

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

Title:Not Everything in the Garden is Rose: Entrepreneurial Failure in the Rural Third Sector
<p>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</p> <p>This paper presents six case studies of a variety of Third Sector Organisations within the rural economy. The cases all have one thing in common, they have all experienced ‘failure’. ‘Failure’, in this context is an expandable concept referring to both outright ‘failure’ of the third sector organisation, resulting in the organisation ceasing to trade, through to the ‘failure’ of a specific project, but, where the organisation continues to exist and continues to trade. ‘Failure’ itself is a contested domain, specifically in the entrepreneurial context where it is often argued that ‘failure’ is a learning experience and that nascent and serial entrepreneurs ‘learn’ from failure and hence ‘failure’ can be viewed as human capital. Yet often failure remains a negative emotion and when this occurs in communities and social organisations, it is unclear what happens in the lives of the stakeholders.</p>
<p>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</p> <p>The Paper builds on the established entrepreneurial learning literature and whilst it employs a multi-case study approach the actual methods involves the development of an interview guide which was employed to steer ‘the story telling’ approach. Due to logistical issues a variety of interview techniques were employed including telephone, face-to-face and Skype</p>
<p>Findings</p> <p>The research is on-going and hence it is too early to say, but these will be outlined at the conference if this abstract is accepted.</p>
<p>Practical implications</p> <p>Due to the relatively large number and importance of third sector organisations within the rural economy many faced with the same issues, limited labour supply, limited access to finance over reliance on volunteers, ‘the rural premium’ for accessing services etc it is anticipated that lessons learnt from these organisations will prevent other rural third sector enterprises</p>

<p>from making the same mistakes or at the very least managing the reality of failure on the community and/or organisation.</p>
<p>Policy Implications (if applicable)</p> <p>Due to rural third sector organisations utilising state sector resources and hence there is a 'cost' to state providers, it is anticipated that policy will become better informed and, through better evaluations 'failure' will be reduced.</p>
<p>What is the originality/value of paper</p> <p>Whilst it is recognised that entrepreneurs 'learn' from their mistakes precisely what and how this learning is rarely commented on. Furthermore, Social Enterprise case studies specifically and Entrepreneurial case studies in general have a tendency to focus on success, however, it is argued that more can be learnt from failure. The paper therefore adds to the existing knowledge on learning from failure.</p>
<p>Please state if your paper is a:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refereed research paper <input type="checkbox"/> Practitioner Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation only</p>
<p>Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneurship, farming and the natural environment <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Rural Entrepreneurship <input type="checkbox"/> International dimensions of rural entrepreneurship <input type="checkbox"/> New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities and challenges for rural development <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Innovation, EU funding and the role of Universities <input type="checkbox"/> xRural Social Entrepreneurship <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Place Marketing

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Yes xNo

To apply to participate in the Early-Career research development seminar, PhD applicants must submit a short project description (max 4 pages) with name, project title, affiliation, outline of methodology(ies) and a letter of recommendation from their supervisor. Post-doctoral researchers should submit a short description of their current research interest (max 1 page).