

21st INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM CONFERENCE

OFFICIAL BROCHURE

EDUCATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: ECOSYSTEM VALUE CREATION FOR PEOPLE, ORGANISATIONS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

18-19-20 September 2025

Cape Town, South Africa



FACULTY OF
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



“

The IEF investigates, imbibes, inculcates, informs and innovates together with diverse groups of stakeholders in the arena of entrepreneurship, innovation, economic and social development.

”

Prof. JAY MITRA

Founder,
International Entrepreneurship Forum





At this year's conference, we explore how entrepreneurial learning enables value creation and wellbeing

... especially in the face of global challenges such as technological disruption, inequality, and climate change. We will examine entrepreneurship not only as a business activity but as a transformational learning process - one that enables individuals and organisations to navigate complex environments, build human and social capital, and drive meaningful change. With the rise of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, we also ask: How do we learn, teach, and adapt in this new era? What skills and knowledge do entrepreneurs need to thrive, and how can our institutions, ecosystems, and communities support this?

- ▶ In-depth sessions on education for entrepreneurship, digital innovation, AI, ecosystem development, and wellbeing.
- ▶ Critical engagement with themes such as transdisciplinary learning, citizen-led innovation, inclusive growth, and sustainability.
- ▶ A unique opportunity for educators, researchers, policymakers, business leaders, and citizens to collaborate, debate, and co-create knowledge.
- ▶ Submissions are invited for research papers, reflective essays, and posters.



— The International Entrepreneurship Forum

What makes us special? Operating for two decades with conferences and workshops hosted across the globe, we set our footprint in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Latin America, and Asia Pacific. We distinguish ourselves with our creative 'out of the box' approach to thinking about and exploring diverse forms of new ideas generation, venture formation, citizen engagement and economic, personal and social value creation. The IEF is a regenerative and evaluative space for individuals and organisations across societies.



CONTENTS

- 06 ABOUT IEF & ITS GLOBAL FOOTPRINT**
- 07 OUR JOURNEY**
- 08 CONFERENCE ORGANISATION**
- 09 CONFERENCE PARTNERS & ORGANISERS**
- 11 CONFERENCE VENUE**
- 12 OBJECTIVES & KEY THEMES**
- 13 CONFERENCE THEMES & FORMAT**
- 14 SPEAKERS & PANELISTS**
- 24 CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**
- 32 CHOICE OF PUBLICATION ROUTE**
- 34 CONFERENCE VIGNETTE SERIES**
- 54 CONFERENCE FEES**

ABOUT IEF

History

The IEF was founded in the United Kingdom at the turn of this millennium in 2001. A global mind-set informed the first conference in Naples, Italy. Post-conference in the island of Capri we concluded that so much had already been researched, so many policies on start-ups and early-stage growth had been formulated, so many conferences and seminars held, and so much money was awash all around the globe. We talked about new combinations and even sustainability and values. But what was missing was being entrepreneurial in our thinking about crossing borders, disciplines and silos, and engaging in entrepreneurship as new forms of recombination with multiple perspectives facilitating productive change. Perhaps the beginning of this century offered hope in creating something different.



Founded 2001

21
conferences
worldwide



14 countries
across **5** regions

Asia, Africa, Latin
America, Europe,
and Middle East



More than
5000
delegates
over the years



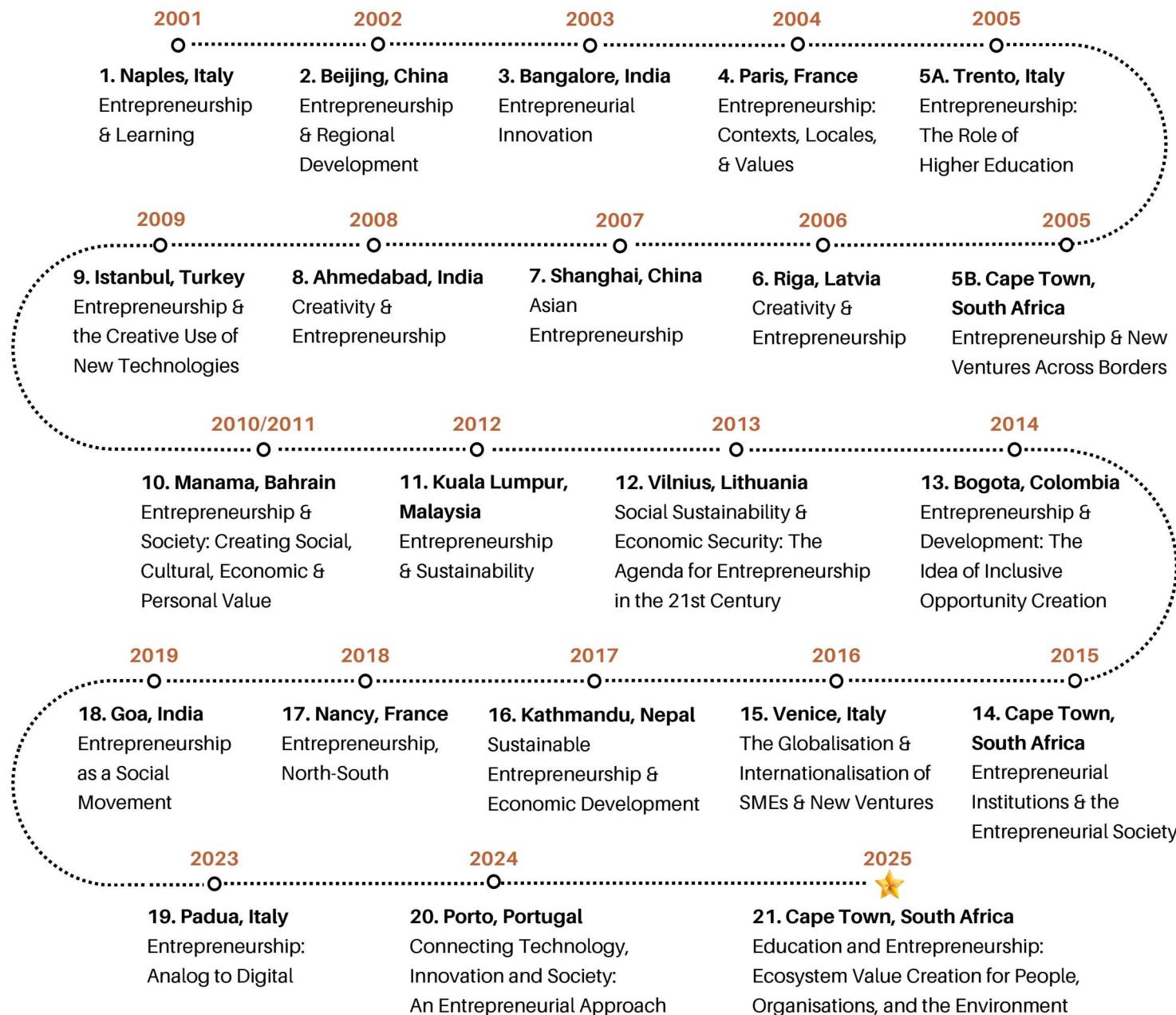
Around
100 prestigious
guest speakers
from around the world



90 partners &
networks
worldwide

publishers, media,
educational and research
institutions, industry players,
and government agencies

