





# **CONTACT**

#### Entrepreneurship

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# **BUILDING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY**

The Entrepreneurship Unit is closely involved in implementing the Entrepreneurship strategy of the University of Turku. The strategy aims to firmly establish an entrepreneurial mindset, behaviour and culture across the entire University and its many activities. To put it simply: the objective is to remake the University of Turku as an entrepreneurial university.

Implementation of the Entrepreneurship strategy began in 2016 when it was adopted as a core part of the wider 2016-2020 strategy of the University of Turku. Including entrepreneurship in the university strategy demonstrates that the University of Turku understands the nature of changing working life and emphasises its commitment to educate entrepreneurial students for the labour market and for society.

Luckily, we did not need to start this transformation from scratch but could build on a solid foundation in terms of knowledge, quality researchers, teachers, programmes and courses as well as strong stakeholder relationships within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. As an entrepreneurial university, the University of Turku builds on the longstanding work of entrepreneurship researchers, teachers and promoters in the Entrepreneurship Unit as well as in other departments at the School of Economics and in faculties across the university.

The Entrepreneurship Unit plays a central role in entrepreneurship research across the University of Turku. It does this by providing a foundational research core that encompasses entrepreneurship themes ranging from innovation and new working modes as well as entrepreneurship in new business creation, to company growth and renewal in various organisational, societal and cultural contexts.

Most importantly the Unit has generated numerous research projects that clearly support the Entrepreneurship strategy and seek to understand the entrepreneurial university. For example, the Academic Entrepreneurship as a social process (ACE on page 6) research project explores what forms of academic entrepreneurship researchers and students perceive and how they identify with these forms and roles. Furthermore, the Smart Work in Platform Economy (SWIPE, page 7) research project investigates how the emerging concepts and challenges of the platform economy are taken into consideration in education systems. Here, among many other issues, we study the Entrepreneurial University as a case in responding to these shifts. Both of the projects are funded by the Academy of Finland and conducted in close collaboration with other universities and research institutions in Finland and abroad. In addition, the Knowledge Governance -strategic research project (page 9) is tightly integrated into the Entrepreneurship strategy by conducting a longitudinal study on the implementation of the strategy in collaboration with other universities and institutes, such as CWTS at Leiden University, Stanford University and North Carolina State University.

The Entrepreneurship Unit is responsible for Entrepreneurship education throughout the university. We not only educate the students of the School of Economics, but also other faculties routinely request us to open our courses for their students and even to organise tailor-made courses for different disciplines. For number of years we have taught entrepreneurship courses for students in nursing sciences, but we are currently in the process of beginning basic courses in entrepreneurship to all students in the faculty of medicine. Also, our highly successful and popular Startup! course is open to all faculties and students. This is the result of an initiative of the university Rector after the Startup! course won the first Intoa! entrepreneurship award in 2016.

The above examples underline the fundamental contribution of the activities of the Entrepreneurship Unit to building the Entrepreneurial University of Turku. We work actively with Entrepreneurship Programme Managers and the pilot faculties (the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Humanities) to put entrepreneurship into practice in a manner tailored to the faculty. The emphasis is on bottom-up activities supported by clear and encouraging guidance at the university strategy level. Across the university, we participate in faculty workshops, meetings and discussions and do our best to open the engrossing field of entrepreneurship to other disciplines. Our collaboration has also created new research opportunities for entrepreneurship researchers, such as at the Nord Aqua Nordic Centre of Excellence in developed collaboration with the Faculty of Natural Sciences.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that these activities do not remain within the university as mere academic or educational exercises. We are active partners for businesses and the corporate world and act as a springboard for student start-ups and spinoffs based on research excellence. We work closely with the student entrepreneurship society BoostTurku and integrate our courses with the Sparkup-entrepreneurship support activities of the Turku region. Here again, collaboration between disciplines and faculties as well as between the university, businesses and government is of crucial importance.

#### Jarna Heinonen

Professor in Entrepreneurship
Director of the Entrepreneurship Unit
Vice-Head of the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship



Employs 14
entrepreneurship
professionals

# nine

competitively funded research projects

14 peer-reviewed journal articles

**92** reviews to journals and conferences

11 presentations

in **SEVEN** international conferences

Several

#### international

visitors

nearly 1,3 million € in funding

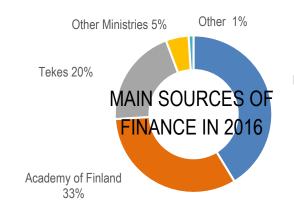
# RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

## Research on entrepreneurship and new working modes

Entrepreneurship is one of the areas of strength at the Turku School of Economics. Research activities at the Entrepreneurship Unit focus on two themes in particular: entrepreneurship and new working modes; and, entrepreneurial behaviour and business growth. These two main fields are connected through theoretical approaches in entrepreneurship and sociology, research methodology, science and technology studies, governance, and empirical studies. Research encompasses the processes of entrepreneurship and innovation as well as entrepreneurial behaviour from the point of view of business creation, growth, internationalisation, and renewal in different contexts in both private and public sector organisations. The Entrepreneurship research group consists of about a dozen researchers with varied scientific backgrounds.

# Multidisciplinary scholarly excellence and international cooperation

We work internationally and emphasise scholarly excellence and policy relevance based on solid scientific knowledge particularly in entrepreneurship. The cornerstones of our entrepreneurship research are well-established multidisciplinary research groups, high-profile international research initiatives and networks such as Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) and the European Council for Small Business (ECSB), a strong track record in competitive research funding as well as close cooperation with policy-makers.



