EXPLORING EXPATRIATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SUMMARY)

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**SUMMARY**

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**Principal Topic**

Entrepreneurship literature has indicated that networks are an important resource that facilitate emergence and growth of new ventures. The frequent absence of networks has been heralded as major obstacle for immigrant entrepreneurs when considering launching a firm. In this study we explore whether this assumptions also holds for individuals who move to another country to establish a firm, entrepreneurs’ whom we define as “Expatriate Entrepreneurs”. This type of entrepreneurship has lately gotten considerable attention with the introduction of policy programs in e.g. Chile and Denmark, which offer visas to entrepreneurs from other countries. In our study, we investigate the role of entrepreneurs’ networks when they move to another country to establish their business. We identified entrepreneurs that have moved to other countries and shortly after moving established a company. Our main research question is as follows: “What role do networks play for expatriate entrepreneurs and does it differ from other types of immigrant entrepreneurs?”

**Method**

Multiple cases were used to study how the networks of expatriate entrepreneurs differ from other types of immigrant entrepreneurs. We use semi-structured interviews to understand the role of expatriate entrepreneurs and to analyse their networks at different stages during the development of their ventures.

**Contribution**

This paper explores the distinctiveness and boundary conditions of a new phenomenon – expatriate entrepreneurship. Our emerging theoretical framework reveals that expatriate entrepreneurs are distinct from immigrant entrepreneurs. We therefore foresee the need to complement the existing typology in immigrant entrepreneurship with expatriate entrepreneurship. Moreover, we show that networks of expatriate entrepreneurs differ from other types of immigrant entrepreneurs. We contribute to entrepreneurship literature by describing in detail the expatriate entrepreneurship phenomenon and discussing how the role of networks differs between expatriate entrepreneurs and other entrepreneurs.

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