OUR JOURNEY



CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

CURATION



Professor Jay Mitra,
Founder, International Entrepreneurship
Forum and Guest Professor, Leuphana
University, Germany



Professor Chux Gervase Iwu,
Professor of Entrepreneurship Management,
School of Business and Finance of the University
of the Western Cape, South Africa

MANAGEMENT



Holly Bui,
Conference
Manager, IEF, UK



Nomonde Zumani,
Administrator, University
of the Western Cape, SA



Ashley Nguyen,
Marketing and
Promotions Manager,
IEF, UK



Romy Higgins, Sales &
Marketing Manager,
Keyside Conferencing
and Events, SA

CONFERENCE PARTNERS AND ORGANISERS



IEF
International
Entrepreneurship
Forum



UNIVERSITY *of*
the
WESTERN CAPE



FACULTY *of*
ECONOMIC AND
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES



palgrave
macmillan

Journal of
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
in Emerging Economies

s



CONFERENCE VENUE

The 21st IEF conference is hosted at Seminar Room 1A&B, **School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape (UWC)**, located in Bellville, Cape Town, South Africa. UWC is a leading public research university founded in **1960** during apartheid to serve underrepresented communities, and it has since evolved into a dynamic, multiracial institution celebrated for fostering social justice, academic excellence, and community engagement. Today, UWC is home to over **23,000** students across seven faculties, including health sciences, arts, law, economic and management sciences, natural sciences, and more.



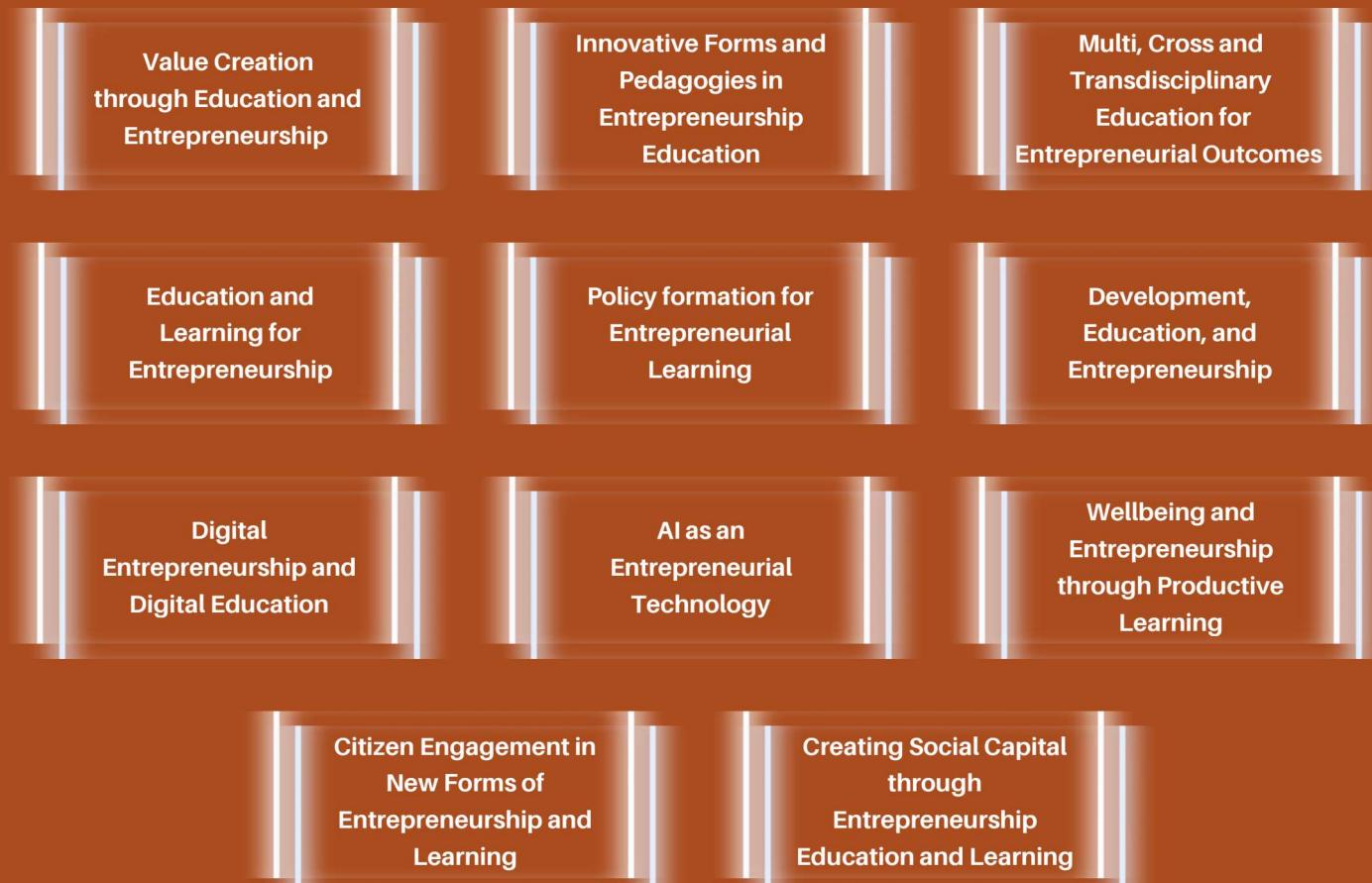
Address: Robert Sobukwe Rd, Bellville, Cape Town, 7535, South Africa

21ST IEF - SIX OBJECTIVES, THREE KEY INTERRELATED THEMES



CONFERENCE THEMES AND FORMAT

The 21st IEF conference covers 11 themes below with the format of **Panel Sessions** on key themes mentioned before and their interdependencies.





SPEAKERS & PANELISTS



Keynote Speakers



**Honorable
Stella Tembisa Ndabeni -
Minister of Small Business
Development, South Africa**



**Dr. Ruben Richards -
Executive Mayor of
Cederberg Local
Municipality, South Africa**



**Prof. Zoltan Acs - Professor Emeritus,
George Mason University, USA;
Director VIGS Institute, Vienna;
Research Fellow MCC & President of
The Global Entrepreneurship
Development Institute**

EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Panel Session 1



Session Chair: Prof. Chux Geverse
Iwu - Co-Curator IEF 2025;
Professor at the Faculty of
Economic and Management
Sciences (EMS), University of the
Western Cape, South Africa



Dr. Thobekani Lose - Director
and Senior Researcher at the
Mandela University Africa
HUB, Nelson Mandela
University, South Africa



Lance Greyling - Director
of Economic
Development and
Investment Department,
South Africa



Bongumusa Biyela -
Regional Manager of
Western Cape at
National Empowerment
Fund, South Africa



John Edward Peters - Chief
Director at Department of
Economic Development
and Tourism, Western
Cape, South Africa

POLICY FORMATION FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL LEARNING

Panel Session 2



Session Chair:
Dr. Edwell Gumbo -
Director of
Entrepreneurship (EDHE),
Universities South Africa



**Prof. George Saridakis - Professor of
Small Business and
Entrepreneurship and Head of the
Department of Marketing,
Entrepreneurship and International
Business, Kent University, UK**



Dr. Bridget Irene -
Senior Lecturer in
Business Management,
Leicester Castle
Business School, UK