University Budget -Ministry of Education and Culture 41%

JUFO publications 2011–2016									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
JUFO 1	9	1	3	5	9	9			
JUFO 2	6	3	1	5	6	6			
JUFO 3	0	0	0	3	1	8			



# STATE-OF-ART RESEARCH

## **HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR RESEARCH PROJECTS IN 2016**

## Academic Entrepreneurship as a social process (ACE)

The Academy of Finland granted over 750 000 euros to a Consortium consisting of the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Turku to pursue the Academic Entrepreneurship as a social process (ACE) research project. The four-year project studies academic entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education and training in the transformation of universities marked by financial pressure and the growing importance of societal impact.

Using surveys, interviews, observation and documents combined with novel methods of analysis, the project sheds light on change, diversity and durability of entrepreneurial activity in universities. The four work packages compare the strategies, forms and experiences of academic entrepreneurship in different universities while studying the construction and evolution of academic entrepreneur identities on an individual level.

The project will contribute a holistic picture of the forms, opportunities and problems in Finnish academic entrepreneurship. The research results will offer decision-makers, researchers and universities new knowledge on the goals, forms and attractiveness of academic entrepreneurship.

The multidisciplinary project combines research in entrepreneurship and innovation leadership with perspectives from psychology and education. The researchers aim to develop theory that will help understand the construction and change of academic entrepreneurship as a social process.

The project is tightly interwoven with the University of Turku's entrepreneurship strategy and the Entrepreneurial University initiative. First, research aims to identify what kind of forms of academic entrepreneurship researchers and students perceive and how they identify with these forms and roles. In addition, the project probes if every member of the academic community can become an academic entrepreneur regardless of field, gender, age or position. Second, Kirsi Peura, one of the post-doc researchers in the project, is also one of the Entrepreneurship Managers at the University of Turku. She will thus assume a double role as an agent promoting the Entrepreneurial University and as a researcher studying the same process.

The project at the Turku School of Economics is led by Research Director, Adjunct Professor Ulla Hytti. Dr Inna Kozlinska will also join the Entrepreneurship team and the research project later in 2017.



## SWIPE - Focusing on smart work in the era of the platform economy

Digital platforms and data are disrupting corporations, knowledge production and labor markets worldwide. By transforming value creation and the organization of work, platforms also enable new forms of work and business to emerge. More widely, digitalization embraces almost every aspect of work in contemporary societies placing new demands on workers. The SWiPE – Smart Work in Platform Economy - consortium led by Professor Anne Kovalainen at the Entrepreneurship Unit is conducting extensive research on the connections between the platform economy and changes in work from a variety of perspectives.

The consortium takes the major transformative trends shaping the contents and requirements of work and economy, such as e.g. robotisation and digitalization, but also the changing skills requirements of future labour, as its starting points. The multidisciplinary consortium provides conceptual, methodological and empirical analyses of contemporary new forms of work, the uses and possibilities of platforms, as well as information on start-ups, entrepreneurship, and transformation of academic work. The ambitious and multidisciplinary consortium will also explore paths towards employment for migrants.

The Academy of Finland Strategic Research Council granted over 2.7 million euro to the SWiPE research consortium. National partners of the SWiPE consortium are ETLA (the Research Institute of the Finnish Economy) and TTL (Finnish Institute of Occupational Health). The project will employ both domestic and international researchers over the three-year period.

The consortium also collaborates with several national and international stakeholders. Its partners include SITRA, KONE, the Finnish Family Firms Association, the Finnish Federation for Settlement Houses, the Centre for Research in Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship (CREME) as well as the Enterprise and Diversity Research Cluster at the University of Birmingham.

As a project funded be the Academy of Finland Strategic Research Council SWiPE also provides relevant information based on world-class research to support decision-making and policy development at a national level.

What do we research? SWiPE analyses the renewal and transformation of work focusing on the following major themes:

- The new meanings of work, new skills and capabilities;
- Entrepreneurship and its dynamics, renewal and new emerging fields;
- Education, entrepreneurship and future work;
- Migration and entrepreneurship.



Read more: http://www.smartworkresearch.fi/

## **Digital Futures**

Digital Futures builds on the synergetic multidisciplinary strengths of four faculties at the University of Turku in research and practice in digitalization and strengthens the University's cross-disciplinary research excellence in this important field through a Living Lab and Researcher Network. Digital Futures (DF) is one of the strategic cornerstones of the University of Turku. As one of the profiling areas of the University, DF has a particular emphasis on collaboration with other universities, research institutes, enterprises and public authorities.

Within Digital Futures, the Living Lab platform is designed for exploration and experimentation across disciplines while the Network aims to build stronger collaboration at home and abroad. Digital Futures is a space for ambitious and innovative research and collaboration within the campus and beyond. The Digital Futures profile is governed by the Digital Futures board including members from participating faculties and the rectorate. The activities are managed by Digital Futures Coordinator and hosted by Turku School of Economics and its Entrepreneurship Unit in particular. Digital Futures profiling is funded jointly by the University and the Academy of Finland in support of university strategy including funding for key new posts in four faculties for five years.

More information here.

### Entrepreneurial renewal and design thinking in organizational renewal (DESI2)

The DESI2 project has been helping organisations identify and utilize workers' tacit knowledge in developing new work practices and services. This has been done by using a web-based tool called Idea Window. The project studied the benefits and limitations of the tool in addition to the preconditions for intrapreneurial behaviour.

The study was carried out in health care organisations and schools in the Tampere and Central Finland area. The Idea Window was used at Tampere University Hospital's pregnancy, childbirth and neonatal ward and in the emergency department, in an emerging elderly care organisation in Saarijärvi, in Central Finland's SOTE2020 project, and in the primary and secondary schools of Äänekoski. The role and the centrality of the tool has varied across the development processes enabling the collection of a rich dataset set regarding the benefits and limitations of the tool.

