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VARIETY IN FOUNDER EXPERIENCE AND THE PERFORMANCE OF KNOWLEDGE- INTENSIVE INNOVATIVE FIRMS

**Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna | Pisa,
Aula 3 14:00
18 Aprile 2019**

**A meeting with:
Maureen McKelvey, *Professor of Industrial
Management, University of Gothenburg, Sweden***

Abstract:

The contribution focuses on the specific linkages between knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship for industrial dynamics, within the emerging literature upon knowledge-intensive innovative entrepreneurial (KIE) firms. We find a distinct variety in the usefulness of different types of founder experience (single or teams) in the performance of entrepreneurial firms. This variety affects selection in the economy, as measured by the performance of firms in a two-stage process – namely first by analyzing survival over time and then of high growth rates. We do so in order to consider averages/probabilities in the population using Cox regression as well as of the outliers, using quantile regression. Founders having previously started firms or worked in the same industry are more likely to survive. However, high-growth firms have founders who previously started firms or worked in universities. Our interpretation is that the variety of founder experience affect selection processes, and thereby fundamentally affect whether, and to what extent, entrepreneurial actions lead to industrial transformation.



Maureen McKelvey is Professor of Industrial Management, Deputy Head of Department of Economy and Society, and Head of Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Gothenburg. Her research focuses on the development and use of knowledge at the interplay between innovation economics and management with science and engineering. An underlying theoretical proposition from an evolutionary and Schumpeterian paradigm is that innovation and entrepreneurship are closely related to processes of creating, accessing, and diffusing knowledge and opportunities. McKelvey's full publication list includes 44 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 3 monographs, 11 edited books and 60 book chapters published by leading international publishers, including Routledge, Oxford, Cambridge, and Edward Elgar. Professor McKelvey has had high level positions in expert groups and written reports, for Swedish organizations as well as for the OECD and EU.

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