Prof. Vivienne Lawack -
Professor of Fintech Law
and Regulation,
Department of Mercantile
& Labour Law, Faculty of
Law, UWC, South Africa



Dr. Simon Taylor -
University of Kwa-
Zulu Natal, South
Africa

SPECIAL SESSION ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION: A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE ON SUPPORTING SMALL-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Panel Session 3



Prof. Michelle Esau - Dean of
the Faculty of Economic and
Management Sciences, UWC,
South Africa



Session Chair: Prof. Isioma Ile
- Professor at the School of
Government Economic &
Management Sciences
Faculty, South Africa



Prof. Beatrice Opeolu -
Founder & Director of BEE
Solutions and Consultancy
Services, South Africa

ECOSYSTEM VALUE CREATION THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Panel Session 4



Dr. Phumlani Nkotwana -
Director of the Allan Gray
Centre for Africa
Entrepreneurship, Stellenbosch
University, South Africa



Prof. Marcus Dejardin -
Professor of Economics,
Namur University,
Belgium



Lisle Svenson -
Coordinator of Small
Business Clinic, UWC,
South Africa



Session Chair: Prof. Sarika Pruthi - Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, San Jose State University, California, USA



Prof. Jay Mitra - Founder of IEF; Visiting Lecturer at Leuphana University, Germany; Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies, UK



Prof. Roderick Lawrence - Honorary Professor at the Geneva School of Social Sciences, Institute for Environmental Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland

TRANSDISCIPLINARY LEARNING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Panel Session 5



Prof. Piero Formica - Thought Leader & Senior Research Fellow of the Innovation Value Institute, Maynooth University, Ireland; Professor of Knowledge Economics, Open Innovation Management, University of Padua, Italy



Prof. Patient Rambe - Director of Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Studies, Central University of Technology, South Africa



Luvuyo Rani - Co-Founder of Silulo Ulutho Technologies, South Africa

EDUCATION, COACHING AND LEARNING FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Panel Session 6



Session Chair:
Dr. Elona Nobukhosi
Ndlovu - Executive and
Entrepreneurial Coach of
BizPreneur, South Africa



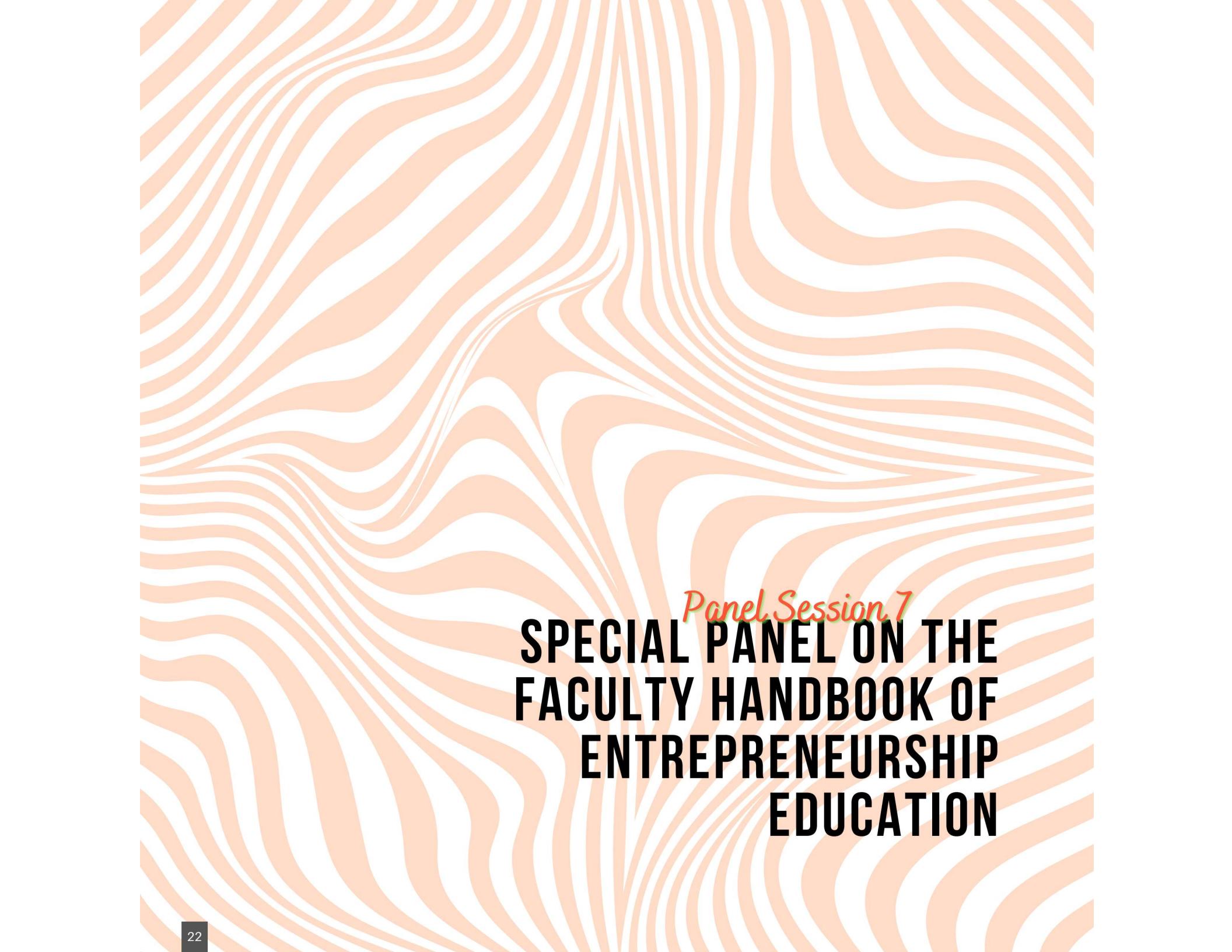
Prof. Thea van der Westhuizen -
Academic Leader for High
Impact Community Engagement
and Internationalisation, School
of Commerce, University of
KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa



Nick Hixson - Director,
Nixsons, Chartered
Certified Accountants, UK



Dr. Lindiwe (Malindi)
Kunene - SME Strategy
and Governance Expert,
University of Kwa-Zulu
Natal, South Africa



Panel Session 7

SPECIAL PANEL ON THE FACULTY HANDBOOK OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION



Session Chair: Prof. Michelle Esau - Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, UWC, South Africa



Prof. Abdullah Bayat - Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, UWC, South Africa



Prof. Isioma Ile - Professor at the School of Government Economic & Management Sciences Faculty, UWC, South Africa



Prof. Moenieba Isaacs - Academic Coordinator, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), UWC, South Africa



Prof. Derek Yu - Professor of Economics, UWC, South Africa



Charles Adams - Lecturer, Department of Economics, UWC, South Africa



Dr. Simbarashe Murozvi - Contract Lecturer, Department of Economics, UWC, South Africa



Dr. Fazlyn Petersen - Senior Lecturer, UWC, South Africa



Lisle Svenson - Coordinator of Small Business Clinic, UWC, South Africa



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Panel Sessions Overview

- Panel Session 1: Education, Entrepreneurship, Economic and Social Development
- Panel Session 2: Policy Formation for Entrepreneurial Learning
- Session 3: Special Session on Entrepreneurship Education: A South African Perspective on Supporting Small-Business Development
- Panel Session 4: Ecosystem Value Creation through Education and Entrepreneurship
- Panel Session 5: Transdisciplinarity and Entrepreneurship
- Panel Session 6: Education, Coaching and Learning for Entrepreneurship Panel
- Panel Session 7: UWC Special Session on the Faculty Handbook of Entrepreneurship Education

Please note: ***Panel Sessions*** are interactive discussions featuring invited experts on specific themes, while

Presentation Sessions involve individual speakers presenting their accepted research papers.

