



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



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MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP: DEVELOPMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND PRACTICE

Final conference of the project MIG.EN.CUBE

27TH Afternoon session: 14:00-16:00 Parallel working groups: debating the issues and constructing new actions.

- 1) Nurturing refugee entrepreneurship between liabilities of refuge and assets of mixed embeddedness**



Dr. **Jörg Freiling** is Full Professor and Head of the LEMEX Chair in Small Business & Entrepreneurship at University of Bremen. His major research fields are transnational, migrant and refugee entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial ecosystems, entrepreneurial support systems (incubators, accelerators), and small business management. Freiling is involved in many editorial boards and review boards of international journals and published in international journals like Journal of Management Studies, Organization Studies, Entrepreneurship & Regional Development, International Small Business Journal. Address: LEMEX, University of Bremen, Enrique Schmidt Str. 1, D-28359 Bremen. E-mail: freiling@uni-bremen.de, Web: lemex.uni-bremen.de.



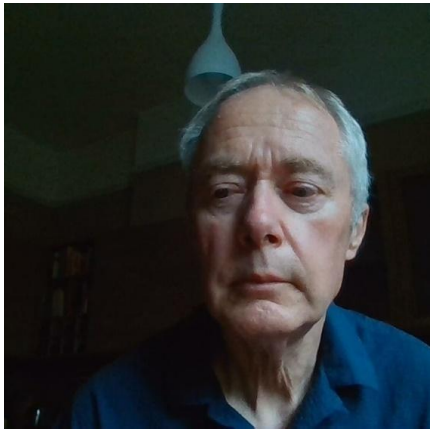
Tenzin Yeshe is a Ph.D. candidate at Bremen University (LEMEX), Germany. His research primarily emphasizes the emerging research field of displaced and refugee entrepreneurship, employing an academic lens to investigate the labor market integration of transnational (forced migrant) entrepreneurs in the host country. Tenzin was also involved in Erasmus+ project “Virtual Incubator for Refugee Entrepreneurs (VIFRE)”, an online business incubator platform that successfully navigated entrepreneurship education explicitly designed for refugee entrepreneurs.



Stefano Rovelli is the Programme and Social Innovation Manager at The Human Safety Net, the global corporate foundation of Generali Group. He focuses on supporting organizations working with refugee entrepreneurs and on creating new opportunities to leverage the resources and talents of Generali Group to further social inclusion and innovation globally. Previously, he served as co-founder of SINGA Italy, an organization running an incubation program for newcomer entrepreneurs in Milan, as part of the global SINGA Network.



Sadhana Manik is an Associate Professor in Geography Education in the School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is the South African project leader for several internationalization of higher education institutional exchange and research projects and the co-ordinator of SANORD's Teacher Education special interest group for the global south. Her research interests include international teacher migration, immigration and xenophobia, environmental education, textbook research, access, success and support of students in higher education. She was ranked in the top 30 'most published researcher' in 2019, within the College of Humanities at UKZN and she continues to take awards for her scholarly contributions. Her contact details are: manik@ukzn.ac.za



David Jepson has worked in local economic development and employment consultancy for more than 30 years, both in the UK and internationally including in Turkey, Ukraine and Afghanistan. David was also a founder of Eurada (European Association of Development Agencies) and with them has worked on aspects of social innovation and its implications for local and regional development. He was also an elected member of a major UK local authority for ten years. In recent years David has been a director and policy advisor with ACH / Himilo a social enterprise which is a leading provider of integration and resettlement support for refugee and migrant communities in the UK. Working with around 2500 people per year, ACH offers housing, careers advice, training, employer engagement and migrant business support through which we have worked with more than 500 migrant entrepreneurs from a wide range of backgrounds. In that context, David has taken the lead in opening up interaction with new communities of refugees and forced migrants including from Afghanistan, Ukraine and Hong Kong. He has also developed approach to precarity and forced entrepreneurship. David has long been interested in the connections (or lack of them) between research, policy development and delivery. “



Alexandra David (PhD) is senior researcher on Migration, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Westphalian University, Institute for Work and Technology (IAT). After her communication science studies at the University Duisburg-Essen (Germany) and economic studies at the Distant University in Hagen (Germany), she wrote her PhD in sociology at the University of Twente (Netherlands) while working at the IAT as researcher and as a consultant in Bern (Switzerland). To this day, her research questions focus on the topics of diversity, migration, innovation, and integration from the entrepreneurial perspective. Alexandra has advised the German Integration Commissioner of the Federal Government on migrant entrepreneurship and was part of the Ashoka Hello Europe round table on migrant and refugee accelerator development. In the course of time, she has accompanied and advised several mentoring programs for migrant, female and refugee entrepreneurs. She is author of books and articles and a reviewer for the European Commission and several German ministries. She is a founding member of a regional think tank on migrant and multicultural entrepreneurship in the Ruhr Area.



