

## SUMMARY

### A COMPLEXITY-BASED (RE)EXAMINATION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL REGIONS

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#### **Principal topic**

Under what institutional arrangements do entrepreneurship flourishes within particular regions has been and still is a central question in entrepreneurship research. Entrepreneurial regions have been traditionally observed through the lens of ecosystems. This conception, although relevant, overlooks the active ingredients of organizational life, which have profound effect on the mind-sets, feelings and behaviors of individual and collective actors. This paper seeks to tackle this challenge by focusing on a more fine-grained, location-sensitive conceptualization of entrepreneurial regions, which moves the discussion away from ecosystem thinking towards a regional social-geographic understanding of the phenomenon. Our work seeks to explore the complexity underlying entrepreneurial regions and uncover the many “optimal” combination of conditions leading to strong entrepreneurial activity. Based on social geography and institutional complexity, we introduce a location-sensitive framework and test several configurational hypotheses predicting strong entrepreneurial activity. Each configurational hypothesis deals with alternative combinatorial expressions of entrepreneurial regions, understood as combinations of constructed and narrated attributes.

#### **Method**

We tested our hypotheses by means of deductive fs/QCA. We analyzed 71 entrepreneurial regions of Chile using a unique longitudinal database (2008-2015) exhibiting a variety of socio-geographic attributes in several social, political and geographical contexts in the country. In delineating our sample, we considered both geographical and temporal dimensions, meaning that each region in a given point in time is considered as a unique reality, hence a case combining constructed and narrated attributes.

#### **Results and implications**

Our necessity and configurational analyses reveal that the development of strong entrepreneurial activity at the regional level does not depend on a single factor but emerges from four sufficient combinations of constructed and narrated elements. This provides support to our complexity expectations and disregards the assumed centrality and necessity of policy and financial support in fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems within particular regions, highlighting on the contrary the salience of social norms in supporting entrepreneurship. This research contributes to literature by i. introducing and testing a novel social-geographic, location-sensitive framework for entrepreneurial regions; ii. emphasizing the role and relevance of local circumstances in fostering or constraining entrepreneurial activity at regional level; and finally iii. revisiting what a successful entrepreneurial region may look like through the lens of complex causality.

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