DAY 1. THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
08.30 - 09.30	Registration		
09.30 - 10.30	Opening of the Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome to UWCWelcome to the SBDG Chair in EntrepreneurshipWelcome to the 21st IEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Monwabisi Knowledge Ralarala - Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of the Western Cape, SAProf. Chux Gervase Iwu - SBDG Chair in Entrepreneurship, University of the Western Cape, SAProf. Jay Mitra - Founder, International Entrepreneurship Forum (IEF) & Visiting Professor of Leuphana University, Germany	Prof. Chux Gervase Iwu & Prof. Jay Mitra
10.30 - 11.15	Keynote Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Honorable Stella Tembisa Ndabeni - Minister of Small Business Development, Government of South Africa	
11.15 - 12.00	Keynote 1 WHEN HOPE MEETS ACTION: Facilitating Systemic Change, Inclusive Growth, and Transformation Where It Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Ruben Richards - Executive Mayor of Cederberg Local Municipality, Cape Town, SA	Prof. Chux Gervase Iwu
12.00 - 12.30	Coffee Break		

DAY 1. THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
12.30 - 13.30	Panel Session 1 Education, Entrepreneurship, Economic and Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr. Lance Greyling - Director of Economic Development and Investment Department, Economic Growth Directorate, Cape Town, SAMr. John Edward Peters - Chief Director at Department of Economic Development and Tourism (Western Cape), Cape Town, SAMr. Bongumusa Biyela - Regional Manager of Western Cape at National Empowerment Fund, Cape Town, SADr. Thobekani Lose - Director and Senior Researcher at the Mandela University Africa HUB, Nelson Mandela University, SA	Prof. Chux Gervase Iwu
13.30 - 14.30	Lunch Break		
14.30 - 15.45	Presentation Session 1 (Parallel with Presentation Session 2) Entrepreneurship Education and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Prof. Isioma Ile - Professor at the School of Government, Economic and Management Science Faculty, University of the Western Cape, SADr. Jeremiah Machingambi - Post Doctoral Research Fellow, University of the Western Cape, SAMr. Thembinkosi Maphosa - PhD Student, University of the Western Cape, SA	Prof. Isioma Ile
14.30 - 15.45	Presentation Session 2 (Parallel with Presentation Session 1) Contexts, Processes and Situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dr. Elona Nobukhosi Ndlovu - Executive and Entrepreneurial Coach, BizPreneur, SAMs. Silindile Mkize - Student, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SAMs. Salu Yekela - Lecturer, Central University of Technology, Free State, SAMs. Gloriah Molefe - Lecturer, Central University of Technology, Free State, SA	Dr. Elona Nobukhosi Ndlovu
15.45 - 16.15	Coffee Break		



DAY 1. THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
16.15	Panel Session 2		
-	Policy Formation for Entrepreneurial Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Edwell Gumbo - Director of Entrepreneurship (EDHE) at Universities South Africa (USAf), SA• Prof. Vivienne Lawack - Professor of Fintech Law and Regulation, Department of Mercantile & Labour Law, Faculty of Law, University of the Western Cape, SA• Prof. George Saridakis - Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship and Head of the Department of Marketing, Entrepreneurship and International Business at Kent University, UK• Dr. Bridget Irene - Senior Lecturer in Business Management School of Leadership, Management & Marketing, Leicester Castle Business School, UK• Dr. Simon Michael Taylor - Senior Lecturer, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, Durban, SA	Dr. Edwell Gumbo
17.15	End of Conference Day 1		
18.00	Cocktail Reception with Live Jazz Band		
-	Venue: School of Public Health Foyer, University of the Western Cape, SA (Same location as the conference venue)		
21.00			



DAY 2. FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
9.30 - 10.15	Keynote 2 Ecosystems of Learning: The Urban Dividend	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Zoltan Acs - Director of the VIGS Institute, Vienna, Austria and Professor Emeritus of George Mason University, USA	Prof. Jay Mitra
10.15 - 10.45	Panel Session 3 Special Session on Entrepreneurship Education: A South African Perspective on Supporting Small-Business Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Michelle Esau - Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, University of the Western Cape, SA	Prof. Michelle Esau
10.45 - 11.15	Coffee Break		
11.15 - 12.15	Panel Session 4 Ecosystem Value Creation through Education and Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Marcus Dejardin (join online) - Professor (Professeur Ordinaire) of Economics at the Université Catholique de Louvain and the Université de Namur, Belgium• Prof. Isioma Ile - Professor at the School of Government, Economic and Management Science Faculty, University of the Western Cape, SA• Ms. Lisle Svenson - Coordinator of Small Business Clinic, University of the Western Cape, SA• Prof. Beatrice Opeolu - Founder & Director, BEE Solutions and Consultancy Services, Cape Town, SA	Prof. Isioma Ile



DAY 2. FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
12.15 - 13.15	Panel Session 5 Transdisciplinarity and Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Patient Rambe - Director of Centre for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Studies, Central University of Technology, Free State, SA• Mr. Luvuyo Rani - Co-Founder of Silulo Ulutho Technologies, Cape Town, SA• Prof. Sarika Pruthi - Professor of Entrepreneurship, San Jose State University, California, USA• Prof. Roderick J. Lawrence (join online) - Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland• Prof. Jay Mitra - Founder, International Entrepreneurship Forum, UK and Visiting Professor, Luneburg University, Germany• Prof. Piero Formica (join online) - Thought Leader and a Senior Research Fellow of the Innovation Value Institute at Maynooth University, Ireland and Professor of Knowledge Economics at the MOIM, Open Innovation Management, University of Padua, Italy	Prof. Sarika Pruthi
13.15 - 14.15	Lunch Break		
14.15 - 15.30	Presentation Session 3 (Parallel with Presentation Session 4) Ecosystems of Entrepreneurial Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Ayansola Olatunji Ayandibu - Associate Professor and Head of Business Management Department, University of Zululand, SA• Dr. Chuene Alfred Semono - Project Specialist, Nelson Mandela University, SA• Dr. Lindiwe (Malindi) Kunene - Senior Lecturer of Management and Entrepreneurship Discipline, SME Strategy and Governance Expert, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, SA• Dr. Christiana Kappo-Abidemi - Senior Lecturer, University of Mpumalanga, SA• Ms. Gina Nomcebo - Student, GIBS, University of Pretoria, SA	Dr. Thobekani Lose

