



CALL FOR PAPERS

38th Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference (BCERC)

Co-sponsored by

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), School of Business,
Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE),
and the

Irish Network for Teachers and Researchers of Entrepreneurship (INTRE), in
Waterford, Ireland, June 6-9, 2018

Abstract Submission Deadline: October 18, 2017

Doctoral Consortium Application Submission Deadline: December 6, 2017

Please join the world's leading researchers and Babson College for the 38th Babson College Entrepreneurship Research Conference (BCERC), co-sponsored by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), School of Business, Centre for Enterprise Development and Regional Economy (CEDRE), and the Irish Network for Teachers and Researchers of Entrepreneurship (INTRE), in Waterford, Ireland, June 6-9, 2018.

The conference is scheduled to begin on Wednesday evening, June 6, 2018 with a welcome reception. The conference sessions begin on Thursday, June 7, and end on Saturday, June 9, 2018.

The Doctoral Consortium held in conjunction with the BCERC is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, June 6, and end on Saturday June 9, 2018.

FOCUS AND OBJECTIVE

The focus of the conference is on cutting-edge empirical research in progress. The conference is not a forum for research on topics where entrepreneurship or venture creation is a side issue or where the focus is on small business management. We are looking for cutting-edge research that will advance the field in significant ways.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR THE 2018 BCERC

- Abstracts should not exceed two Single-spaced pages, and may not exceed the maximum limit of 900 words.
- We will use a *double-blind review process*. To facilitate the blind review process, the author(s) name and information should NOT appear anywhere on the abstract. We will keep track of abstracts using the computer generated number that you will receive when you submit your abstract.
- You can submit up to (2) two abstracts. If your name appears on more than (2) two abstracts, we will ask you to withdraw your name from the additional abstracts.
- No paper can have more than (5) five authors.
- All abstracts are to be submitted electronically on the BCERC website, www.bccerc.com. The on-line abstract submission site will open on September 13, 2017. The deadline for submitting an abstract is October 18, 2017.
- When submitting your abstract please be prepared to:
 - Enter the title of the abstract. Please Note: The title can be changed up to the

submission deadline date of October 18, 2017.

- In the appropriate field enter the contact information for ALL authors on the abstract: name, affiliation, and email address. Author information should not appear on the abstract.
- Choose a Main Topic from the list provided on the BCERC abstract submission site, and select the sub-topic that best reflects the content area of your abstract. The Main Topic and the sub-topic you select will be used in assigning reviewers and developing the conference program. If you are unsure, you can select "other."

All submissions will be acknowledged by email.

SUBMITTING ABSTRACT(S)

The following suggestions are provided in response to questions that have been previously asked on how to improve the chances that your abstract will be accepted.

The conference has 14 senior reviewers (Board of Reviewers) and a group of Ad-Hoc Reviewers. Every abstract is evaluated by two to four reviewers. While each reviewer makes independent judgments, there are some common threads that seem to distinguish accepted from rejected abstracts.

- The importance of the topic for entrepreneurship research and practice is explicit. These papers open up new research frontiers or offer new insights or perspectives that enrich discussion and discourse. Papers should address important, timely, and relevant topics.
- Papers should clearly explain the methods used to collect and analyze the data. Sources of data should also be clearly stated. It is also useful to state the current stage of data collection and when you expect to complete the data collection and analysis.
- If you are submitting an abstract on a continuing stream of research that you have presented at a previous conference, please explain **what is new** about the project in the abstract that you are submitting for the 2018 conference. Once you have presented a paper at a BCERC on a particular data set, it is less likely that the reviewers will accept another abstract on that same data if it is only a minor refinement of previous work (e.g., a more elaborate statistical analysis).
- The reviewers will consider the potential for completion of the work described in the abstract.
- Reviewers assume that authors of accepted abstracts entered with good faith and expect that the analysis proposed will be competently completed in time for the conference.
- Do not include references, tables, and the like in the abstract. Also, as noted elsewhere, your name or contact information should NOT appear anywhere in the abstract.

FRONTIERS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP RESEARCH (FER) BCERC PROCEEDINGS

The selection of papers for publication in *Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research BCERC Proceedings* is based on the completed paper due before the conference. Any paper accepted for the conference is a candidate for publication in *FER*. Papers will be peer reviewed by the 2018 Board of Reviewers. The top 40, 6-page abridged papers will be published in the 2018 issue of *FER*. The abridged papers are not copyrighted by BCERC, and authors

are free to publish the same material in any form in any venue with a notation that the work was presented at the 2018 BCERC and appears in *Frontiers of Entrepreneurship Research BCERC Proceedings*.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE

The three routes for participation in the research conference are:

1. The primary route is the submission and acceptance of a 2-page abstract on any topic dealing with entrepreneurship.

2. A second route for attendance is for habitual conference participants who select not to offer a paper for the 2018 BCERC. Any person with a total of four or more points from the preceding five years can request "non-author" admission. "Non-author" admission is based upon the extent of research contribution during the previous five years. Each author earns "points" as follows:

- One point is received for presenting a paper at a conference during the years 2013 – 2017.
- If the 6-page abridged paper is published in *FER*, the author receives another point.
- Regardless of the number of papers that are presented or published, an author may earn only one point in each category in any one year.