The Web-based Idea Window co-creation tool proved to be a powerful tool for gathering ideas. Due to the anonymity it offered and the mediatedness of communication, sensitive issues could be pointed out. On the other hand, these same properties caused a lack of commitment among some users. One of the strengths of the Idea Window was that more reticent members of the work community were better able to express their views. However, further elaboration of ideas within the Idea Window tool was not as prevalent as had been expected. The best results were obtained from experiments in which the Idea Window was used as part of a larger development project and in parallel with other working methods.

In terms of management of renewal, the study indicates that: (1) the target of the development should be clearly communicated to everyone, (2) the development target ought be concrete enough in order to be easily identified with, and (3) a person responsible for managing the whole development process is needed in order to ensure communication and direction of the process.

The results suggest that the Idea Window is at its best when integrated into a larger tool set for continuous organisational renewal and when it is used by employees who have dedicated time allocated for the development for their own work.

DESI2 has been a joint project of the Universities of Turku and Jyväskylä, the sectoral intermediary organisations FinnMedi Oy, Research and Development centre GeroCenter, Pardco Group Oy and Edutukku Oy. The project started in 2015 and ended in March 2017. It was co-funded by Tekes.

## Study on the role of pioneering firms as engines of industry renaissance (RelnRe)

This Tekes co-funded research project focuses on investigating how more and less successful firms differ in their engagement in entrepreneurial strategies and how firms can transform the ways of doing business within their industry. Our findings suggest that firms' engagement in strategies, which are assumed to enable above average performance, seem not to differentiate between more and less successful firms. Firms in both categories engage in similar strategies with varying outcomes. However, one remarkable difference was recognized: Successful firms seem to be more alert to industry-level changes than their less successful counterparts. Based on the interviews ReInRe conducted it seems that successful firms can react to these changes more actively than less successful firms.

To further explore these changes and their role in firms' behaviour and strategies, we organized a workshop in the fall of 2016. Its results suggested that several larger trends, such as the sharing economy, individualization, new of industrial forces (automatization, robotization), can alter the industries and the ways of doing business. The effect of these trends on firms' behaviour and strategies choices will be studied further as the ReInRe-project continues.

Thus far, our findings suggest that predicting industry-level change from the strategies of successful and less successful firms is not straightforward. While performance outcomes vary, firms in both categories have invested in developing their production facilities, introduced new products and even changed their entire business model. Accordingly, we suggest that strategies are not stagnant, but instead they need to be revised, adapted or sometimes even improvised in order to find a way to overcome barriers to success. In most cases this means simply applying greater effort to listen to customers' problems and solving them in most efficient way.

More information here.

# **Knowledge Governance**

The Knowledge Governance project analyses new forms of academic knowledge production from various perspectives, with special focus on the modes of collaboration of the academy/university with its external partners. Another emphasis is on developing innovative and multidisciplinary research initiatives at the University of Turku, and in this, the central ambition will be in promoting science and technology studies by both internal alliances and collaboration between different faculties and units, and external, international alliances and co-operation.

In the second year of its activity, the Knowledge Governance project moved into the centre of University of Turku's strategic operations by fundamentally contributing to the university's Digital Futures -profiling plan, which gained substantial funding from the Academy of Finland. Furthermore, the Knowledge Governance project planned and launched SWiPE, an interdisciplinary research consortium to study new business, work and the entrepreneurial university in the age of digitalised platform economies. The scientific results of the Knowledge Governance project have made significant openings into interdisciplinary research (humanities and social sciences), theoretical integration of professionalism studies and entrepreneurship studies, and understanding of gendered innovation processes, among other things.

Read more <u>here</u>.





# The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)

GEM is a major research project aimed at describing and analysing different phases of entrepreneurship as well as the profile of entrepreneurs on an annual basis in over 100 countries. Now on its eleventh year at the Turku School of Economics, the Entrepreneurship Unit has been in charge of the project and its practical and scientific outcomes. The GEM Finland team is led by Professor Anne Kovalainen. The two key researchers for the past ten years have been senior researcher, Dr. Pekka Stenholm and researcher Tommi Pukkinen. Currently, other team members include university teacher Sanna Suomalainen and Professor Jarna Heinonen. GEM data is both robust and harmonised, providing a more detailed picture of entrepreneurial activity not otherwise found in official national registry data sets. GEM's contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the entrepreneurial process is unique since, to date, no other data set exists that can provide consistent cross-country information and measurement of entrepreneurial activity on a global scale.

More information about the GEM project here.

# Social science for the 21st - FiDiPro research programme

The Social science for the 21st research programme is funded by the Academy of Finland and is led by Distinguished FiDiPro Professor Lisa Adkins. The Academy of Finland FiDiPro scheme aims to build research capacity in Finland by bringing high profile international scholars to Finland, funding their research projects and offering support to capacity building activities. The research programme runs from 2015-2019 and considers shifts in the economy-society in relation to post-Fordist capitalism. The research programme is in particular interested in the complex process of economisation, that is, with the process of folding the economy into society. Adkins' FiDiPro is jointly hosted by the University of Turku and the University of Tampere. The research programme continued at the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku in the autumn 2016.

#### INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TEACHING COOPERATION

International cooperation has always been an important part of our work, and we have had international faculty both in research and teaching positions. In addition to international faculty, we consider researcher and teacher mobility to be very important and encourage our doctoral students, as well as post-doc researchers, to benefit from international visits. In 2016 Professor Jarna Heinonen was appointed as a visiting professor at the Small Business Research Centre, Kingston University (UK) for the period 6/2016-5/2019. Our unit has also been an attractive location for visiting researchers; Professor Robert Blackburn from the Kingston University was appointed as a visiting professor for the period 5/2016-7/2018. In addition, in 2016 we hosted several international researchers and also visited various universities abroad ourselves.