DAY 2. FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025



TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
14.15 - 15.30	Presentation Session 4 (Parallel with Presentation Session 3) Psychology and Sociology of Entrepreneurial Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Ulrich Schmitt - Professor Extraordinaire, Stellenbosch Business School, SA• Dr. Simon Michael Taylor - Senior Lecturer, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, SA• Dr. Emmanuel Zhanda - Lecturer, Botho University, Lesotho• Dr. Relebohile Makara - Lecturer, Botho University, Lesotho• Ms. Ndileka Bala - Lecturer, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, SA• Ms. Rucresia Venacio - Associate Lecturer, University of Mpumalanga, SA	Dr. Bridget Irene
15.30 - 16.30	Panel Session 6 Education, Coaching and Learning for Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Elona Nobukhosi Ndlovu - Executive and Entrepreneurial Coach, BizPreneur, SA• Dr. Lindiwe (Malindi) Kunene - Senior Lecturer of Management and Entrepreneurship Discipline, SME Strategy and Governance Expert, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, SA• Prof. Thea Van der Westhuizen - Academic Leader for High Impact Community Engagement and Internationalisation, School of Commerce, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA• Mr. Nick Hixson (join online) - Director, Hixsons, Chartered Certified Accountants, Bournemouth, UK	Dr. Elona Nobukhosi Ndlovu
16.30 - 17.00	Coffee Break		
17.00 - 18.00	Panel Session 7 Special Panel on the Faculty Handbook of Entrepreneurship Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Isioma Ile - Professor at the School of Government, Economic and Management Science Faculty, University of the Western Cape, SA• Prof. Moenieba Isaacs - Professor and Academic Coordinator, University of the Western Cape, SA• Prof. Abdullah Bayat - Professor, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, University of the Western Cape, SA• Prof. Derek Yu - Professor in Economics, University of the Western Cape, SA• Dr. Fazlyn Petersen - Senior Lecturer, University of the Western Cape, SA• Dr. Simbarashe Murozvi - Contract Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the Western Cape, SA• Ms. Lisle Svenson - Coordinator of Small Business Clinic, University of the Western Cape, SA• Mr. Charles Adams - Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of the Western Cape, SA	Prof. Michelle Esau



DAY 2. FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME	PROGRAMME	SPEAKERS/ PANELISTS	CHAIR
18.00			
-	Closing Remarks		Prof. Chux
18.15			Gervase Iwu & Prof. Jay Mitra
18.15		END OF CONFERENCE	
19.00	Conference Dinner		
-	Venue: Nuovo Restaurant & Bar, Hotel Verde – Cape Town Airport.		
22.00	Address: 15 Michigan St, Airport Industria, Cape Town, 7490, South Africa		



DAY 3. SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2025

The 20th of September is reserved for an **optional, self-funded** social programme, offering participants the opportunity to explore the rich culture and natural beauty of Cape Town. In partnership with **African Eagle Daytours**, we are pleased to offer a selection of recommended sightseeing experiences, including visits to:

- Robben Island
- Table Mountain
- Bo-Kaap
- Cape Town city tour
- Full-day Cape Peninsula tour

African Eagle Daytours will have a dedicated registration table at the conference venue, where interested participants can sign up for the tour of their choice directly with their team. This is a wonderful way to enrich your IEF experience and connect informally with fellow delegates while exploring one of the most scenic regions in the world.

CHOICE OF PUBLICATION ROUTE

ROUTE 1

Summative essays on specific topics addressing the sub-themes of the Palgrave 'Encyclopaedia of Entrepreneurship'.

Summative essays need only be submitted after the conference and no later than **31 December 2025**.

Contributors choosing this route are likely to be assured of publication in the Palgrave 'Encyclopaedia of Entrepreneurship' subject to a final peer review process conducted by Thematic Editors and the Editor-in-Chief of the Encyclopaedia. *(see next page)*

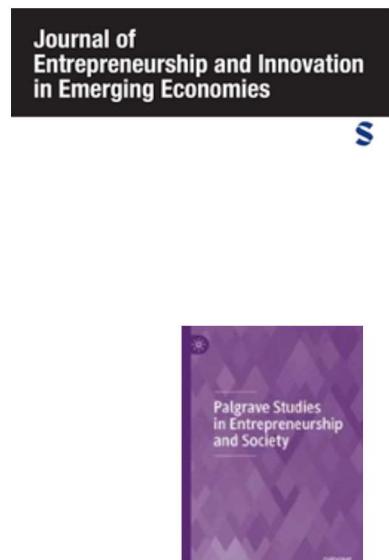
ROUTE 2

Standard refereed papers for publication in journals *(see next page)* subject to peer review.

ROUTE 3

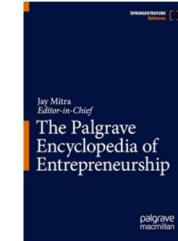
Chapters in monograph as part of the new Palgrave series: 'Entrepreneurship and Society'. *(see next page)*

Publications of Conference Papers: Potential Journals and Monograph Chapters



Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies (JEIEE)

Palgrave Encyclopedia of Entrepreneurship



Palgrave 'Entrepreneurship in Society' Monograph Series



CONFERENCE VIGNETTE SERIES

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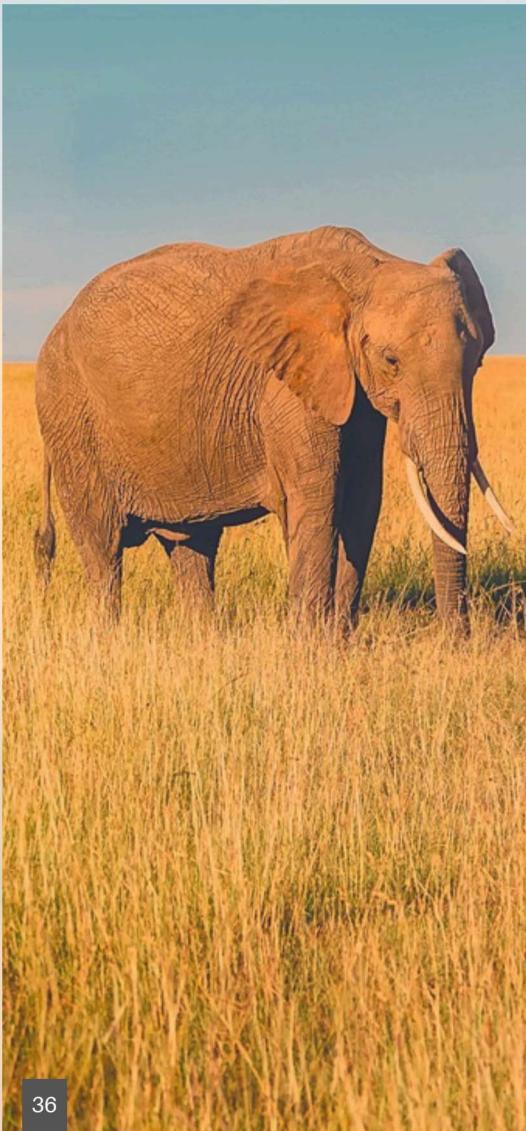
With little over a month to go, we would like to share our ideas and thoughts for our 21st IEF, all narrated in the form of little vignettes over the next few weeks. We hope these insights will help those of you attending the event to inform your presentations and discussions while contributing to new meanings, extending the scope of entrepreneurship, innovation, ecosystems and learning. For those who are not going to join us, we hope these vignettes could trigger new ideas of your own.

Welcome to our story.

