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FUTURE ANXIETY, COPING STRATEGIES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION... “WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?” (SUMMARY)

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ENTREPRENEURIAL COGNITION

SUMMARY

FUTURE ANXIETY, COPING STRATEGIES AND ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION...
“WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?”

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Principal Topic

Research on entrepreneurial intention is really prolific and mostly focuses on how individual ground their intention to create a company depending on their age (Kautonen et al., 2013), their social status (Fayolle & Gally, 2009) and other psychological variables (Kolvereid, 1996; Autio et al., 1997; Krueger et al., 2000; Von Gelderen et al., 2008). However, despite the identification of the link that exists between the perception an individual can have on his environment and his entrepreneurial intention, studies on the formation of entrepreneurial intention within different contexts have not been conducted yet and open a wide avenue for future research on entrepreneurial intention (Kautonen et al., 2013). Based on a TPB model (Azjen, 1991) and the latest adaptation developed Kautonen et al. (2013), this research focuses on entrepreneurial intention within highly uncertain environments and the impact of anxiety about the future individuals may have on their entrepreneurial intention and the antecedents that determine this entrepreneurial intention. Therefore this paper aims at answering two research questions: First, what is the impact of anxiety about the future on entrepreneurial intention and its antecedents? Second, to what extent can entrepreneurial intention be considered as the result of a coping strategy for fighting anxiety about the future?

Method

We ground our analysis on the study of the young generation (18 - 30 years) in Tunisia. First a questionnaire on anxiety, coping strategies and entrepreneurial intention, based on the constructs proposed by Kautonen et al. (2013) and Kolvereid (1996) for entrepreneurial intention (and antecedents), Muller & Spitz (2003) for coping strategies and Zaleski (1996) and Urien (2002) for anxiety about the future, has been tested within a focus group composed of 12 Tunisians who were between 18 and 25 years old. Second, a pilot study has been conducted on a sample of 300 young Tunisians. Third, the revised questionnaire has been administered in the whole Tunisian country. In total, 1500 respondents completely fulfilled the questionnaire.

Results/Implications

The analysis (with IBM SPSS 22 Software) confirmed the robustness and reliability of the different scales. A first regression conducted on the pilot study shows that the structural model is globally significant. Thus, Anxiety about the future impacts the entrepreneurial intention while coping strategies simultaneously impact the antecedents of the entrepreneurial intention.

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