#### Researchers from other universities visiting us:

- Professor Stephen Billett, University of Brisbane, Australia (October 2016)
- Dr. Hang Do, Small Business Research Centre, Kingston University, UK (May-June 2016)
- Dr. Yi Jiang, ESCP Europe, France (October 2016)
- Dr. Emmanouil Noikokyris, Kingston University, UK (May 2016)
- Dr. Jonathan Scott, Teesside University, UK (February and August 2016)

#### Researchers visiting other universities:

- Professor Jarna Heinonen Small Business Research Centre, Kingston University, UK (February 2016)
- Doctoral candidate Jatta Jännäri University of Tartu, Estonia (November 2016)
- Professor Anne Kovalainen Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (October 2016), Stanford and Berkeley Universities, California, USA (November 2016)
- Senior Researcher Seppo Poutanen Royal Holloway, University of London, UK (October 2016)
- Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm Nord Universitet, Norway (January 2016); Umeå University, Sweden (May 2016); Sultan Qaboos University, Oman (November 2016); University of Southern Denmark, Denmark (December 2016)

# Research collaborators

We collaborate actively with a number of other national and foreign universities, institutions and networks. In 2016, we have conducted joint research projects at least with the following partners:

Aalto University, Finland

American University, USA

Centre for Science and Technology Studies, the Nether-

lands

King's College London, UK

Kingston University, UK

Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland

Leiden University, the Netherlands

Nordland Research Institute, Norway

Nord University, Norway

North Carolina State University, USA

Oxford Research, Denmark

Panteia, the Netherlands

Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

Stanford University, USA

Teesside University, UK

Umeå University, Sweden

Universidad del Desarrollo, Chile

University of Utah, USA

University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

University of Jyväskylä, Finland

University of Lapland, Finland

University of Nordland, Norway

University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

University of South Florida, USA

University of Tampere, Finland

University of Vaasa, Finland

Åbo Akademi University, Finland

The Entrepreneurship Unit hosts or is a national partner in four research networks that work as platforms for active collaboration in research, knowledge dissemination, teaching and data collection:

#### **European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB)**

We host the Secretariat of the European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB). The ECSB is a non-profit organisation whose main objective is to advance the understanding of entrepreneurship and to improve the competitiveness of SMEs in Europe. The ECSB is an affiliated with the International Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ICSB). Research Director Ulla Hytti is a member of the ECSB Board. Through the ECSB and ICSB we reach a network of about 2000 entrepreneurship researchers and educators world-wide.



http://www.ecsb.org/

#### **European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR)**

We are a Finnish member of the European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR) - a network of member-organisations in 33 EU and EEA countries specialised in applied social and economic research. In total, more than 600 highly qualified researchers cooperate in the network. Main clients include the European Commission, national governments, business associations, and the like.



http://www.ensr.eu/

#### The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)

GEM project is an annual assessment of the entrepreneurial activity, aspirations and attitudes of individuals across a wide range of countries. As the Finnish National Team we are part of a network of over 100 'National Teams' all over the globe participating in the project. The network of National Teams represents over 500 experts in entrepreneurship research.



http://www.gemconsortium.org/

#### **Turku Centre for Labour Studies (TCLS)**

We host the Turku Centre for Labour Studies (TCLS) research network which gathers multidisciplinary research on work and working life, including entrepreneurship and self-employment. TCLS acts at the University level and connects the seven faculties of the University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University and several other Research Units nationally and internationally. TCLS organises an international multidisciplinary research conference every second year as well as local seminars and does outreach activities locally and nationally, following the third task of the University.



http://www.utu.fi/en/units/tcls/



# INSPIRING LEARNING EXPERIENCES

In entrepreneurship, we offer education at all academic degree levels. In addition, our faculty is active in training programmes offered for example to executive education, TSE exe, and to the Open University. The strengths of entrepreneurship education are embedded in the faculty's close connection to research in entrepreneurship. We also collaborate closely with student associations and Boost Turku — an open student-based entrepreneurship society for new start-ups. Guest lecturers from business life and international faculty are also a regular part of courses.

In Entrepreneurship studies, we aim to advance students' skills and know-how to recognize, create and exploit new business opportunities in all sectors. In our teaching we believe that entrepreneurship is about how you create a successful organisation in a dynamic and constantly changing business environment; how to recruit innovative employees, how to coordinate their work and how to build a productive and entrepreneurial organisational culture. In addition, we offer students both individual and societal views of entrepreneurship, for example an understanding of what kind of career opportunities entrepreneurship offers and how entrepreneurship is promoted in society.

Entrepreneurship as a discipline is highly research-oriented with numerous international research projects and significant outcomes (e.g. publications, scientific and societal impact). Consequently, Entrepreneurship is a relatively small discipline at the Turku School of Economics in terms of the number of major students. It is however, a very popular minor subject and also single courses reach wider audiences. Furthermore, the faculty has contributed to guiding and supervising degree students across disciplines. In addition, according to the spirit of the Entrepreneurial University Strategy an increasing amount of entrepreneurship studies are being offered to other faculties based on their needs.

Balance between academia and business life

bachelor and master level

two

courses entirely Online

15 dissertations in progress

Several

participative methods

employed in each course

# Development of Entrepreneurship studies in terms of study credits and degrees 2011–2016

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Study credits (ECTS)	4329	4166	2454	2590	2429	2448
<b>Graduated students (B.Sc.)</b>	1	3	1	5	1	2
Graduated students (M.Sc.)	1	-	1	2	4	2
Graduated students (D.Sc.)	1	-	-	-	-	-



# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDIES**

#### **Bachelor studies**

Our aim at the bachelor level is to provide students with a theoretical and practical knowledge of entrepreneurship. Our bachelor studies focus on the entrepreneurial process and understanding the role of entrepreneurship at an individual and at a societal level. Entrepreneurship studies provide tools for students to work in a constantly changing, innovative business environment after graduation no matter their career choice. During entrepreneurship studies we emphasize active connections to business life e.g. through visiting lecturers and excursions.

