Syllabus: Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives on Entrepreneurship: Economics

Winter 2020

Wednesdays 5:30 PM -8:30 PM
Hawes Hall 203
Harvard Business School
Version: December 13, 2019

TEPE explores scholarly work from economics and finance disciplines regarding entrepreneurship—the formation and growth of new firms. While work on this topic dates back to Schumpeter and earlier, academic research regarding entrepreneurship has exploded over the last decade. Reflecting the complex nature of the entrepreneurship, TEPE touches on multiple academic disciplines and research methodologies.

There are two complementary doctoral classes, each taught every other year, with the Spring 2020 course focusing on entrepreneurship and its relationship to economics fields like industrial organization, labor economics, and economic growth. The Spring 2021 course focuses on the entrepreneurship research about corporate finance, including entrepreneurial finance and behavioral economics.

Papers are provided via Canvas, the course platform. All students should have access to Canvas. Students who cannot access the course materials should contact Mark Poirot (mpoirot@hbs.edu) to arrange for an alternative way to access the course materials.

There will be some updates to the syllabus and papers as the semester unfolds. An email list maintained by Mark will provide alerts and materials as appropriate.

Three referee reports will be due over the course of the semester. These are indicated in bold italics. Each referee report is a recent, unpublished academic paper that is receiving lots of attention. In addition, there will be a final paper proposal, which can build off work you are doing for another class or your thesis.

Bill Kerr and Josh Lerner will teach all sessions, with guest lectures by Zoe Cullen, Natalia Rigol, and Chris Stanton.
Course Outline

Class 1: Kerr (January 29)
  Course Introduction
  Measuring Entrepreneurship
Class 2: Kerr (February 5)
  Economic Geography and Entrepreneurship
Class 3: Kerr (February 12)
  Labor Markets and Entrepreneurship
Class 4: Kerr (February 19)
  Industrial Evolution and Entrepreneurship
Class 5: Kerr (February 26)
  Economic Growth and Entrepreneurship
Class 6: Kerr/Rigol (March 4)
  Economic Development and Entrepreneurship
Class 7: Kerr (March 11)
  Immigrant Entrepreneurship
  Global Entrepreneurial Networks

3/18: No Class for GSAS Spring Break

Class 8: Lerner (March 25)
  Entrepreneurship and Innovation
  Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Public Policies
Class 9: Lerner (April 1)
  Entrepreneurship and Patents
Class 10: Lerner/Cullen (April 8)
  Entrepreneurship and Openness
  The Sharing Economy
Class 11: Lerner/Stanton (April 15)
  Entrepreneurship and Peers
  Online Entrepreneurship
Class 12: Lerner (April 22 or 29)
  Experimentation and Entrepreneurship Research
  Preview of TEPE 2021
Class 1: Kerr (January 29)

Course Introduction


Measuring Entrepreneurship


Class 2: Kerr (February 5)

Economic Geography and Entrepreneurship

Classics [Skim in chronological order]


Empirics


Additional Readings [skim]


**Class 3: Kerr (February 12)**

*Labor Markets and Entrepreneurship*

*Theory*


*Empirics*


*Additional Readings [skim]*


Class 4: Kerr (February 19)

Industrial Evolution and Entrepreneurship

Theory


Empirics


Additional Readings [skim]


**Class 5: Kerr (February 26)**

*Economic Growth and Entrepreneurship*

**Theory**


**Empirics**


**Additional Readings [skim]**


Class 6: Kerr/Rigol (March 4)

Economic Development and Entrepreneurship


Economic Development and Entrepreneurship (Rigol Teaching)

Field, Erica, Rohini Pande, John Papp, and Natalia Rigol, 2013, Does the classic microfinance model discourage entrepreneurship among the poor? Experimental evidence from India, American Economic Review 103:6, 2196–2226.


Rigol, Natalia and Ben Roth, 2020, Loan Officer Incentives and Graduation From Microfinance: Evidence from Chile, Working Paper.

Additional Readings [skim]


Class 7: Kerr (March 11)

Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Global Entrepreneurial Networks


Dimmock, Stephen, Jiekun Huang, and Scott Weisbenner, 2019, Give me your tired, your poor, your high-skilled labor: H-1B lottery outcomes and entrepreneurial success, NBER Working Paper No. 26392.


Additional Readings [skim]


3/18: No Class for GSAS Spring Break

Class 8: Lerner (March 25)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation


Cunningham, Colleen, Florian Ederer, and Song Ma, 2019, Killer acquisitions, Working paper.


Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Public Policies


Class 9: Lerner (April 1)

Entrepreneurship and Patents: Measurement


Marx, Matt and Aaron Fuegi, 2019, Reliance on science in patenting: USPTO front-page citations to scientific articles, working paper.

Entrepreneurship and Patents: Research


Class 10: Lerner/Cullen (April 8)

Entrepreneurship and Openness

Boudreau, Kevin, 2018, Amateurs crowds and professional entrepreneurs as platform complementors, Working Paper


The Sharing Economy (Cullen Teaching)


Cullen, Zoë, and Chiara Farronato, 2018, Outsourcing tasks online: Matching supply and demand on peer-to-peer Internet platforms, Working Paper.
**Class 11: Lerner/Stanton (April 15)**

*Entrepreneurship and Peers*


*Online Entrepreneurship (Stanton Teaching)*


Class 12: Lerner (April 22 or 29)

Experimentation and Entrepreneurship Research


Gornall, Will, and Ilya A. Strebulaev, 2019, Gender, race, and entrepreneurship: A randomized field experiment on venture capitalists and angels, Working paper.


*Preview of TEPE 2021 – key topics and lessons*

No readings