CALL FOR PAPERS and PROPOSALS

The McGill international Entrepreneurship (MIE) conference series has traditionally examined the frontier issues related to entrepreneurial internationalization and internationalization of entrepreneurially-oriented smaller firms. These firms, in their various manifestations as international entrepreneurs, International New Ventures, Born Global, High-growth and Rapidly Internationalizing Enterprises, have significantly contributed to the growth of the global economy in the past few decades. They do so by deploying innovative and competitive strategies to achieve growth at home and global markets, influencing the dynamics of competition, and forcing more established firms to re-examine and rethink past strategies. Their role is likely to be even more crucial as the global economy blows hot, cold or lukewarm, across geographies and sectors, presenting a myriad of entrepreneurial opportunities and challenges in the process.

Following the tradition of previous conferences since 1998, this first-ever London MIE Conference aims to bring together insightful academic scholars, practitioners and policy makers with interests in international entrepreneurship, internationalization and growth of SMEs to examine the potent forces, influences, dynamics and emerging developments in international entrepreneurship. In previous plenary sessions, prominent scholars, including Zoltan Acs, Howard Aldrich, Paul Beamish, Nicole Coviello, Hamid Etemad, Jean François Hannart, Jan Johanson, Jerome Katz, Peter Liesch, Rod McNaughton, Benjamin Oviatt, Patricia McDougall, Tage Koed Madsen and late Alan Rugman, among many others, presented provocative ideas in moving research frontiers forward. The 2015 Summer Conference will follow that tradition in three parts:

i) Plenary Session and Research-Intensive Workshop: An intensive, two-day Research conference, featuring plenary session with key speakers and parallel sessions of competitive papers, will focus on examination and further development of potent concepts, frameworks, theories and methodologies for better understanding of internationalizing entrepreneurial firms, their challenges and prospects. This part will provide a unique opportunity for scholars to discuss path-breaking concepts, ideas, frameworks and theory-essentials. Only unpublished completed, or nearly-completed papers, are invited for presentation and feedback from other scholars and invited practitioners and policy makers. A selected list of papers will be considered for further publication in scholarly outlets – see the section on ‘publications’ below.
The Conference invites empirical and theoretical research papers on any of the following (albeit non-exhaustive) themes:

- Impact of entrepreneurially oriented firms on regional and national economies
- Cross-national comparisons of growth patterns of internationally oriented and entrepreneurial firms
- Impact of Institutional, Learning and Network theories on internationalization processes
- Characteristics and practices of international entrepreneurs
- Rapidly internationalizing and high growth firms
- Internationalization trajectories over a firm’s life-cycle
- Entrepreneurial characteristics and challenges in internationalizing firms
- Innovation, entrepreneurship and global enterprise
- Patterns of internationalization in smaller entrepreneurial firms in emerging markets
- International entrepreneurship in the Southern Hemisphere
- International entrepreneurship in Africa
- Internationalizing SMEs and regional, industrial or virtual clusters
- Internationalization, IE and upstream and downstream value chains
- Internationalizing SMEs and emerging digital economies
- Sectoral perspectives in International entrepreneurship
- International entrepreneurship in the Cultural and Creative Industries
- Gender, internationalization and international entrepreneurship
- The nexus of ethnic, family and international entrepreneurship
- Creation and testing of theoretical frameworks in IE with associated methodologies and measurements
- Methodological issues in research on small international firms
- De-internationalization and its consequences
- Other topics of relevance to the conference theme

ii) Business/Professional Workshop: This part will consist of an open plenary session for interaction and sharing of insights with members of the business and policy communities. Executives from international/internationalizing firms and policy communities will be invited to interact with scholars and share perspectives on issues of mutual interest. The focus will be on a better understanding of actual issues facing entrepreneurial firms in their quest for international growth and also on the policy challenges for creating enabling environments.

iii) Doctoral Colloquium: This one-day intensive workshop is designed to address issues of importance, opportunities and challenges in the rapidly advancing field of International Entrepreneurship for Doctoral Candidates and new scholars of the field. They are encouraged to participate in the entire conference fully as well. A limited number of competitive scholarships (conference fee waiver) will be awarded to the attending and contributing Doctoral Candidates from emerging countries. A detailed program will be made available in due course.

Publications: Leading-edge contributions from the previous conferences have appeared in prestigious journals, including Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences, Journal of International Entrepreneurship, Journal of International Management, Journal of International Marketing, Management International Review, Small Business Economics, among others. McGill International Entrepreneurship Book Series (Edward Elgar Publishing) have also published five volumes of conference papers with two additional volumes under preparation. This Conference will follow the same practice and will aim to publish cohesive sets of articles in edited volumes and special issues of high impact journals. For a selected list of publications from past conference papers, see http://www.mcgill.ca/mie

Proposals: Cohesive proposals are invited for sessions covering: i) aspects of theory building, theory testing, and methodology, ii) pedagogical cases and iii) other conference-related topics. Please email Conference Chair, Professor Kevin Ibeh, at k.ibeh@bbk.ac.uk; or Professor Hamid Etemad hamid.etemad@mcgill.ca