Jay Mitra and Chux Iwu

”

VIGNETTE



**The 21st IEF
Entrepreneurial
Learning Journey**

The International Entrepreneurship Forum (IEF), based in the UK, returns to South Africa after two decades reigniting a partnership with the University of the Western Cape to host the 21st IEF conference in the enchanting surroundings of Cape Town in South Africa. We do so with a sense of purpose, a review of what has been achieved and a strong motivation to engage in new discourse in education, entrepreneurship and ecosystem value creation, through entrepreneurial learning for people, organisations and in the wider environment.

Entrepreneurial people create entrepreneurial organisations. They do so in environments that are deemed entrepreneurial. If this assumption holds, we can further opine that learning how best to optimise their efforts, their entrepreneurial endeavour, and their resourcefulness for generating new ideas and creating new products and organisations, are all necessary

components of the entrepreneurship process. In other words, the act of creating a new venture can be construed as a learning process, suggesting a movement from an antecedent characterized by an accumulated stock of knowledge, experience and ideas to another level identifiable by a marked difference in that position. Such a movement confers some advantages, some gain and fresh insight (Mitra, 2020)[1].

Watch this space.

[1] Mitra, J., 2020. *'Entrepreneurship and Learning. Ch.9 :pgs 248-282 in 'Entrepreneurship, innovation and regional development: an introduction. Abingdon: Routledge*



The 21st IEF
VIGNETTE
Education and
Entrepreneurship

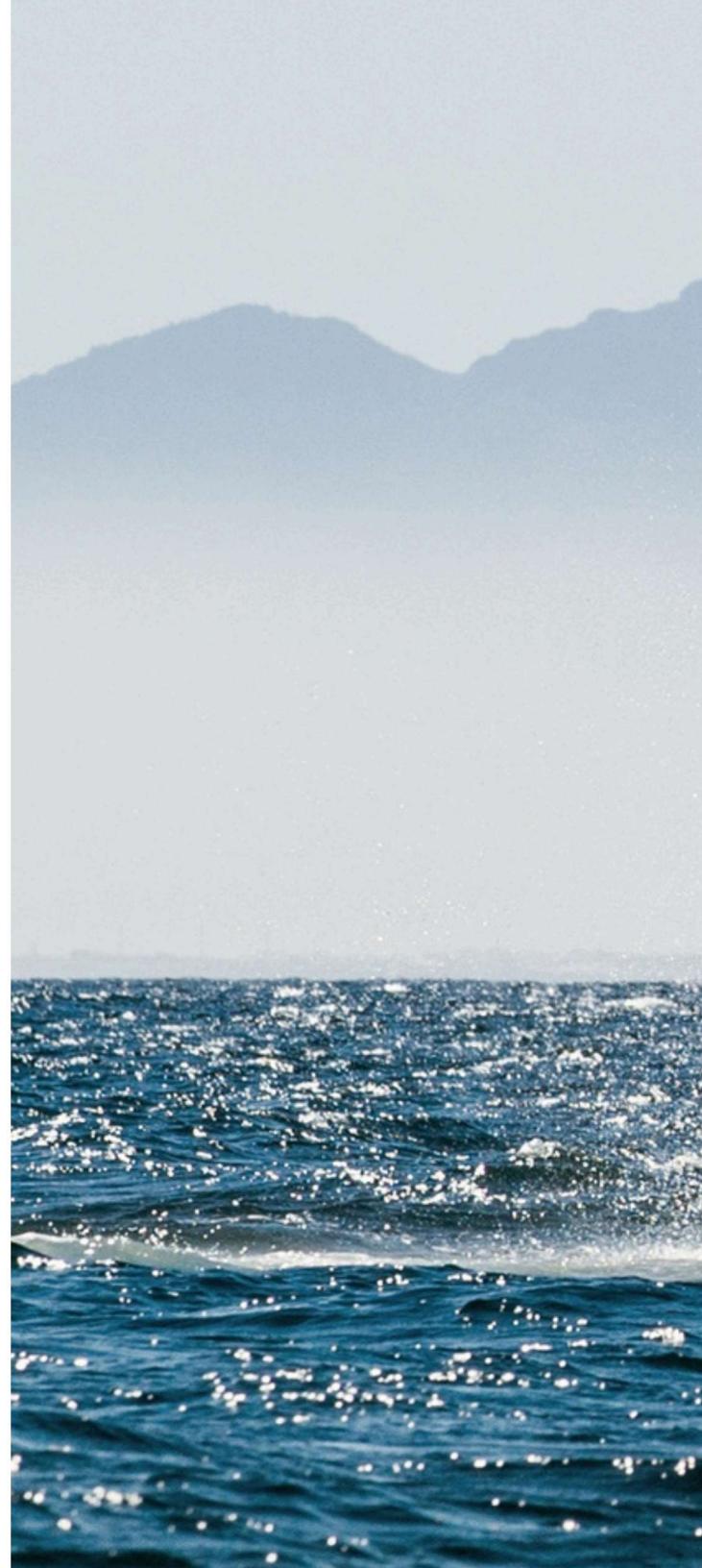


Reflecting on learning brings us back to the central role of education, raising further questions of the possible connection between education and entrepreneurship. It is argued that formal education can be correlated with entrepreneurial activity and success, but this correlation is not the same as causation. Correlation implies that there are other related factors which prevail in the wider economy and society, including the availability and use-value of appropriate technologies, hard and soft infrastructure, including support structures and networks, and what are often referred to as framework conditions. Entrepreneurs' ability to use these conditions productively relies on four critical factors - the ecosystem in which these conditions obtain, the human capital they are able to accumulate, the social capital which they are able to draw on, and the wellbeing they are able to generate as outputs alongside new products and services.

The criticality of human capital to economic growth and wellbeing is well recognized by numerous writers (Schumpeter, 1934[1]; Romer, 1990[2]; Mankiw et al., 1992[3]; Gennaioli et al., 2013[4]. As Ahn and Winters (2023)[5] observe, individuals with scarce or inimitable knowledge and skills are best able to recognize opportunities and develop creative capabilities. But this knowledge and skills set can be acquired through both formal and informal modes of learning. Formal education underpins received wisdom on the value of human capital and is often correlated with entrepreneurship measures, (Lofstrom et al, 2014)[6] with both observable, tangible, and measurable features. But there is also the role of unobservable, intangible and often immeasurable characteristics such as aspiration, ambition, cognitive capability, efficacy, effectuation, etc., sometimes garnered in both formal and informal settings. We, therefore, appreciate connections and interlinkages of

numerous factors, between forms of education and learning, modes, and pedagogies, multi, cross and transdisciplinary conduits of knowledge creation and its evolution.

- [1] Schumpeter, J. (1912/1934). *The theory of economic development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- [2] Romer, P.M., 1990. *Endogenous technological change*. *Journal of political Economy*, 98(5, Part 2), pp. S71-S102.
- [3] Mankiw, N.G., Romer, D. and Weil, D.N., 1992. A contribution to the empirics of economic growth. *The quarterly journal of economics*, 107(2), pp.407-437.
- [4] Gennaioli, N., La Porta, R., Lopez-de-Silanes, F. and Shleifer, A., 2013. Human capital and regional development. *The Quarterly journal of economics*, 128(1), pp.105-164.
- [5] Ahn, K. and Winters, J.V., 2023. Does education enhance entrepreneurship? *Small Business Economics*, 61(2), pp.717-743.
- [6] Lofstrom, M., Bates, T. and Parker, S.C., 2014. Why are some people more likely to become small-businesses owners than others: *Entrepreneurship entry and industry-specific barriers*. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 29(2), pp.232-251.







