



NORDISK FÖRETAGSEKONOMISK FÖRENING
NORDIC ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Contemporary Issues in Innovation and Entrepreneurship ***(doctoral course, 6 ETCS)***

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Course Directors

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Time, Location, and Enrollment

The course will be held at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik, on ***April 13-17, 2015***.

Applications should be sent to ***nfficeland2015@gmail.com*** no later than ***January 15, 2015***. Eligible to apply are PhD students in the Nordic countries. Priority is given to students from NFF affiliated universities, but we'd be happy to have other students with us if room allows.

Financial support is available for up to 15 students from NFF affiliated universities in the form of accommodation and lunches during the program. If more than 15 students apply, the course directors will prioritize the application according to quality and relevance to the students' research focus.

Inquiries can be sent either to ***nfficeland2015@gmail.com*** or to any of the instructors.

Introduction

There is growing interest in innovation and entrepreneurship, both in academia and among practitioners. As interdisciplinary topics, innovation and entrepreneurship are concepts that can sometimes be fluid and contested. This course attempts to pull together various issues in contemporary innovation and entrepreneurship research and spark discussions about the current state of the fields and their directions. The goal is both to present a broad overview of the field and to help students to advance their own projects.

The course will examine the interaction of several topics within the area of innovation and entrepreneurship, focusing on how individual and organizational behavior affects the formation of new knowledge and firms. Among the topics are the decision-making and micro-processes of innovation, the determinants of entrepreneurial entry and success, and business model innovation.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should have acquired a level of understanding and knowledge about contemporary issues in innovation and entrepreneurship that allows him/her to:

- Analyze and identify critical elements within innovation and entrepreneurship research
- Describe and discuss different perspectives on innovation and entrepreneurship and their relationship
- Apply critical thinking and concepts in order to design and conduct research that furthers the state of knowledge on innovation and entrepreneurship
- Become familiar with research and different stands of academic debates in the area of Innovation management and entrepreneurship to advance as a scholar within the area

Forms of instruction

The principal methods of learning are seminars, group work, and lectures. The students are expected to read all the assigned material and participate actively in the seminar discussions. Participation in seminars and group work are compulsory, as are two written assignments (see below). The language of instruction for all teaching and learning activities is English.

Course Structure

The course runs from Monday to Friday, from 9-17 every day. A rough preliminary schedule is presented below, but this is subject to revision.

Monday

The course starts with an opening day, as students get to know each other and the area(s). An overview of “stylized facts” concerning innovation and entrepreneurship will be given, followed by group discussions. There will also be reporting back from student assignments and small group debates on individual projects.

Tuesday-Thursday

The next three days will focus on specific themes. Each faculty member will lead discussions about a theme within their expertise.

- Micro-processes in Management of Innovation, led by Prof. Christiansen
- Business Model Innovation, led by Prof. Holmén
- Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneurs, led by Prof. Torfason

Friday

On the final day, the group will work collectively to discuss contributions from each theme, identify connections and differences in the theoretical and methodological approaches and especially discuss how the learning from the course can contribute to the further development of their individual projects and development as scholars within the field of innovation and entrepreneurial research.

Examination and Written Assignments

The course is assessed through active participation in lectures and seminars and completion of written assignments. The students are expected to write two papers: a preparatory synopsis (approx. 2500 words, to be turned in before the course) and a short paper presenting their own research (approx. 5000 words, to be handed in two weeks after the course). There will not be an exam in the course, and grading will be on a pass/fail basis.