Silsila Mahboub is participating to the conference as a nominated representative of EU-COMAR - European Coalition for Migrants and Refugees. Silsila is from Afghanistan, living in Bulgaria for more than eight years. An student of economics, writer, entrepreneur, and singer. Silsila is working with different organizations who help refugees in the process of integration. She is a Community Manager in Refugee Advisory Board.

2) Inclusive entrepreneurial support: Theory and practice



Vira Mistry is an intersectional feminist, international consultant and development professional from India. She has a Masters in International Development and a Masters in International Relations. Her work has focused on the areas of gender, diversity and inclusion and youth participation. her background includes grassroots activism, entrepreneurship and with International NGOs. She believes in an interdisciplinary approach to her work, with experience in project coordination, research, designing educational material and workshops, grassroots activism and movement building. Through this she seeks to find meaningful and sustainable solutions in the areas of anti-racism, safeguarding, youth participation and gender to address and unpack structures of power.



Rosana Silveira Reis is Associate Professor at ISG International Business School. She has been living in Europe since July 2004. She spent six years in Italy, where she defended her Ph.D. in Management at the University of Bologna, and the last thirteen years in France where she is currently Associate Professor at ISG International Business School in Paris. She has 35 years of experience in Human Resources, 15 of them as a manager in large companies in Brazil. Since 2000 she has been teaching in undergraduates, Master and MBA Programs, the disciplines: Human Resource Management, International HRM, Organization Behaviour, Management of Innovation, Cross Cultural Management, and Doing Business in America. In her research, she is working in the cross-border of Organization Behaviour, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship. Her focus is on Ecosystems of Innovation, Migrant Entrepreneurs, Platform workers, Culture & Inclusion, Creativity in Global Teams, and Leadership. She was elected Country Representative to represent France in the EURAM Council of Country Representatives for the period 2021 to 2024. She is also French Coordinator at MIG.EN.CUBE Project – International Research Consortium sponsored by Erasmus+



Chiara Davalli – EBN, European Business and Innovation Centre Network. Chiara is Impact Manager at EBN. She develops and manages several EU funded projects supporting innovative entrepreneurship in different fields, defining better tools, methodologies and policies to support impact-driven innovation in Europe and beyond. Chiara works closely with European and non-European incubators, accelerators and clusters to define better innovation support mechanisms at regional, national, European and international level. She is a mentor for early-stage impact driven startups. Chiara works on international collaborative programmes with partners in Africa, Lebanon, India and Brazil: she is responsible for the BIC Africa Acceleration Programme for Women Entrepreneurs, and she is Advisory Board member of ENRICH in LAC Association. She is passionate about social and responsible innovation, and social and inclusive entrepreneurship: she coordinated the Better Incubation programme and she is in charge of the EBN Social Economy Special Interest Group that counts today more than 45 members from 16 countries.



Shawgi Ahmed works as the Director of the public Leadership department with PLACE Network, a Paris-based start-up that unlocks the hidden opportunities of newcomer talent in Europe. And he is also the co-founder of Emerging Leaders, which is a next-generation acceleration program for newcomers with a strong ambition to penetrate strategic networks and influence the fields of civil society along with public leadership in Europe.

He has an MBA degree in Innovation Management from Ecole des Ponts et Chausses in Paris, France.



Rutger de Rijk is an entrepreneurial and driven individual who believes in the power of business to make a positive impact on society. After dropping out of college, he gained valuable experience through two entrepreneurial attempts, one of which was successful. Currently, with his passion for creating and supporting businesses that tackle pressing societal issues, Rutger runs different incubator & accelerator programs for Impact Hub Amsterdam.

3) Migration as an opportunity for international entrepreneurship



Robert C. Kloosterman is Emeritus Professor of Economic Geography and Planning at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. His research is guided by questions about how social, economic and cultural changes of advanced urban economies have impacted on different social groups. The transformation of urban production systems plays a key role in his work. He uses the interactionist mixed embeddedness concept to explore the relationship between shifts in the opportunity structure and the processes of insertion of migrant entrepreneurs. Apart from his work on migrant entrepreneurship, he has published on issues such as labour market developments in urban areas, and, more recently, on cultural industries, especially music and architectural design, as well as planning issues related to cultural amenities. He has advised the Dutch national Social-Economic Council and the OECD on the issue of migrant entrepreneurship. He currently leads the Horizon 2020 project Cicerone on production networks in cultural and creative industries.



