurial Agency in Information Technology Creation" by Tony Thistoll, Val Hooper, and Pak Yoong. When entrepreneurs start out, they typically do not have all the technology that they need to develop their IT innovation. This qualitative study examines how entrepreneurs use a collective effort to gather the needed technology.

The third paper is "Virtual World Entrepreneurship" by Andrew Hardin, Jennifer Nicholson, Anjala Krishen, and Darren Nicholson. While there has been much research on entrepreneurship in the real world, there has been little work on entrepreneurship within virtual worlds. This paper examines entrepreneurial relationships in virtual worlds.

The second session shifts from a technological to a more social entrepreneurship and information technology focus.

The first paper is "Blended Startups: Combining IT with Social, Mobile, Instant Communities" by Bennett Cherry. This case study examines how a mobile photo-sharing startup company broke into an existing domain. This paper is also an exceptional teaching case.

The second paper is "Social Entrepreneurship and Academic Research: Seeking Sustained IT in Non-Profits" by Kay Nelson and Amy Igou. Non-profit organizations tend to be under-studied, and social entrepreneurship research in nonprofits is very rare. This paper examines the enablers and barriers to information sustainability through social entrepreneurship.

The third paper is "Antecedents of Community Source Network Formation: The Case of Kuali" by Manlu Liu, Clyde Eiríkur Hull, and Yu-Ting Caisy Hung. This paper is a case study of a social entrepreneurship that examines open source development through the formation of a network of multiple institutional partners.

For a first-time minitrack, we are exceptionally pleased to offer these six outstanding papers. We hope that you believe, as we do, that advances in entrepreneurship can both drive and be driven by advances in information technology. We look forward to seeing you.