



**Call for Proposals:**

**Crises and Coronavirus: A Special Issue on the Responses of  
Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Organizations to Catastrophic Events**

**Proposal Submission Window: June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to October 1, 2020  
(submissions evaluated immediately as they are submitted)**

**Background and Motive**

in 2020 the deadly novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) started spreading globally, triggering a major crisis. Hundreds of thousands of lives were lost. Many governments enforced social distancing to slow its spread. This solution impaired trade, led to the closure of thousands of businesses, and put millions of people out of work, thereby creating other threats to financial, physical and mental well-being. On top of this, the coronavirus and subsequent policy measures may have long-term impact on how society operates, and the way economic activity is organized and governed.

Since *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* (ETP) is a leading journal devoted to the study of entrepreneurship, defined broadly to include new venture creation, corporate entrepreneurship, family business, small business management, social enterprises, etc. our intention is to help foster research and theory development relevant to the coronavirus crisis and catastrophic events more broadly. This will help to ensure that we learn important lessons from the crisis so that the responses of governments, organizations, and entrepreneurs will be more innovative and effective when future crises occur.

ETP will take on this challenge by providing a special issue for articles related to the responses of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial organizations during crises. Given the purpose and scope of the journal, this special issue will be open to different scholarly approaches to understanding the crisis. For example, we welcome research on how *entrepreneurs* and *entrepreneurial organizations* (public and private, large and small, for-profit and not-for-profit) enact new opportunities, create new forms of entrepreneurial activities, save and even grow existing organizations during crises. We also welcome articles that deal with the human aspects of these efforts in terms of the emotional, physical, and financial hardships that entrepreneurs and their stakeholders endure during the crisis and how those human aspects may affect efforts to craft entrepreneurial responses.

Because this is not the first crisis the world has ever faced, this special issue will also be open to research and theory dealing with *any* crisis that had dire economic and human consequences that required entrepreneurial economic responses from individuals, organizations, or governments. Such crises might include other health crises, wars, refugee crises, political revolutions, major acts of terrorism, economic depressions and other unexpected events.

Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice  
c/o Whitman School of Management  
Syracuse University

In sum, we are issuing a call for proposals for papers that deal with the responses of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial organizations to catastrophic events. We believe ETP is the ideal outlet for providing such a service owing to its reputation for quality scholars and openness to new ideas.

### **Types of Proposals Sought**

Given the nature of the topic area, we are open to a wide range of studies that deal with the responses of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial organizations to catastrophic events, particularly the Covid-19 pandemic.

In terms of the level of analysis, we welcome manuscripts that focus on individuals, groups, firm, business groups, research institutes, government agencies, or other institutions. The only requirement is that the activities studied have an explicit link with entrepreneurship in crisis situations.

In terms of the type of study, we welcome theoretical, qualitative, and quantitative studies at any level of analysis. We particularly encourage comparative studies that can illuminate temporal, spatial, cultural, institutional and other contingencies that might shape entrepreneurial responses to catastrophic events.

As always, ETP prefers studies with a strong theoretical foundation. However, since we hope that the contents of this special issue will provide useful insights to entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial organizations in crisis situations, we give equal weight to the practical implications of the research. Our hope is that this will encourage authors to adhere to the maxim that there is nothing more practical than a good theory (or that every good theory is based on extrapolations of practical behavior).

We have been compiling previous articles on crises to inform our readers and provide authors with ideas on proposals. See:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14y-2t6CAqQ9Ly3ge9Rgpxlogibv0MYFCWUetuT4eFYU/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Submission and Review Process**

The submission and review process will be as follows. Authors are encouraged to submit a proposal (max 10 double-spaced pages counting text, abstract, tables, and figures but excluding references and title page). These proposals will be screened by the special issue editors. Authors of the most promising submissions will be invited to prepare and submit full papers that will undergo a standard double-blind peer-review process.

#### ***The following criteria will be important in the evaluation of submitted proposals:***

***Theoretical relevance to entrepreneurship:*** The proposal deals with a topic that is likely to provide profound conceptual insights concerning the responses of entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial organizations to crises/catastrophic events.