#### Masters studies

Our master studies focus on enhancing research skills through courses related to theoretical perspectives, classics and current issues in entrepreneurship research and research methods. Master studies provide the opportunity to specialize in an interesting research area.

# Feedback from a student

"Opportunity Creation and Assessment was the first Entrepreneurship course I ever took. I found it refreshingly different from many of the university courses I have taken. Most of the learning happened outside the classroom and the lectures were very interactive. We read articles and wrote short papers based on materials we were given in advance. During the lectures we discussed the themes further, also from a critical point of view.

Many of the students in the course were international which played a large role in the way the course worked. We also had very different backgrounds. As a mature student with work experience the course was perhaps a bit different than from the point of view of younger students. I particularly enjoyed readings on enterprising competencies and trying these out on Opportunity Day\*.

I think all students should take this course as a preparation for entering working life. This course taught key skills required in working life, regardless of what the field of study is. The Opportunity Day was a good lesson of taking action and making things happen."

\*"Opportunity Day" is a full day event which takes teams of participants of the course around Turku for a full day to accomplish a variety of challenges showcasing enterprising behaviour. The concept was facilitated by senior lecturer Marco Van Gelderen (VU University Amsterdam) in 2014.

TSE Entrepreneurship's Startup! course won the first University of Turku Entrepreneurial Act of the Year award in 2016. Startup! uniquely combines a scientific approach on new venture creation and experimental education. In the course, students are exposed to entrepreneurial thinking and actions while they ideate, validate and launch new businesses.

The Startup! course is open for students from all faculties at the University of Turku and it is organized annually together with the Turku University of Applied Sciences and the Humak University of Applied Sciences.

Students form multidisciplinary teams in which they craft new businesses. The ultimate aim of the course is to promote entrepreneurial thinking and action, but also to enhance students' working life skills, such as communication and project management skills. Students learn to apply and make use of their skills in practice and to understand their own skills, strengths and interests. In addition, each year about 2–3 teams continue as new business after the course.

In granting its award, the panel of Entrepreneurial Act of the Year initiative stressed the way the Startup! course combines different partners and actors and its multidisciplinary approach which reaches the whole University of Turku. According to the panel, Startup! has societal influence, and there is concrete and significant evidence that it develops entrepreneurial attitude and creates new businesses.

The Entrepreneurial Act of the Year award is part of the University's entrepreneurship strategy, whose purpose is to increase awareness of entrepreneurship in the academic community, to diversify and increase entrepreneurial training as well as strengthen entrepreneurial attitudes and activities that support entrepreneurship. The main partner in awarding the Entrepreneurial Act of the Year for the academic year 2015—2016 was TOP Foundation.

The University will continue to award an Entrepreneurial Act of the Year every academic year. The main partner for the next academic year is Turku OP Financial Group.



#### PhD studies

The primary purpose of PhD studies is the preparation of a piece of original entrepreneurship research. Our PhD studies are designed to train doctoral candidates as independent researchers, so that they can claim professional standing as academic staff or in a profession requiring skills in entrepreneurship research. PhD studies consist of a dissertation and PhD courses. The entrepreneurship research seminar series provides our doctoral candidates with excellent learning opportunities and also possibilities to discuss their PhD projects with peers and senior researchers and professors. Additionally, international research visits and fellowships are encouraged as a part of the PhD process.



#### Dissertations in progress at the Entrepreneurship Unit

There are around 15 PhD students in Entrepreneurship. The following five doctoral candidates (in the picture above from left to right) were employed by the Entrepreneurship Unit in 2016:

Jatta Jännäri): Mediated construction of an ideal gendered manager/employee

Katri Luomala: Mumpreneurs? Everyday complexities of Finnish mother-entrepreneurs

Sanna Suomalainen: New venture creation as part of entrepreneurship education in universities

Laura Niemi: Entrepreneurial value creation: Co-creating socially constructed prestige value

Tommi Pukkinen: The role of entrepreneurial orientation and dynamic capabilities in firm renewal



# **DISSERTATIONS IN 2016**

New dissertation in Entrepreneurship shows that a lot of development is needed in academic entrepreneurship education.

Inna Kozlinska defended her excellent dissertation "Evaluation of the outcomes of entrepreneurship education revisited – Evidence from Estonia and Latvia" in December 2016 (available <a href="here">here</a>). The doctoral thesis was jointly supervised by Professor Ulla Hytti from the University of Turku and Professor Tonis Mets from the University of Tartu according to the Cotutelle agreement.

Kozlinska analyses whether academic entrepreneurship education design, "traditional" or "experiential", has an effect on how students find work or behave in an entrepreneurial manner in Estonia and Latvia. The rather surprising conclusion that Kozlinska draws in her work is: "it did not matter significantly [regarding objective measures] whether entrepreneurship was studied traditionally or experientially in Estonia, and the attendance of more experiential EE even tended to be less beneficial in Latvia" (Kozlinska 2016, 8).

"Experiential" entrepreneurship education where students create business ideas, look for entrepreneurial opportunities etc. is, according to conventional conceptions, much superior to "traditional" education consisting mainly of lectures on entrepreneurship. Kozlinska however, strongly questions conventional wisdom. She shows how the expected success of different forms of academic entrepreneurship education depend on, for example, complex contextual influences and the quality of educational infrastructure. Kozlinska also offers concrete suggestions for improving academic entrepreneurship education in her dissertation.

