

Participatory Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship - a form of organising

We challenge the dominant entrepreneurship discourse by shifting away from the traditional individualism towards social relatedness.

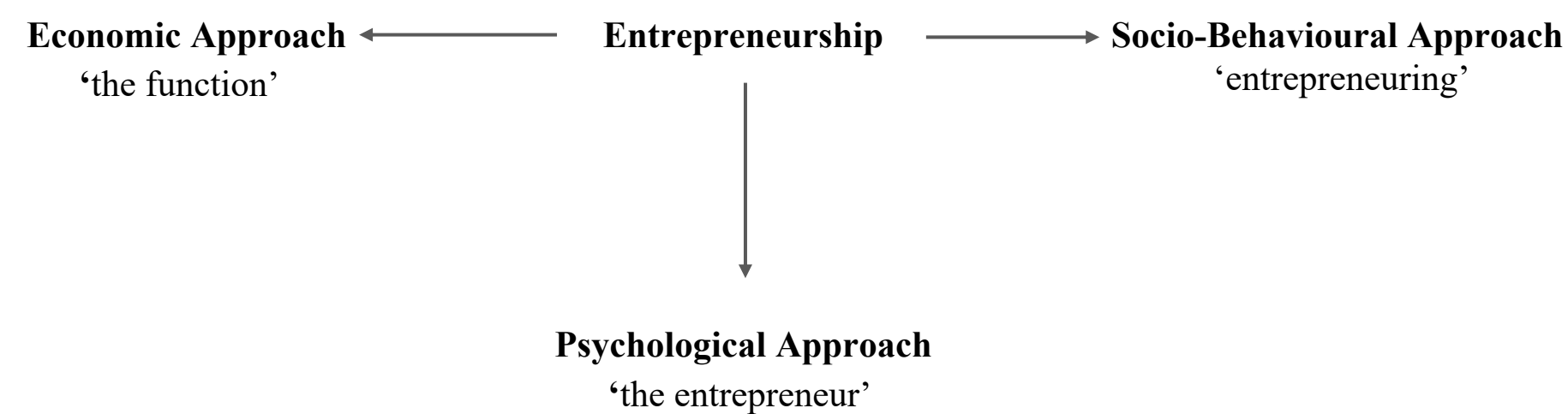


Figure: Dominant approaches in entrepreneurship research and their main focus (adapted from Keskin (2015) and Deakins and Freel (2003))

Entrepreneurship - a form of organising - emerges in the complex responsive processes of relating, says Stacey (2000). We abandon the idea that entrepreneurial endeavours emerge solely from the autonomous individual's agenda, and accept that entrepreneurial practice emerges in the interplay of many interdependent individuals intentions.

Research questions

- How are people doing entrepreneurship. What exactly happens and what does it entail?
- Is the entrepreneurship of opportunity and desire void of commercial interests before it is coded into those interests?
- What "other" values are in play? Why is it necessary to identify and describe the going-on?

Emerging in complex processes of relating

Participatory Entrepreneurship is an alternative, action-oriented approach to entrepreneurship that recognises its relational complexity.

Grounded in empiricism, we suggest that "one can reveal a going-on that is heavily influenced by the complex responsive processes of relating" (Stacey, 2001 in Heape et al., 2022). Entrepreneurship is a process of doing, a form of organising, in which the identities of interdependent individuals are co-created through mutual recognition and continuously transform in processes of ongoing human interactions. (Fellegi, 2022).



"Participatory Entrepreneurship is an iterative, social and complex relational practice of entrepreneurship"

(Heape et al., 2022)

Collaborative, process, and project oriented

We have developed a 10 ECTS master course in Participatory Entrepreneurship that offers students the opportunity to develop an entrepreneurial attitude of mind to engage in an entrepreneurship project with others. Students learn that entrepreneurship does not happen with individuals generating ideas alone - no matter how good those ideas might be. Entrepreneurship entails the dynamics of involvement and engagement of (many) stakeholders and other relevant people when working with and through an entrepreneurship endeavour.

The course draws upon complex processes of relating, collaborative design, design anthropology, pragmatism and organisational practice in particular. It clarifies the contrast to traditional entrepreneurship theories.

Central approaches



Multi-stakeholder opportunities: The courses' central aim is about creating opportunities that are collaboratively explored and matured with multi-stakeholders, in which the negotiation of value emerging in the project will be critical, rather than about solving problems.



Participatory Inquiry: a collaborative, project oriented task and practice based process of inquiry, driven by action research that engages both faculty and students in a co-generative and co-learning research and development endeavour.

What practices do we teach?

<p>Allow yourself to be influenced by others</p>	<p>Recognize the temporality and dynamics of emergence between field actors</p>	<p>Engage with stakeholders before you know what is at stake</p>	<p>Think in on-going processes, not states: 'entrepreneurship'</p>	<p>Toy with ideas - engage and allow the idea to emerge</p>	<p>Engender an iterative process of becoming</p>
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Publications:

Heape, C., Larsen, H., Fellegi, F., & Buur, J. (2022). Towards participatory entrepreneurship. *ECSB – 21st Nordic Conference on Small Business Research*, Kolding (to be published)

Fellegi, F. (2022). Master's Thesis: *The paradox between the individual and the social: Entrepreneurship towards a social ontology of relatedness*.

References:

Steyaert, C. (2007). Entrepreneurship' as a conceptual attractor? A review of process theories in 20 years of entrepreneurship studies. *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, 19(6), 453–477.

Stacey, R. D. (2000). *Strategic management and organisational dynamics: the challenge of complexity* (3rd ed.). Financial Times.