Preparatory Synopsis (Maximum 2500 words, due on April 8)

The preparatory synopsis is structured around a particular paper from the course reading list, and should be handed in before arriving in Iceland. Each student chooses a different paper to focus on (the “focal paper”), using a Doodle.com poll (the link is sent out by email). Students should try to choose a paper that relates to their interest; but note that papers are chosen on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The preparatory synopsis should include the following parts:

- An overview of the focal paper, summarizing the key ideas presented in the paper
- A review of important literature that relates to the focal paper, both the literature that the paper references, and recent literature that builds on the paper (Google Scholar “Cited by” is helpful here). This review will by necessity be limited, including, say 6-8 of the most important related references, but can be more or less, depending on the space devoted to each. The synopsis should also note any other papers from the literature for this course that relate to the focal paper.
- A brief description of a research idea for which the focal paper would be a key reference. The way in which you approach this is flexible, you can simply mention a gap in the literature that you find useful (perhaps the “opportunities for future research” section in the discussion will spark some ideas), or you can describe an idea that you would be interested in working on in greater detail.
- A references section providing the citation for the focal paper and the related literature.

It is reasonable to devote around one third of the word count to each of the three parts, but use your judgment. If you would like to exclude the reference section from the word count, that is acceptable.

In addition to being read by the faculty, this preparatory synopsis will be distributed to the students. There are several motivating ideas behind structuring the preparatory synopsis in this way: First, to allow students to explore a subset of the literature in greater detail than is provided by simply reading the paper in preparation for the course. Second, to provide fellow students with a concise overview of individual topics within the course, which could be used for future reference. Third, to spark research ideas that relate to particular topics within the course, and might provide opportunities for collaboration between students.

The paper should be emailed to nfficeland2015@gmail.com as a PDF file, and the name of the file should include which of the three course topics the focal paper is from (MPMI/BMI/EE), the first author of the focal paper, and the name of the student preparing the synopsis, separated by underscores. As an example, if John Christiansen were submitting a preparatory synopsis focusing on the Bruno Latour paper, the name of the file would be:

- MPMI_Latour_JohnChristiansen.pdf

Short Research Paper (Maximum 5000 words, due on May 1)

The final synopsis should highlight a topic of the student's own choosing. Students are encouraged to use this as an opportunity to develop their own research ideas reflecting the topics and materials that are covered in the course, and build on the course takeaways.

Financial support

Financial support is available for up to 15 students from NFF affiliated universities in the form of accommodation in Reykjavik for up to six nights from April 12-18 (Sunday-Saturday). The accommodation includes breakfast, and lunch will be served during the course days. NFF does not offer support for travel to Reykjavik, so flights must be covered by the sending university or the students themselves.

If more than 15 students apply, the course directors will prioritize the applications according to quality and relevance to the students' research focus.

Practical information (venues, transportation, etc.)

University of Iceland

The University of Iceland campus is the cognitive hub around which we organize the course. The University of Iceland is a progressive educational and scientific institution, renowned in the global scientific community for its research. It is a state university, situated in the heart of Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland.

- <http://english.hi.is/>
- <http://goo.gl/Ydduph>

Radisson Blu Hotel Saga

Most of our class sessions will take place in a conference room at the Radisson Blu Hotel Saga, which, although it is not formally part of the university, sits right at the edge of the campus and is often used for "irregular" courses and events at the university. Only 10 minutes from the historic city center, this Reykjavik hotel offers accommodation and meeting facilities in the dynamic west end of Iceland's capital city.

- <http://www.radissonblu.com/sagahotel-reykjavik>
- <http://goo.gl/jRoCdN>

Fosshotel Baron

Your rooms have been reserved at Fosshotel Baron, which stands right in the heart of Reykjavík, near the seafront, within walking distance of shops and attractions. The hotel offers both hotel rooms and apartments, perfect for families or small groups traveling together. Enjoy a scenic walk by the seaside, visit Harpa Concert Hall and try some of Reykjavík's great restaurants and cafés, all just a stone's throw away. Fosshotel Baron is also right next door to Kex, which is one of the more popular bars/gastropubs in Reykjavik.

- <http://www.fosshotel.is/hotels/fosshotel-in-reykjavik/fosshotel-baron/>
- <http://goo.gl/UblykU>

Kex Hostel

You'll find many places to eat and drink around town, but if you just want to keep it simple while still having a great experience, you might want to walk from Fosshotel over to Kex Hostel, which is right next door. Housed in an old biscuit factory in downtown Reykjavik and furnished with salvaged materials and found objects from various places, KEX is an organic concept blending a vintage industrial feel with an eclectic, contemporary touch.