Inna Kozlinska will be joining the Entrepreneurship Unit in autumn 2017.



#### OTHER ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

### Entrepreneurship in executive education

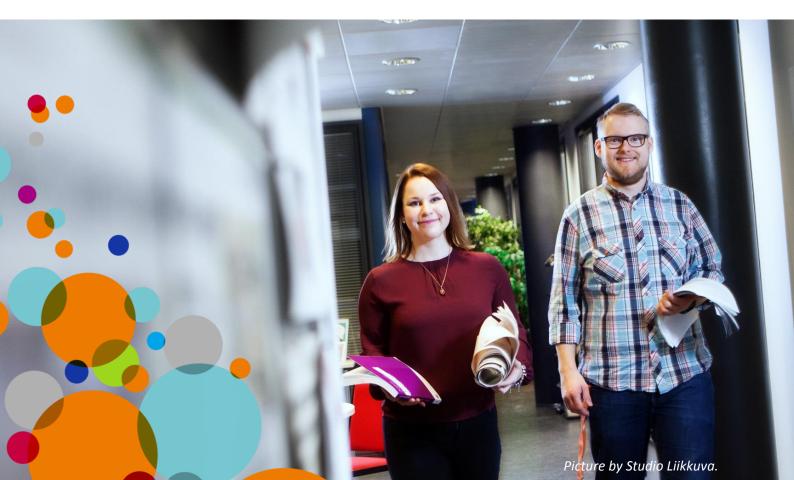
Entrepreneurship has an important role most executive education programmes offered by TSE exe. Members of our staff work as teachers and experts in the programmes and also supervise EMBA and JOKO theses. Most importantly innovation and new business creation are high on the EMBA curriculum as they form a key learning goal for the programme: "the graduates of the programme are innovative leaders with an entrepreneurial mindset". Regarding entrepreneurship, the main themes studied in the EMBA programme and other executive programmes include an entrepreneurial twist and corporate entrepreneurship at work as well as new business opportunities and opportunity creation. In addition, Professor Jarna Heinonen serves as Chair of the EMBA Programme Committee which is responsible for assuring the quality of and increasing faculty commitment in the EMBA programme of TSE.

# Entrepreneurship in the Open University and for other faculties

Open University education is open to all regardless of age or educational background and the educational objectives and requirements correspond to regular degree studies. Our collaboration with the Open University of Turku has enabled us to provide a total of seven courses to over a hundred non-degree-students.

We have provided our courses for degree students of other faculties mainly as a part of the Business Competence - module, which offers basic knowledge of business administration to participants. In addition, some entrepreneurship courses are open for other faculties through JOO studies.

Due to the Entrepreneurial University Strategy, several faculties are plan to include entrepreneurship studies in their programmes. The pilot faculties, of Medicine and Humanities, have already started with some courses, such as Startup!. Basic studies in Entrepreneurship (such as our Introduction to Entrepreneurship YRY course) are of interest to other faculties and new tailored ways to run such courses in other faculties are being developed. For a number of years we have run entrepreneurship seminars for students of nursing science, but a more far-reaching programme is to be applied in the faculty of Medicine during the forthcoming academic year. The goal of the university is that all the students in every faculty have a possibility to study entrepreneurship at some point in their studies. Entrepreneurship studies in different faculties are increasingly common but much work remains to be done.



# INTERACTION WITH SOCIETY

Our activities contribute significantly to the third task of the university: societal impact and interaction with society. Our close relationships with business life and policy makers indicate that our expertise in entrepreneurship research, education and development is relevant for and appreciated by society in general, and our customers in particular. Our staff serve as board members in different organisations and their expertise is continuously requested in national and international expert assignments such as for the OECD and the European Science Foundation.

The research done at the Entrepreneurship Unit has wide impact as outcomes have contributed to societal policies and decision-making. Our research has been used for instance in designing legislation, re-organising the activities of specific public agencies supporting SMEs, and informing entrepreneurship policy makers of research findings. A good example of such research activities with both scientific and societal impact is the SWiPE research project (on page 7) funded by the Academy of Finland and the Strategic Research Council. Communication and dissemination activities are an integral part of the research project which, based on quality research on platform economy and new working modes, aims at making an impact on Finnish society and the economy. SWiPE research also connects different actors nationally and internationally in the field to bring new insights and to challenge current thinking.

Discussing and presenting research findings in professional magazines and popular press such as Helsingin Sanomat, Kauppalehti and Taloussanomat, as well as in national and international events are also a way for us to make a societal impact.



### **BLOGS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

In 2016, we further developed our engagement with society by strengthening our presence in social media channels. Social media and other accessible channels are used to communicate our research and activities to international and domestic stakeholders and networks in an accessible and open manner. Open engagement with society is a central component of our activity at the interface of scientific study and societal dynamics in themes of entrepreneurship, changing modes of work and the digital future. In particular, we have participated in the popularisation of the university's entrepreneurial strategy through a series of blog posts on the entrepreneurial university website delving into a wide array of topics of concern to students, staff and stakeholders in business, academia and policy-making. For example, Tommi Pukkinen has written about the place of the entrepreneurial university in the academic community (here in Finnish) while Jarna Heinonen emphasises in her SWiPE blog post that entrepreneurship can be taught and learned.

Major and minor studies students on both graduate and undergraduate levels are engaged with the unit's activities through a number of social media channels including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and social media is also used as a teaching tool. Our teaching leverages the openness and accessibility of social media to communicate current events and promote active participation both inside and outside the classroom. The unit's social media presence is coordinated at the unit level, but, more importantly, is based on the activity of a number of staff members taking part in important conversations across society.

