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HOW ANXIETY TOWARD FUTURE INFLUENCES ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION THE MEDIATING ROLE OF RELIGIOUS COPING (SUMMARY)

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~ SUMMARY ~

HOW ANXIETY TOWARD FUTURE INFLUENCES ENTREPRENEURIAL INTENTION THE MEDIATING ROLE OF RELIGIOUS COPING

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Principle Topic

The starting point of our study is entrepreneurial intention. The research on this topic 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, researches on the formation of entrepreneurial intention within different contexts are still missing and open a wide avenue for future research on entrepreneurial intention (Kautonen et al., 2013).

Based on the TPB model (Ajzen, 1991) and the latest adaptations that have been developed by Kautonen et al. (2013), this research focuses on entrepreneurial intention within highly uncertain environments. It also focuses on the impact of anxiety about the future individuals might develop on their entrepreneurial intention and the antecedents that determine this entrepreneurial intention within such an atmosphere.

Method

We state that the context, and, more precisely, the perception the individual has on the context directly influences entrepreneurial intention. That is why we mobilize the concept of anxiety about the future. This concept is the result of a cognitivist process that leads to pessimistic behavior (Epstein, 1972; Hamilton, 1975; Bandura, 1991; Eysenck, 1992; Zaleski, 1997; Urien, 2000). To reduce it or to simply cope with it, Individuals develop different strategies (Folkman & Lazarus, 1980; Partouche, 2013) such as planning, humor... In order to fight anxiety about the future, the literature mentions some coping strategies (religion, consumption of illicit substances or actions that aims at destroying or creating things).

While “coping strategies” is a concept that has been already mobilized in the literature in entrepreneurship (Jennings & McDougald, 2007), entrepreneurship as a strategy to cope anxiety for the future remains underdeveloped.

Results and Implications

In the same vein, even if the premises of the research on entrepreneurship are based on the statement that religion impacts entrepreneurial attitude & facts (Weber, 1921), This research explores an emerging field within the literature in entrepreneurship and the role that religion, and more globally speaking, spirituality plays in entrepreneurship (Dodd & Gotsis, 2007; Dana). Therefore, here, we focus on the impact of religious engagement on entrepreneurship within a specific context of economic, political and familial uncertainty that could generate anxiety as regards to the future. Literature review on these topic leads us to raise the following questions: What is the impact of religiosity and religious engagement on entrepreneurial intention, as coping strategy for facing anxiety about the future?

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