

# 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)**

<b>Title:</b> The case for understanding the role of dynamic capabilities within rural micro-enterprises.
<b>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</b> This paper outlines the need to investigate and explore changes within rural micro-enterprises, using the lens of dynamic capabilities. It argues that we should understand how change is manifested and whether dynamic capabilities are present in such businesses. If dynamic capabilities can be identified within micro-enterprises, understanding the nature of these capabilities and how they enable and influence the micro-enterprises' ability to change will be explored.
<b>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</b> This paper is conceptual in nature, putting forward a case for a research agenda into rural micro-enterprises and dynamic capabilities. The case will be based upon a review of extant literature into dynamic capabilities and extant literature into rural micro-enterprises. It will also suggest practical guidelines to inform this research.
<b>Findings</b> A thorough review of the literature identified a significant lack of prior research into dynamic capabilities in micro-enterprises, and particularly in rural micro-enterprises. By reviewing extant literature we argue that this is problematic since dynamic capabilities may be the source of important economic and social developments in the rural economy. Furthermore, we strongly advocate a research agenda developing in this area since combining these two previously separate research areas could develop both theoretical and practical knowledge of dynamic capabilities and rural micro-enterprises.
<b>Practical implications</b> The paper suggests that the findings from the proposed research could help to inform recommendations for practitioners within rural micro-enterprises in order to support their organisations' ability to change and evolve successfully.
<b>Policy Implications (if applicable)</b>

The paper also suggests that findings from the proposed research agenda could help to inform recommendations for policy aimed at supporting rural micro-enterprises' ability to change and evolve successfully.

**What is the originality/value of paper**

Research interest in dynamic capabilities is currently very prominent. Nevertheless, research to date has focussed very little on micro-enterprises (Kevill et al., 2017). Research into dynamic capabilities in rural enterprises is also extremely sparse (with rare exceptions such as Grande (2011)). Our paper is the first to put forward a detailed case for a research agenda developing in this area and is intended to act as a foundation for this research agenda and will offer practical guidelines to inform this future research.

**Please state if your paper is a:**

Refereed research paper       Practitioner Paper       Presentation only

*It is anticipated that a paper will be submitted, however, as this is stage, should this early stage research still be "work in progress" then we will revert to a presentation.*

**Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:**

- Entrepreneurship, farming and the natural environment
- Digital Rural Entrepreneurship
- International dimensions of rural entrepreneurship
- New approaches in rural theory, method and measurement
- Opportunities and challenges for rural development
- Rural Innovation, EU funding and the role of Universities
- Rural Social Entrepreneurship
- Rural Place Marketing

**Are you interested in the Early-Career researcher development seminar on the 14<sup>th</sup> June?**

Yes  No

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).