The 21st IEF
VIGNETTE
Ecosystems of
Entrepreneurial Learning



The quantum of education and learning for entrepreneurship can only find realisable economic, social, and cultural value through the development of capabilities. The formation of capabilities as Sen (1990)[1] suggests, creates the possibility of fulfilling aspirations and ambitions enabled by institutional, economic, and social conditions.

A significant amount of writing in recent times has focused on the ecosystem (Stam, 2015[2]; Acs et al., 2017[3]; Dejardin, u. d[4]) and provided for the scaffolding of and the lubricants for the development of those capabilities. In ecosystems, entrepreneurs find access to partners, networks, resources, institutions, and a wealth of knowledge spillovers from both within and without, with which to augment their entrepreneurial achievements. Crucially, in these ecosystems they can leverage social capital and afford to learn from others, by connecting with others.

But what are ecosystems? What is their origin and what are their boundaries? How are they different from industrial districts, innovative milieux and clusters? Should we look at an equilibrium model of balanced ecosystems or a more nuanced approach of diverse types of successful and not-so-successful ecosystems (Komlosi, et al.2024[5]). Crucially, how do ecosystem players learn to interact optimally, efficiently, and effectively? Or why do they fail? We should try and seek answers to such questions to make sense of entrepreneurship and ecosystems.

[1] Sen, A., 1990. *Development as capability expansion. Human development and the international development strategy for the 1990s*, 1(1), pp.41-58.

[2] Stam, E., 2015. *Entrepreneurial ecosystems and regional policy: a sympathetic critique*. *European planning studies*, 23(9), pp.1759-1769.

[3] Acs, Z.J., Stam, E., Audretsch, D.B. and O'Connor, A., 2017. *The lineages of the entrepreneurial ecosystem approach*. *Small Business Economics*, 49(1), pp.1-10.

[4] Dejardin, M., *Les dynamiques entrepreneuriales en Wallonie Une mise en perspective à partir de la notion d'écosystème entrepreneurial*.

[5] Komlósi, É., Dejardin, M., Szerb, L. and Páger, B., 2024. *Is a balanced entrepreneurial ecosystem essential for success? A configurational analysis of European regional entrepreneurial ecosystems*. *The Journal of Technology Transfer*, pp.1-40.



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The
Technology
Question



At no point in time have ecosystems, institutions, and their people been subject to such an onslaught of technological development, notably with the advent of generations of artificial intelligence (AI). AI's growing power to impugn human creativity and reasoning unleashes prospects of a new apparatus of learning to transform the way we live and work. It questions how we could live and ambidextrously in the 'real' and the 'virtual' world, how we make and use goods and services in both worlds, how we manage or mitigate the problems associated with climate change or even world order.

In our context, AI questions the meaning and scope of entrepreneurship as it weaves a new spell of education and learning for change. But could AI be used simply as a tool to augment productive entrepreneurial work or could its nascent power buttress the seductive power of destructive entrepreneurs (Shepherd and Majchrzak 2022)[1]; Fossen et al.,

2024[2]). More importantly, could Generative AI create opportunities for new enterprise creation beyond the scope of our imagination?

But it is not just AI we need to think about. We should explore the ecosystem of digital technologies and the underpinning world of software that work with each other to drive and sometimes direct what we learn from digital texts, YouTube, X or TickTok. Our hands and brains carry more technological power than any of the platforms listed here, and the power of entrepreneurship is in that human capacity for imagining our future.

[1] Shepherd, D.A. and Majchrzak, A., 2022. *Machines augmenting entrepreneurs: Opportunities (and threats) at the Nexus of artificial intelligence and entrepreneurship*. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 37(4), p.106227.

[2] Fossen, F.M., McLemore, T. and Sorgner, A., 2024. *Artificial intelligence and entrepreneurship. Foundations and Trends® in Entrepreneurship*, 20(8), pp.781-904.



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**Citizenship
Engagement and
Entrepreneurial
Learning**



Considering the speed with which the global economy is evolving, citizen engagement becomes an important route to shaping new forms of entrepreneurship and learning (Mitra et al. 2020)[1]. Part of the reason for this rapidly evolving global economy is due to the rise of digital technology, decentralized platforms – social media, MOOCs, and community-based innovation initiatives such as those focused on education, nutrition, and security.

These innovations dismantle the traditional barriers to entry allowing citizens to actively participate in shaping economic and educational landscapes. Thus, new forms of entrepreneurship such as startups are increasingly driven by citizens who do not only seek profit but also social impact (De Silva & Wright, 2019; Dees, 2008)[2]. Their efforts are evident in innovation hubs, and online spaces where ideas – often neglected as a useful resource – are shared. These spaces foster inclusive economic development, promote sustainability, and address local and global challenges (Abrahams, 2021)[3].

Essentially, learning is now co-created.

Education and learning for entrepreneurship can no longer rely on formal institutions. Digital technology, decentralized platforms extend self-directed, lifelong learning opportunities without traditional constraints (Janthapass, Chanthapassa, & Kenaphoom, 2024)[4]. Admitting that these constraints exist does not preclude the value of these intersections in civic participation, and in shaping future economies and education systems. We need to ensure therefore that we have environments that support collaboration, access, and active participation as the years go by.

[1] Mitra, J., Sokolowicz, M., Weisenfeld, U., Kurczewska, A., & Tegtmeier, S. (2020). *Citizen entrepreneurship: A conceptual picture of the inclusion, integration and engagement of citizens in the entrepreneurial process*. *Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Emerging Economies*, 6(2), 242-260.

[2] De Silva, M., & Wright, M. (2019). *Entrepreneurial co-creation: societal impact through open innovation*. *R&D Management*, 49(3), 318-342.

[3] Abrahams, L. (2021). *Innovation and scaling by tech hubs and their hosted startups: Three South African cases* (No. 26). Working Paper.

[4] Janthapass, S., Chanthapassa, N., & Kenaphoom, S. (2024). *The evolution of lifelong learning: From traditional classrooms to anywhere, anytime education*. *Asian Education and Learning Review*, 2(1), 42-54.



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Entrepreneurial
Education and
Learning

Iwu et al. (2021)[1] wrote that recourse to entrepreneurship should be seen as a possible antidote for confronting the high unemployment rate that has plagued South Africa. Nhleko and van der Westhuizen (2022)[2] even pointed out that in today's dynamic global landscape, the need for entrepreneurial skills and mindsets is more pressing than ever. The general sense one gets is that entrepreneurship education and learning are vital elements for shaping emerging economies, driving local innovation, and empowering individuals. They foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills necessary to address complex societal challenges in today's increasingly complex world.

By allowing vast spaces for nurturing valuable skills and learning needed to navigate the complexities of the modern local economy, a generation of innovators and changemakers contribute to their communities making socioeconomic development possible. Equally significant in the larger entrepreneurship ecosystem are business owners/mentors and higher education institutions (Mazzarol, 2014)

[3]. Entrepreneurship education is not merely about teaching business concepts; it is about empowering individuals to think creatively, solve problems, and seize opportunities.

At the 21st IEF Conference, the coming together of educators, policymakers, and stakeholders in enhancing entrepreneurship education and learning for productive socioeconomic development outcomes facilitates the sharing of successful models, innovative practices, and critical analyses. These diverse voices and experiences aim to create a useful resource that informs practice and policy in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation.