***Quality of Theorizing:*** The theory used in the proposal is innovative and of high quality.

***Contribution to Practice:*** The proposal describes a study that is likely to provide entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial organizations with significant insights on how to deal with crises of a particular type or types.

**Methodological Rigor:** The design and execution of the study are such as to give the reader a high level of confidence that the results are valid and generalizable. We much welcome papers relying on open science approaches such as pre-registration reports, open data, etc.

**Writing and Organization:** The proposal tells a compelling and coherent story that is easy to grasp and free of errors.

**Likelihood of completion:** The proposal *explicates a timeline of study completion* (if the study is not yet completed) which the submission team judges as *tangible* and *realistic*, including contingencies.

The window for submission of proposals opens on June 1, 2020 and closes on October 1, 2020. The guest editors for this special issue are Bat Batjargal, Sarah Jack, Dean Shepherd, Wouter Stam, Erik Stam, and Karl Wennberg (lead guest editor).

**Dean Shepherd** is the Ray and Milann Siegfried Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Mendoza College of Business, Notre Dame University. Dean received his PhD from Bond University. His research and teaching is in the field of entrepreneurship; he investigates the decision making involved in leveraging cognitive and other resources to act on opportunities; the processes of learning from experimentation (including failure), and dealing with adversity (e.g., disasters) in ways that reflect resilience and promote both compassion and well-being. Dean has published papers primarily in the top entrepreneurship, general management, strategic management, operations management, and psychology journals.

**Sarah Jack** is the Jacob and Marcus Wallenberg Professor of Innovative and Sustainable Business Development at the House of Innovation, Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden. She is also Professor of Entrepreneurship with Lancaster University Management School. She received her PhD from University of Aberdeen. Sarah's primary interests relate to social dimensions of entrepreneurship, primarily related to social capital and social network theory using qualitative research methods. Sarah has published papers in top entrepreneurship, management, and innovation journals and serves as the Entrepreneurship Division Program Chair for the Academy of Management.

**Wouter Stam** is Professor of Entrepreneurship and Academic Director of the Amsterdam Business Research Institute at the School of Business and Economics of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He received his PhD from VU Amsterdam. Wouter's research interests include strategic entrepreneurship, networks and social capital, and the emergence of new organizational forms and fields. He has published on these and other topics in leading entrepreneurship, general management, and strategic management journals.

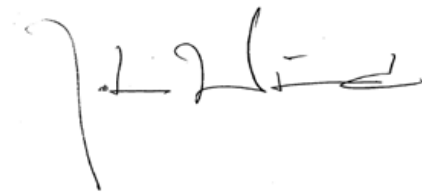
**Bat Batjargal** is the Fran D. Jabara Chair in Business and Associate Professor in the School of Entrepreneurship at Spears School of Business, Oklahoma State University. He received his PhD from the University of Oxford. Bat's research examines the effects of social networks and institutions on new venture birth and growth in the comparative contexts of both emerging and developed economies. Bat has published on these and other topics in leading entrepreneurship, general management, and international business journals.

**Erik Stam** is Professor of Strategy, Organization & Entrepreneurship and Dean of the Utrecht University School of Economics, and founding board member of the Utrecht University Strategic Research Theme Institutions for Open Societies. He received his PhD from Utrecht University. Erik's research concerns the societal and organizational contexts of entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ecosystems, and the relation between entrepreneurship and economic development. He has published on these and other topics in economics, geography, entrepreneurship, general management and public administration.

**Karl Wennberg** is Professor of Organization and Entrepreneurship at Linköping University where he teaches courses in business administration, research methods, and computational social science. He received his PhD from the Stockholm School of Economics. Karl's research examines the processes of entrepreneurial entry, exit and growth, the geography of entrepreneurship, and diversity in startups. He has published on these and other topics in leading entrepreneurship, management, innovation, and economics journals.

If you have any questions regarding this exciting special issue on Responses of Entrepreneurs and Entrepreneurial Organizations to Catastrophic Events, please contact Karl Wennberg via email ([karl.wennberg@liu.se](mailto:karl.wennberg@liu.se)).

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johan Wiklund".

Johan Wiklund, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice  
The Al Berg Chair and Entrepreneurship Professor  
Whitman School of Management  
Syracuse University

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Wennberg".

Karl Wennberg, Ph.D.  
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