3. The third route is by invitation. Those who have not been active in the past and are not planning to present a research paper are asked to send a letter or email of interest directly to the Director: Andrew Zacharakis, at: zacharakis@babson.edu and a copy to: papavasiliou@babson.edu

The 2018 conference will be limited to 350 people. The conference fees for authors of abstracts accepted for presentation at the conference and for researchers who attend on "points" is \$800.00 USD. Once participants in these two categories have registered, special requests to attend the conference may be extended

to others who provide a letter or email of interest. The conference fee for invitation by special request is \$1,000.00 USD.

2018 BCERC BOARD OF REVIEWERS

Andrew Zacharakis, Babson College, USA, Director, BCERC

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Friederike Welter, University of Siegen, Germany

2018 CONFERENCE DEADLINES

It is essential that you submit your abstract, 1-page summary and your 6-page abridged paper by the deadline dates. All conference materials should be submitted as directed below:

September 13, 2017

Online Abstract Submission Site Opens

October 18, 2017

Abstract Submission Deadline

December 2017

Notification of Abstract Acceptance

December 6, 2017

Doctoral Consortium Application Deadline

March 2018

Receipt of the following submitted on the conference website, www.bcerc.com.

- 1-page 400 word summary. Instructions and guidelines will be sent with acceptance notification.
- Conference registration fee of \$800.00 drawn on a US bank or paid by credit card.

April 2018

The 6-page abridged paper. Instructions and guidelines will be sent with acceptance notification.

May 2018

Preliminary Conference Schedule will be posted on conference website.

June 6, 2018

Doctoral Consortium Program and Evening Welcome Reception.

June 6-9, 2018

BCERC, co-sponsored by Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT), School of Business, CEDRE and INTRE

September 2018

Selection of the 6-page abridged papers and Best Paper Awards for *FER 2018*.

FER 2018 will be available on -line at the end of September of 2019.

DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM

OBJECTIVES

The annual entrepreneurship Doctoral Consortium will provide 25 doctoral students intending to pursue research and teaching careers with the opportunity to:

- Gain insight into current research issues and methodologies in entrepreneurship through intense interaction with the consortium faculty.
- Meet leading research scholars in the entrepreneurship field and examine and discuss their latest endeavors.
- Meet and share strategies, challenges and experiences with other participants.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants should be currently enrolled in a program of doctoral studies with a concentration in entrepreneurship. Applicants will be evaluated based on their academic achievements, including publications and conference presentations. Preference will be given to those who are in the process of formulating a dissertation proposal or who will be doing so in 2018. When applying, students should be aware that they will be invited to attend only one BCERC Doctoral Consortium during their doctoral studies. We welcome applications from all countries. The Consortium will be conducted in English.

PROGRAM

Participants are required to attend the complete conference, as well as both sessions of the Doctoral Consortium.

The Doctoral Consortium begins on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. and concludes on Saturday afternoon, June 9, 2018. The research conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 7, and concludes on Saturday, June 9, around noon.

The pre-conference sessions will emphasize a discussion of research in entrepreneurship and the interests of the doctoral student participants. The post-conference sessions will discuss research in entrepreneurship drawn from their experiences at the Conference.

FEES, EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Doctoral Consortium Participants will be responsible for their own travel and incidental expenses. Babson College will provide a significantly discounted conference registration fee for the 25 best qualified applicants (projected to be \$700.00 discount meaning a conference fee of \$100.00). The conference registration fee includes the following: lunches and refreshment breaks during the consortium and conference, Wednesday and Thursday evening receptions, and the Friday evening reception and dinner.

Failure to attend the conference and all sessions of the Doctoral Consortium will result in withdrawal of the grant.

Additionally, you will be required to pay the full \$800.00 conference registration fee. Doctoral Consortium participants will receive all materials distributed to conference attendees.

HOW TO APPLY

There is no formal application form. Applications are to be submitted electronically on the BCERC website at www.bcerc.com. The deadline is: December 6, 2017.

If you do not have a password please click on the BCERC membership link to enter your contact information and generate a password.

An application consists of the following three documents:

1. A letter (no more than 1 page in length) requesting admission to the Doctoral Consortium. The letter of application should describe the applicant's qualifications, academic achievements (e.g. publications, presentations, etc.), research interests, and the present and planned topic/progress in the doctoral studies program so that we can schedule discussions with appropriate experienced scholars.
2. An up-to-date resume.
3. A statement from the Dean or an equivalent university official indicating that the applicant is a student in good standing in a doctoral program.

Note:

Doctoral candidates who are authors or co-authors of an accepted abstract do NOT automatically qualify for the Doctoral Consortium, but must apply for admission, as stated above.

Applications will be considered only when all THREE required documents above are received electronically via the BCERC website. Applicants will be notified at the end of January 2018.