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DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/08985626.2017.1328902

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The burgeoning field of social entrepreneurship research (in the broadest sense encompassing social innovation and social enterprise) is increasingly focusing on furthering understanding of the dynamics of design, practice and motive that blend together to make for effective social change. Central to this pursuit is discovering how social entrepreneurs reconcile often divergent motives (e.g. sustainable resourcing with social intent) within the frequently challenging context in which they operate. A critical, and seemingly constant, theme in relation to social entrepreneurship efficacy is the role of collaboration – be that at the level of the individual social entrepreneur, within and between social enterprises, and/or embedded in the broader context for action (e.g. policy-practice, public-private etc.).

Collaborative arrangements and partnerships enhance the achievement of organisational aims (Diochon and Anderson 2011), improve access to resources and funding (Shaw & de Bruin, 2013), and build legitimacy (Huybrechts & Nicholls 2013) for social enterprises; and also provide a means for the exchange of tacit knowledge (Chalmers & Balan-Vnuk, 2013). Collaboration with complementary organisations may result in greater impact by a social enterprise (Austin, Stevenson & Wei-Skillern 2006) but collaborations pose challenges especially in relation to managing relationships (Di Domenico, 2011). How, why and when collaboration occurs in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem is an emergent area of research emphasis that has the potential to greatly advance knowledge in both theoretical and practical terms.

For this special issue the editors are keen to receive submissions that are centrally, or peripherally, oriented to the notion of collaboration in terms of social entrepreneurship. They are particularly seeking leading edge papers that will provide new theoretical insights on the nature, implications and challenges of collaboration for social entrepreneurship. Papers may be theoretically or empirically grounded and derived from a local, national or global geographic domain. A list of suggested, but not restrictive, topics is listed below:

- The hybridity of collaboration in social entrepreneurship
- Collaborating for impact
- Public-private/policy-practice partnerships
- The role of collaboration in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Coordination challenges of collaboration
- Contextual influences on collaboration
- Reconciling profit and mission
- Embeddedness and collaboration (e.g. community)
- Effective collaborative dynamics
- Partnering people and purpose
- Structuring, managing and operating collaboratively

Full papers should be submitted by email Word attachment to Anne de Bruin (a.m.debruin@massey.ac.nz) and the other Guest Editors of the special issue (see contacts below). The first page must contain the title, author(s) and contact information of the corresponding author.

For additional guidelines, please see ‘Instructions for Authors’ from a recent issue of Entrepreneurship & Regional Development or visit: http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/tepauth.asp. Papers suitable for publication in the special issue will be double-blind reviewed, following the ER&D’s review process guidelines.

Timetable

It is anticipated that the special issue will be published in 2017.

The following deadline dates are given for information:

Submission of full papers: 1 June 2016
First feedback from reviewers: 1 September 2016

Contact information

Please email any of the Guest Editors if you have any queries about the Special Issue:

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References


