ENTREPRENEURSHIP THEORY AND PRACTICE
SPECIAL ISSUE CALL FOR PAPERS

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EX MACHINA: TRANSFORMATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THEORY AND PRACTICE

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Associated website for AI entrepreneurship research community:
www.entrepreneurship-ex-machina.org

Two-step Submission Process
(for details see below)

1. Authors are invited to submit proposals at any time (final deadline for proposal submissions: January 31, 2026; early submissions encouraged).
2. Full papers (invited based on successful proposals) will be reviewed on a rolling basis (early submissions encouraged, preferably within 6 months after proposal submission).
3. All submissions (proposal and full paper) should be submitted through *ETP* manuscript central system (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/etp).

OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Transformative Artificial Intelligence (AI)—that is, the use of AI tools that have such inherent capabilities that they could induce societal transitions similar to that of the agricultural or industrial revolutions—has become an omnipresent topic of interest. Because these tools offer order-of-magnitude efficiency improvements over prior ways of performing various human tasks, important research opportunities arise for better understanding their transformative impact.

In entrepreneurship research, Lévesque et al. (2022) acknowledged the significance of transformative AI as a hot spot for future exploration, but also as a subject of disagreement regarding the actual impact behind the hype. In a recent survey of editors and editorial review board members of the two leading entrepreneurship journals (*ETP* and *JBV*), Van Gelderen et al. (2021) identified the impact of AI—particularly whether it supports or replaces human

entrepreneurial activity—as a high priority area for entrepreneurship research, as well as a subject fraught with divergent opinions and predictions. Indeed, the rise of generative AI over the last year has yielded an explosion of new AI tools available for entrepreneurs, businesses, and researchers—so much so that AI conversations are now frequent, and intense, in academia (Short & Short, 2023).

Despite all the attention, however, existing research at the intersection of transformative AI and entrepreneurship is still relatively nascent (e.g., Chalmers et al., 2021; Nambisan et al., 2019; Shepherd & Majchrzak, 2022). Yet, such research has the potential to reveal groundbreaking, nuanced insights both about entrepreneurship scholarship (Lévesque et al., 2022; Schwab & Zhang, 2019) and the interplay between AI and practice (Obschonka & Audretsch, 2020). Insights here may focus on the positive side of AI and entrepreneurship (e.g., reduced uncertainty, decreased information asymmetry, increased ability to anticipate trends) and the potential to "…enhance the quantity and quality of scholarly knowledge production" (Grimes et al., 2023, p. 1617), or, attention might also explore potential threats of AI in entrepreneurship (e.g., intellectual property confusion, ethical dilemmas, potential biases and blind trust in algorithms; Landers & Behrend, 2022). Overall, the rapid integration of advanced AI technologies into business practices has outpaced academic understanding of their effects. Thus, we have a rapidly growing knowledge gap that, in turn, offers a compelling opportunity for entrepreneurship scholarship to advance knowledge on the role of AI in both entrepreneurship practice and research.

With these considerations in mind, we invite interested scholars to submit frontier-of-science manuscripts that specifically seek to advance academic knowledge about the dynamics, implications, and/or meaning of transformative AI for entrepreneurship theory and practice. Indeed, our goal with this Special Issue is not only to catalyze research in this emerging scholarly field, but also to proactively engage in underlying *capacity building*[1] for the entrepreneurship research community (e.g., AI literacy and competences). We seek to provide foundational building blocks to generate AI-related know-how and research structures needed to ensure both scientific rigor and impactful theoretical and empirical research knowledge in this space. In this regard, this Special Issue will focus less on "managing AI" (Berente et al., 2021) and more on "venturing AI"—having an entrepreneurial approach to transformative AI in practice but also in scholarship (Lévesque et al., 2022; Shepherd & Majchrzak, 2022). We expect papers to make significant novel contributions guiding entrepreneurship research's transition into the emerging AI era.