- <http://www.kexhostel.is/>
- <http://goo.gl/tz2aja>

Studentakjallarinn (The Student Cellar)

Studentakjallarinn (The Student Cellar) is a café and bar located at the University of Iceland campus. It is frequented by students because of its location, and because both food and drinks are very reasonably priced. The crowd is young and the atmosphere is quite calm and friendly. Sports are occasionally on screen and the chairs are comfy.

- <http://studentakjallarinn.is/>
- <http://goo.gl/2C6tUV>

Getting Around: Hotel-Classes

The way between the Hotel and the classes is a pretty nice stroll - for the best experience, you could trace out the route that I laid out in this link (<http://goo.gl/RyWWhF>), which takes you down Laugavegur (main shopping street), then past Tjörnin (city center pond), and through Hljómskálagarður (city center park). But it is 30 minutes, and the weather can make this more or less nice. Alternatively, you could take the bus, a link to the journey planner (applicable for the first day of the course) is here:

- <http://s.is/journeyplanner/showJourneyDetailsPage.do?rid=1427037406282&hss=TG NPV160190694&lang=en>

Getting Around: Airport-Hotel

The best way to get between the airport and the hotel is the FlyBus. There is always a FlyBus going to the city when airplanes are landing. Tickets are sold in a booth on the airport, and often the flight attendants will even sell them in the plane. If you buy a FlyBus+ ticket (note the plus), the bus will take you all the way to the hotel (you may need to change into a smaller shuttle at the Reykjavik Bus Terminal, but the FlyBus people will worry about that and guide you to the right shuttle). The FlyBus+ tickets cost ISK 2500.

- <https://www.re.is/flybus>

Faculty Bios

John Christiansen

John K. Christiansen is a professor at Copenhagen Business School. His research has focused on management issues within topics related to management of projects and product development, management of design, portfolio management, implementation studies and different types of information technologies and their design and application. He has more than 100 publications and has recently focused on some of the micro-processes of management: What constitutes decisions? What does different theoretical lenses mean for our understanding of organizational processes and actions? How can we open the blackboxes of organizations to uncover the conversations and struggles that are later presented as 'decisions', e.g. on prototypes for new products?

He is interested in interactive teaching approaches that stimulates reflection and critical thinking - also the use of virtual technologies like blending learning and virtual teamwork. He is currently academic director for the Executive Master program: Management of Management Development and member of the study board for a new Bachelor program in project management at CBS. He is involved in teaching and supervision at all levels at CBS.

Magnus Holmén

Magnus Holmén is professor in innovation sciences and industrial management at Halmstad University, Sweden. He has previously worked at Chalmers University of Technology and the Australian National University. He has been involved in studies of innovation on the firm and industry levels. His current research interests include business model innovation for established firms, firm innovation processes including innovation audits and customer development, as well as business eco-system changes. His prior research includes studies of the emergence of innovation systems and industrial transformation. He was formerly the director of the master's program Management and Economics of Innovation at Chalmers.

Magnus Thor Torfason

Magnus Thor Torfason is an Assistant Professor at the University of Iceland School of Business, where he heads the interdisciplinary masters program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He was previously at the Entrepreneurial Management Unit at Harvard Business School, where he taught the MBA Courses "The Founders' Dilemmas" and "The Entrepreneurial Manager".

His research focuses on how behavior is influenced by the social structure of individuals and organizations. He has studied norms and their violation within exchange networks such as VC investment networks, and examined the founding and failure patterns of network weaving organizations – organizations whose main purpose is to connect other actors. His work has been profiled in media outlets such as The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, NPR, and BBC.

Magnus was a co-founder of Handpoint, a software company headquartered in the UK, which develops payment and point-of-sale solutions for handheld computers. He served as Technical Director until 2005, and currently serves on the board of the company. He has also served as a board member and advisor for several other startups.

Literature

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