Alma Lutaj is a first-year Ph.D. candidate in Economics and Business at University College London (UCL). Prior to coming to UCL, Alma received her Master's in Accounting and Financial Management from the Birkbeck University of London, where she specialized in Accounting and Finance with Distinction; and a BSc in Mathematics and Management from the same university. Before starting her Ph.D., Alma held a Research Assistant position at the Birkbeck University of London, where she assisted in a research project on the use of crowdsourcing by public administration which made it into the World Health Organisation (WHO) database. Her professional experience also includes years working in finance, school, and volunteering, all in London, England. Research interests: Alma's research project is focused on diaspora - its impact on entrepreneurship, investment, knowledge transfer, and innovation in the homeland. Her wider research interests are on Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI), International/migrant Entrepreneurship, diaspora and economic development, and diaspora engagement policies.



Merita Zulfu Alili is an Associate Professor of Labour Economics and Acting Dean at the Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences, South East European University, Tetovo, North Macedonia. Merita completed her MSc and PhD studies in Economics at Staffordshire University, United Kingdom. In 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2022 she joined CERGE-EI Career Integration Fellows, Prague. Merita's scientific interests are: labour migration, foreign direct investment, labour market inequality, gender equality, transition economies. She was engaged as a researcher and expert in several projects in the field of migration and has published several articles related to labour migration: [Merita Zulfu | South East European University \(seeu.edu.mk\)](https://www.seeu.edu.mk/en/people/merita-zulfu-alili).



Fabio Santoni is an international consultant with more than 23 years of experience in Africa

Tutor & Coach expert for Start-Up and Start-Upper in Africa& with Africa destination, is in charge as main Tutor&Coach, since 2019, for UniBo program StudENT for Africa, a program that aim to assist the creation and development of companies founded by UniBo Student and with africa destination.

Fabio is also Coach&tutor for ITA (Italian Trade Agency) programs where Africa is a market destination or African companies develop competence in marketing&strategic actions.

Fabio's Africa experiences are appliend also in many different fields like Exhibition&Events organizations, International Tenders Consultance and training and Business Consultaance



Daniele Panzeri is the Coordinator of the Migration and Development Unit at the International Organization for Migrations-IOM Coordination Office for the Mediterranean.

He previously worked for various international NGOs (UNA, CESVI, Save the Children, ActionAid) and for the Italian Cooperation. In twenty years of international experience in the Development sector he has worked in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Nepal, Pakistan and Burma/Myanmar, where he lived with his family.

Graduated in Sociology at the University La Sapienza, he later obtained a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology and Participatory Development at the Australian National University and he is currently a PhD student in Public Governance Management and at the University of Bologna. During his career he has been working on a variety of different sectors focusing on Participatory Development, Migration and Social Impact.



Paula Andrea Callejas Greiffenstein, born in Medellín Colombia, graduated in Industrial Design at the Universidad Autónoma de Manizales.

In 1999 she arrived in Milan and obtained a Masters in Art & Design at the Domus Academy, since then she has been working as a designer and teaching courses in Computer Graphics, in Colour, and in Perception Theory and the Psychology of Form, at IED (Istituto Europeo di design).

In 2015 after completing a Professional Goldsmith Course, she realised there was an opportunity to combine the worlds of jewelry and design, and together with her husband launched the brand minrl, to which she dedicates most of her time. They create wearable design objects, handcrafted using traditional techniques combined with new technologies and pay a lot of attention to sustainability.



Barbara Setti After 20 years in the field of cooperative entrepreneurship, since 2018 Barbara Setti has been working at Fondazione Finanza Etica, the cultural foundation of Banca Etica Group. She manages donations and relations with their networks.

4) Building thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems: Financial and non-financial support services



Davide Libralesso is a manager in the beyond profit sector who works at Microfinanza as senior expert, in the sustainable and development finance sector. Before Microfinanza he has been consulting the SwitchMed Programme in the design of innovative financial solutions to boost the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices and the transition towards sustainability among SMEs in the Mediterranean. Earlier Davide acted as head of Programmes and International Relations at Etimos Foundation, where he was responsible for the development of international programmes and partnerships, focusing on the role of the private sector in development. He previously worked for international organizations, EU cooperation programmes, and Italian public institutions. Davide has directly promoted the role of diaspora through innovative programmes, mainly in Sub-Saharan Africa: he was responsible for the design of MigraVenture, a platform to support investments led by diaspora entrepreneurs through micro-equity schemes; he also coordinated “B.I.T.E.”, building integration through entrepreneurship”, to support start-ups led by migrants in Italy, Greece and Sweden. From 2016 to 2020 he has been member of the Board of Directors of FEBEA, the European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks. Davide holds a second level degree in International Politics from the University of Padua, Italy.



