

Place and Local Identity as the Origin of Entrepreneurial Processes

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Entrepreneurship

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The Message

- Positioning entrepreneurship
- Putting place in space
- Capitalising local economic development
- Lessons for practitioners and researchers

What is Entrepreneurship?

- Starting a new business?
- Actualising innovation and growth
- Creative organising of people and resources according to opportunity
- Enterprising approach to life as an ongoing process
- Disclosing new worlds while while enjoying life

Entrepreneurial Processes on Many Arenas in Society

- On the market
- In the social economy
- In the voluntary sector
- In the public sector
- In school
- At the university (?)

Owner-Managers in Swedish Gazelle Firms

- Why? - actualising an idea and own identity
- Where? - in all places, in all industries
- How? - by being interactive
- When? - always - by being action oriented
- What means? - human and social capital

All places are Local - and Global: the Importance of Space

- Physical space: all business takes place in one locality
- Social space: networks may concentrate locally but still make a global personal community
- Mental space: shared meanings facilitate collective action but may create lock-ins

Regional economic development

Regionalisation

- Directive from above, from the outside
- Emphasis on benchmarking
- Functional role ascribed
- Reconstructing the present out of the past
- Planning the norm

Regionalism

- Initiative from below, from within
- Emphasis on uniqueness
- Collective identity enacted
- Bridging history and potential future
- Self-organising the ideal

Enacting a Collective Identity

- Take command locally
- Retrieve local stories and appropriate global promises
- Acknowledge diversity
- Build strong as well as weak network ties
- Brand the region

Sources of Capital for Local Economic Development

- Social capital
- Human capital
- Financial capital

Social capital

- Collective identity
- Commitment - not just loyalty
- Trust (blind, moral, calculated, wishful)
- Dense networking

Human capital

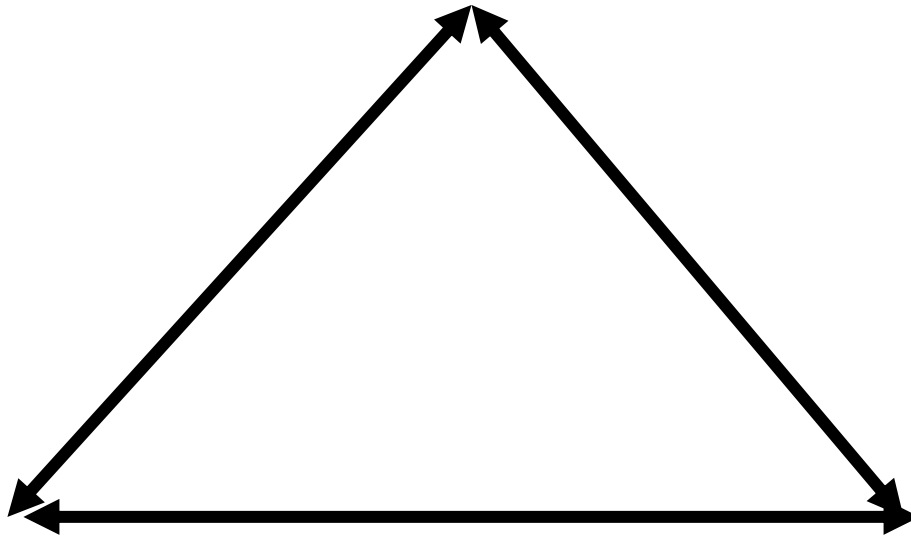
- Codified/formal knowledge/Tacit knowledge
- Versatility/Heterogeneity
- Habits/routines

Financial capital

- Bootstrapping
- Equity
- Debt financing
- Virtual organising
- Public support

Interrelated Forms of Capital

SÓCIAL CAPITAL



HUMAN CAPITAL

FINANCIAL CAPITAL

Lessons for Practitioners

- Enforce existing local networks, but build or reconfigure if needed
- Support committed change agents and amplify local initiatives
- Recognise the local uniqueness and translate external influences
- Encourage dialogue

Lessons for researchers

- Give hunches but do not take the lead when change is initiated
- Bring stories that invite to cross-appropriation
- Develop skills to become a ‘jack of all trades’
- Practice interactive research - dialogue