Follow us through the links below:



TSE Entrepreneurship



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# Entrepreneurship can be learned in universities

"Our research shows that
entrepreneurialism can be taught and
learned. This, however, does not mean that
this should be done in all situations.
Naturally, teachers and researchers in
higher education need to take responsibility
and to ensure that students are not offered
only one truth or alternative."



Blog post by Professor Jarna Heinonen



#### "DARE TO BE ENTREPRENEURIAL"

### - Alumni Day at the Turku School of Economics

Entrepreneurship researchers of the unit contributed strongly to the Alumni Day of the Turku School of Economics in 2016. The theme of the Alumni Day was "Dare to be entrepreneurial" and we were happy to be able to disseminate our up-to-date understanding of the phenomenon of entrepreneurship within the university context.

In her keynote speech "Entrepreneurship + university = ?" professor Jarna Heinonen challenged the stereotypical thinking that entrepreneurship and the university do not belong together. She demonstrated with numerous examples how the University of Turku is currently strengthening its profile as an entrepreneurial university. According to her assessment the University of Turku, as an entrepreneurial university, is an impactful academic and societal actor collaborating closely with local, national and international players within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. She emphasised that in the University of Turku all activities are based on high-quality research and the field of entrepreneurship is no exception. Entrepreneurship research in the university, and in particular at TSE, is strong and impactful with a long track record and gives solid grounds for teaching entrepreneurship across faculties as well as for making an impact in society by boosting businesses through new innovations or start-ups. In her keynote Heinonen also stressed that it is most important that an entrepreneurial university remains open to new ideas and interacts and communicates actively within the ecosystem.

Research Director Ulla Hytti chaired a panel discussion consisting of alumni with current and past entrepreneurial experience. The panel included Katariina Räike from Polarmoss Oy, Ari Mäkinen from Arol Finance Oy, Mira Kivistö from ConTe Oy and Tiina Vainio from Turku Chamber of Commerce. The panellists contributed to our understanding

of diverse of new boundaryless careers. Tiina Vainio became a part-time entrepreneur already during her studies after having participated in the Startup! Course. She currently works in the Turku Chamber of Commerce representing the local businesses and contributing to a favourable environment for businesses. Mira Kivistö's path to entrepreneurship represents a more traditional trajectory of alumni entrepreneurship: After a long corporate career, she decided to focus her professional passion through her own consulting business. Ari Mäkinen became an entrepreneur offering financial services after a career in managing finances in the public sector. Finally, Katariina Räike has a background in a family business where she currently works as a part-time board member but she also contributes to the development of Turku city centre and represents the city centre association as an independent entrepreneur.

Senior researcher Pekka Stenholm hosted a pitching event together with BoostTurku and start-up entrepreneur Tomi Virtanen from Doerz.co. The competition covered three TSE-based start-ups, GetListed Oy, Activer Oy, and Wuudis Oy. The audience asked questions from each team and voted for the best performance. The winner was Activer, which crafts a mobile app for sporting events and sporting individuals. Activer was awarded an interview to be published in TSE's Mercurius-magazine. Following the pitches the audience itself had a unique opportunity to participate in pitch karaoke. Volunteers gave impromptu, one minute long pitches based on slides the content of which was unknown beforehand to the presenter. This guaranteed a series of wild and creative pitches, and accordingly, laughter!



Key Facts about the Alumni Day:

The annual Alumni Day of the Turku School of Economics gathers roughly 300 TSE graduates to listen to high-quality presentations and to discuss topical issues with their peers.

Since 2005 the Alumni of the year award is selected and presented at the event.

# **APPENDICES**

# Professional and community relations

#### Project Researcher Satu Aaltonen

European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Member

#### Research Coordinator Elisa Akola

- European Network for Social and Economic Research (ENSR), Finnish contact person
- European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Executive Secretary and Member

#### FiDiPro Professor Lisa Adkins

- Interdisciplinary Panel on Gender Studies, Academy of Finland Research Council, Division of Culture and Society, Chair
- The Australian Research Council: Future Fellowships, Assessor
- The Qatari National Research Fund: National Priorities Research Program (NPRP), Assessor

#### Professor Jarna Heinonen

- Turun Seudun Osuuspankki (Turku Area Co-operative Bank), Board Member and Chair
- TOP-säätiö (TOP Foundation), Board Member and Vice chair
- OP osuuskunta (OP co-operative), Member of Supervisory Board, Member and Chair of the Auditor Committee of the Supervisory Board
- Economic Policy Working Group, Turku Chamber of Commerce, Member
- The Research Committee of the Finnish Family Firm Association, Member
- Working Group for Policy relevant research on entrepreneurship and SMEs, EU Commission, Member
- European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Member

#### Research Director Ulla Hytti

- European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Board Member for the period of 2013–2016 and 2016-2019
- European Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Academy of Management (AoM), Member
- Satakunnan Yritystili Oy, Member of Board
- Scientific Association for Entrepreneurship Education, Vice-President 2016-2017

#### Professor Anne Kovalainen

- Sitra (Finnish Innovation Fund), Member of Board and Vice-Chair
- Finnish Academy of Science and Letters, Member and Member of Board
- Åbo Akademi University, Member of the nomination committee
- Review Panel Member of several Academies of Sciences
- The Netherlands Research Council, Individual and Programme level grants evaluation
- European Science Foundation, Member of the College of Review Panel
- Member of several international science associations (ASA, 4S, ICSB, ECSB)

#### Senior Researcher Seppo Poutanen

- National Science Foundation (USA), Member of the Evaluation Faculty
- European Science Foundation, Member of the College of Review Panel
- International Sociological Association (ISA), European Sociological Association(ESA), British Sociological Association (BSA), American Sociological Association (ASA) and Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Member

#### Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm

- Academy of Management (AoM), Member
- Finnish Social Enterprise Research Network (FinSERN), Member