Laura Toschi is Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship & Innovation Management at the University of Bologna and Deputy Director of the Executive Master in Technology & Innovation Management at Bologna Business School. At UNIBO, she received her PhD in Management in 2009 and a Laurea in Management Engineering in 2004 (100/100 cum Laude). She has been visiting scholar at Boston University (2008), SPRU (2011), University of Queensland (2017), Queensland University of Technology (2020). Her main research interests are: environmental and social entrepreneurship, entrepreneurial finance and impact investing, sustainability transitions, innovation management, technology transfer. Her research outputs include publications in such journal as Research Policy, Ecological Economics, Journal of Business Venturing, Industrial and Corporate Change, Journal of Technology Transfer, International Small Business Journal and Technological Forecasting and Social Change.



Valentina Primo è fondatrice di Startups Without Borders e Advisor di SXSW Pitch. Si è formata in giornalismo in Argentina specializzandosi poi in Cooperazione Internazionale, Diritti umani e Politiche dell'UE completando un master presso l'università Roma Tre. Dal 2013, Valentina ha cominciato a lavorare nel panorama imprenditoriale del Medio Oriente e, nel 2017, ha lanciato la più grande piattaforma media egiziana sull'imprenditoria: Startup Scene Middle East. Nel 2018, ha fondato Startups Without Borders, un portale per raccogliere e valorizzare le esperienze di successo di imprenditori migranti e rifugiati e organizzare eventi con lo scopo di connettere le startup con investitori internazionali. Nel 2019, le è stato conferito il Women in Excellence Award del Women Economic Forum. Nel corso degli anni, ha inoltre avuto l'occasione di intervenire in workshop e conferenze in Egitto, Palestina, Russia, Norvegia e Italia (tra cui Lean



Vittoria SanPietro. Banking is my playground: from the counter operator to the coordination of the branch network, passing through the corporate world, I checked all the boxes of the commercial roles in banking. For two years I have been dealing, unexpectedly, with innovation and startups: I may have found my true love, despite the fact that I have thought the same thing in almost all the roles of the past. The beauty of innovation is its continuous and incessant change: it is perhaps the most contemporary and futuristic activity that exists. We'll see, there is plenty to discover! I love diversity, in all its forms: I fight my cognitive bias with tenacity, but I don't always succeed. My favorite phrase is: today I will do what others won't, so tomorrow I can do what others can't! By Jerry Rice



Ebru Sarikaya did an apprenticeship as a bank clerk. After her training, she worked in the bank as a trainee and study group spokeswoman in Corporate Banking in the field Cash Management & International Business and in the Relationship Banking Department. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Cologne in 2015 with a focus on Finance & Business Psychology. In 2018 she completed her master's degree at the University of Wuppertal with the research focus on Entrepreneurship, Intercultural Management and Technology & Innovation Management. From 2017 up to 2021 she worked as a Relationship Manager in Corporate Banking in Dusseldorf and in London and as a Manager Corporate Banking for Large Corporates. In addition to her work in the bank, she worked as an assistant to the Professor of Economic and Social Psychology at the Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology at the University of Cologne. Since 2018 she is working as a Research Associate in the ifm (Institut für Mittelstandsforschung) at the University of Mannheim. Her research interest is focused on the combination of theoretical and practical knowledge in SME research, migrant entrepreneurship and gender studies.

16:30-17:00 Keynote speaker



Benson Honig (Ph.D. Stanford University) is the Teresa Cascioli Chair in Entrepreneurial Leadership, DeGroote School of Business, McMaster University, Canada. His Research activities include over 120 peer reviewed publications with over 17,000 citations world-wide, focusing on professional ethics as well as subjects such as ingenuity, nascent entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, migration issues, and entrepreneurship in transition environments. He is past president of the Canadian Council of Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Past Chair of the Academy of Management's ethics education committee and a founding board member of the Africa Academy of Management. He is also co-founder of the Reframery, a social innovation virtual incubator supporting marginalized entrepreneurs, at www.reframery.org. We target marginalized impacted communities by reducing financial instability, supporting SMBs and self employment activities in the pre and post COVID era. We apply research findings to communities in real time, offering support of self employment training for women, refugees, minorities, immigrants, Indigenous and persons with disabilities, with proprietary research designed instructional tools, coaching, mentoring, and micro-lending at a vastly reduced cost. We are replicating our model for refugee communities 'left out' of global markets due to institutional, social and geographic constraints exacerbated by COVID.