[1] Iwu, C. G., Opute, P. A., Nchu, R., Eresia-Eke, C., Tengeh, R. K., Jaiyeoba, O., & Aliyu, O. A. (2021). *Entrepreneurship education, curriculum and lecturer-competency as antecedents of student entrepreneurial intention*. *The International Journal of Management Education*, 19(1), 100295.

[2] Nhleko, Y., & van der Westhuizen, T. (2022). *The role of higher education institutions in introducing entrepreneurship education to meet the demands of industry 4.0*. *Academy of Entrepreneurship Journal*, 28(1), 1-23.

[3] Mazzarol, T. (2014) *Growing and sustaining entrepreneurial ecosystems: What they are and the role of government policy*, White Paper WP01-2014, Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand (SEAANZ).



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Entrepreneurship,
Value Creation, and
Societal Wellbeing

We value entrepreneurs for the products, services, and organisations they create, and through these outputs the impact they have on the economy. Policy makers yearn for job creation and the improvement of the stock of assets in an economy, businesses look for fertile economic conditions, consumers seek efficient and economically satisfying goods and services. Citizens seek a fair, clean and nurturing environment, and increasingly an engagement with the values that drive the places we live in. Each of these potential outcomes embody an understanding of society where wellbeing matters as much as GDP. They enjoin our institutions to seek a continuous and adaptable approach to entrepreneurship, education, value creation, and wellbeing in society.

Yet, the association with exploitation, misappropriation and sleaze still hangs loosely with entrepreneurial behaviour and action. That journey down the slippery road from unproductive to destructive

entrepreneurship is equally dependent on the same institutions and opportunities as productive entrepreneurship [1]. Just sometimes we are dazzled or blinded by the chutzpah or flamboyance of high-octane entrepreneurship. More reason, therefore, to highlight the importance of critical entrepreneurship education and learning.

[1] Baumol, W.J., 1996. *Entrepreneurship: Productive, unproductive, and destructive*. *Journal of business venturing*, 11(1), pp.3-22.



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The Cultural Value of
Entrepreneurship
Education

8

At this 21st IEF conference we offer you the opportunity to collaborate with us to construct a new pathway to making education entrepreneurial, and entrepreneurship education (EE) to mean more than nuanced learning about starting or growing a venture. To borrow from the great Wole Soyinka let us try and determine the cultural value of EE, where culture "is a matrix of infinite possibilities and choices" [1].

As with culture we can extract or derive arguments and strategies about entrepreneurship for the detriment and ennoblement of our society, for its oppression or liberation, for the dumbing down of its productive potential or its enhancement (with apologies to Wole Soyinka)[2]. This multi-faceted approach to entrepreneurship (and entrepreneurship education and learning in particular) as a cultural asset has led us to curate the conference with diverse themes embracing its anthropological, economic, social, psychological,

technological dimensions. We do so not within the narrow echo chambers of academia but in the company of friends and "outsiders" from across divergent stakeholder communities. And crucially, we wish to turn the axis of deliberation from its routine Western environment towards a more inclusive, African-led direction as we exchange ideas and empirics in the beautiful surroundings of Cape Town in South Africa.

Consider the 21st IEF platform and our days together as a transformative experience.

[1] https://www.azquotes.com/author/13902-Wole_Soyinka

[2] Soyinka, W., 1990. *Myth, literature, and the African world*. Cambridge University Press.

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- Standard Conference Fee (International Delegates): UK **£275**
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- Conference Dinner: UK **£30**



- Conference fees for all delegates include, 2 x lunches, 4 x tea/coffee/refreshments, the conference pack, and the cocktail reception, only.
- The cost for dinner and social visits are not included in the conference fee .
- List of low-income countries is taken from the [World Bank](#).



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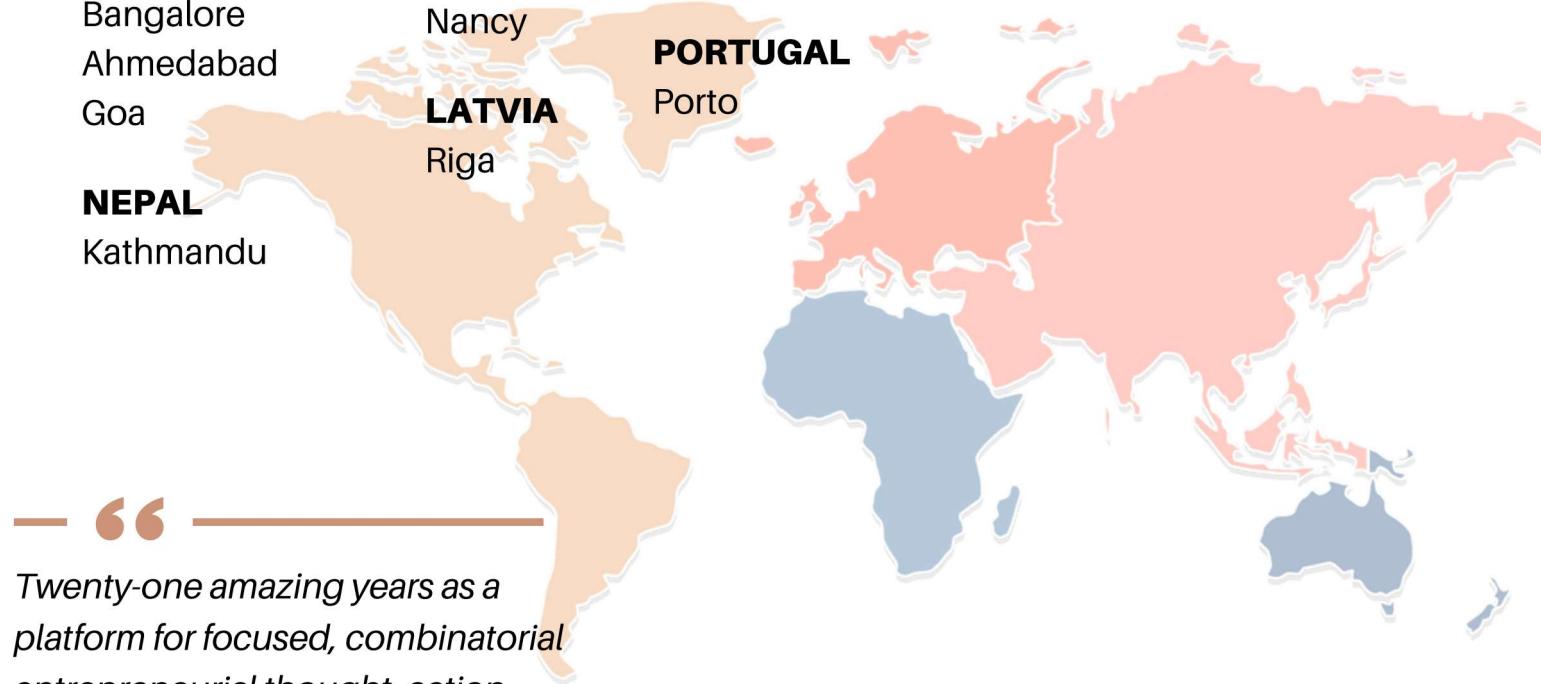
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