#### University Teacher Sanna Suomalainen

- European Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship (ECSB), Member
- HAPI project, Advisory Board Member

### University administration

#### Professor Jarna Heinonen

- Committee for Research and Doctoral Studies, University of Turku, School of Economics, Member
- eMBA Programme Committee, University of Turku, School of Economics, Member and Chair
- Turku Centre of Labour Studies, University of Turku, Member of Board
- Vice-Head of the Department of Management and Entrepreneurship

#### Research Director Ulla Hytti

· Personnel development group, Turku School of Economics, Chair

#### Professor Anne Kovalainen

- University of Turku, Member of Board
- Turku Centre for Labour Studies, University of Turku, Director and Chair of Board
- Turku University Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS), Member of board
- University Profiling area in Digital Futures, Member of the organising group

#### Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm

- Research Evaluation Committee, Turku School of Economics, Member
- John Morton Center for North American Studies, University of Turku, Member of Board

# Activities in the scientific community

#### Positions of trust

#### FiDiPro Professor Lisa Adkins

Editorial board memberships: Co Editor-in-Chief in Australian Feminist Studies

#### Professor Jarna Heinonen

- Editorial board memberships: International Small Business Journal; Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research; Journal of Small Business Management
- Expert assignments: Expert statement for a docentship on entrepreneurship and business, Lappeenranta University of Technology, School of Management; Evaluation statements given to several funds and foundations. Due to confidentiality all foundation and fund details withdrawn.

#### Research Director Ulla Hytti

- Editorial board memberships: Journal of Small Business Management, International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research, International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Yrittäjyyskasvatuksen aikakauskiria
- Expert assignments: Pre-examiner of doctoral thesis at the University of Lapland

#### Professor Anne Kovalainen

- Editorial board memberships: International Small Business Journal, Academy of Management Perspectives, Research in the Sociology of Work (book series), Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research
- Expert assignments: statement for docentship in sociology, University of Helsinki; Evaluation statements given to several funds and foundations, due to confidentiality, details withdrawn

#### Senior Researcher Seppo Poutanen

 Expert assignments: Doctoral thesis's assessment committee membership at the University of Tartu; Reviewer of a research proposal for The National Science Foundation (USA); Member of Evaluation Panel (Humanities and Social Sciences), European Science Foundation

#### Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm

- Editorial board memberships: Management Decision
- Expert assignments: Doctoral thesis's assessment committee membership at the University of Tartu

#### Ad hoc referee for journals

American Journal of Entrepreneurship Baltic Journal of Management **Barents Studies** British Journal of Management Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: An International Journal **European Journal of Cultural Studies** Gender in Management Gender, Work and Organization International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour and Research International Journal of Entrepreneurship & Innovation International Journal of E-Services and Mobile Applications International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship International Small Business Journal

Journal of Business Venturing Journal of Enterprising Communities Journal of Global Entrepreneurship Research Journal of Small Business and Entrepreneurship Journal of Small Business Management Journal of Technology Transfer Management Decision Management Research Review Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research Scandinavian Journal of Hospitality and Tourism Scandinavian Journal of Management **Small Business Economics** Technology Analysis & Strategic Management Theory, Culture and Society The Sociological Review Työelämän tutkimus

#### Referee for book proposals and chapters

- Review statement on a book proposal for Routledge
- Reviews statements on book chapters for the the Finnish Centre for Pensions

#### Referee for conferences

- Diana International Research Conference
- European Academy of Management Annual Meeting
- ICSB World Conference
- 3E Conference (ECSB Entrepreneurship Education Conference)
- RENT Research in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Conference
- Nordic Conference on Small Business

### Activities in conferences, workshops and seminars

#### Research Coordinator Elisa Akola

 Organising committee member at 3E (ECSB Entrepreneurship Education) Conference 2016 (Cork, Ireland) and 2017 (Leeds, England)

#### Professor Anne Kovalainen

- Keynote comment at Digital Rights, Markets and Innovation conference, December 1st 2016, Faculty of Law at the University of Turku
- General chair at the Learning at work in the future economy seminar, October 7<sup>th</sup> 2016, University of Turku.
- Keynote speech at the closing seminar of the Mentoring programme for Doctoral Candidates, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, University of Turku, Finland

#### Doctoral candidate and University Teacher Sanna Suomalainen

 Session chair at Conference ICSB 2016 Education and Pedagogy track, 61st ICSB World Conference, June 15–18, New Jersey/New York City, USA

#### Awards, prizes or honors

#### Professor Jarna Heinonen

- Award on societal impact and interaction, Support Foundation of the Turku School of Economics
- TSE exe. Executive Education Teacher of the year 2016, TSE exe, Turku School of Economics

#### Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm

 The article "Stenholm, P., Acs, Z.J., Wuebker, R. (2013) Globalization, Institutions, and Entrepreneurship: Exploring the Relationship between Country-Level Institutional Environment and Entrepreneurial Activity. Journal of Business Venturing, Vol. 28 (1), 174–196" was awarded as a winning paper in the prestigious Emerald Citations of Excellence for 2016.

#### Senior Researcher Pekka Stenholm and Doctoral candidate Tommi Pukkinen

Intoa! entrepreneurial act of the year 2016, University of Turku

# **Publications**

#### Journal articles and editorials

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Nieminen, L. – Hytti, U. (2016) Commitment to an entrepreneurship training programme for self-employed entrepreneurs, and learning from participation. *Education and Training,* Vol. 58 (7/8), 715–732. DOI: 10.1108/ET-02-2016-0036

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# Books, book chapters and book reviews

Adkins, L. (2016) Contingent labour and the rewriting of the sexual contract. In: *The post-fordist sexual contract: Working and living in contingency*, eds. L. Adkins – M. Dever. Palgrave Macmillan, UK.

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