One of the most fundamental challenges associated with the current AI revolution lie in the opportunities that it offers for profoundly advancing entrepreneurship *theory* (Lévesque et al., 2022). By virtue of their unique abilities as "prediction machines" (Agrawal et al. 2022), for instance, transformative AI tools open new possibilities to unpack the feats of experienced entrepreneurs (and early-stage investors) to seize on weak signals to navigate the "fog of uncertainty" (cf. Bort et al., 2023; Townsend et al., 2018, 2024). Building on such considerations (and others), this Special Issue aims to make particularly impactful contributions to entrepreneurship theory (testing, elaboration, and building). Various actionable recommendations in this space exist (e.g., Chalmers et al., 2021; Grimes et al., 2023; Lévesque et

[1] The website will facilitate this (www.entrepreneurship-ex-machina.org).

al., 2022; Obschonka & Fisch, 2022; von Krogh et al., 2023; Sarasvathy, 2023) and AI-supported research might also help addressing some of the existing challenges scholars see with respect to the uniqueness and testability of existent entrepreneurship theories (Arend, 2020). The Special Issue will thus also have a focus on developing (and testing) entrepreneurship theories that incorporate transformative AI (i.e., revision of existing theories or completely new theories).

ILLUSTRATIVE TOPICS

We welcome a broad range of empirical and theoretical works advancing the field of entrepreneurship. Some illustrative themes and questions include but are not limited to:

- Theorizing on "algorithmic entrepreneurship"
- Mechanisms of external enablement of entrepreneurship via AI (e.g., generative AI)
- Can AI help reduce the destructive aspects of entrepreneurship (e.g., societal and personal costs)?
- Can AI create resource abundance, overcoming typical entrepreneurial resource scarcity and challenging leading startup methods (e.g., effectuation/bricolage, bootstrapping, lean startup)?
- Do classic research findings and theories (e.g., on the role of knowledge and human and social capital in entrepreneurship) still hold in the new AI era?
- How can AI impact entrepreneurial finance (e.g., AI-powered financial planning for entrepreneurs, VC investment portfolio management and decisions) and resource acquisition (e.g., entrepreneurs' pitch preparation, investors' due diligence, etc.)?
- Does AI change the age curve associated with entrepreneurship (does it replace the advantage of industry experience, and do we therefore see an AI-empowered rise of youth entrepreneurs)?
- How can AI contribute to equality and diversity (e.g., neurodiversity, closing the gender gap)?
- Ethical and legal issues of "algorithmic entrepreneurship" and AI-supported research
- How can AI support entrepreneurs' cognition, decision making, and psychological well-being?
- Will the emerging AI economy of abundance replace entrepreneurship / human entrepreneurs?

TWO STEP SUBMISSION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

- **Step 1: Proposal submission**
  - Authors must submit a proposal (maximum of 10 double-space pages, 12-point font, 1" margins). References, tables, and figures are not counted toward the 10-page length requirement.
  - Informal inquiries relating to proposed topics and potential fit with the objectives are welcomed. Please direct them to the guest editors.
  - Proposals can be submitted to the *ETP* manuscript central system (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/etp) on an **ongoing basis until January 31, 2026** (early submissions are encouraged).
  - The *ETP* guest editorial team will screen the proposals and invite the most promising for submission as full manuscripts. This will happen promptly after each submission.
- **Step 2: Full paper submission**
  - Invited submissions of full manuscripts should be prepared using the *ETP* Manuscript Preparation Guidelines.

- Manuscripts will undergo *ETP*'s standard double-blind peer review process (i.e., up to two rounds of double-blind reviews by referees with any additional rounds deemed necessary handled by the editors).
- Manuscripts should again be submitted through the *ETP* online system (https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/etp), preferably within 6 months after proposal submission.
- If a manuscript is rejected (as a desk reject or in the normal review process) because of insufficient quality, and a reject and resubmit decision is not granted by the guest editors, then the submitting authors may NOT submit that manuscript again to *ETP* as a normal article.

- **Step 3: Publication**
  - Each accepted manuscript will be published (first as online, later in print) as soon as it is accepted and has undergone the normal publication process (no delay in publishing as online version).

WORKSHOPS/COMMUNITY WEBSITE

A virtual workshop and an in-person workshop will be organized for this Special Issue, bringing together interested scholars to discuss, refine, and guide their research and proposals. Details on these workshops will be announced later. Attending a workshop is *not* a precondition for submission of proposals (or acceptance of manuscripts) to this Special Issue. More information on workshops/conferences and other capacity-building initiatives and resources under www.entrepreneurship-ex-machina.org.

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