

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Baugh-Ratio Colloquium for Young Social Scientists

Policy for innovative entrepreneurship

Stockholm, August 18-19, 2017

Highlights:

- Cross-disciplinary social sciences colloquium focused on entrepreneurship policy
- Collaborative and stimulating atmosphere for young scholars to develop papers
- Keynotes by **Jay Barney** (University of Utah) and **Peter G. Klein** (Baylor University & NHH Norwegian School of Economics)
- Accommodation and travel costs covered for participants with accepted full papers

The Ratio Institute (Sweden) and the Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise at Baylor University (USA) invites junior scholars in management, economics, public policy, economic history, sociology, etc. to submit proposals for a cross disciplinary research colloquium in Stockholm, Sweden. The aim of the Colloquium is to bring together researchers working on policy relevant issues related to entrepreneurship and innovation.

Innovative entrepreneurship is crucial for economic development. Enacting policies to create the right institutional environment, or “rules of the game,” seems like a straightforward strategy to promote more innovative entrepreneurship. Yet, the net benefit of public investments and policy efforts are often minimal. Ineffective policies and inadequate attention to these by the scholarly community risks leading to misguided efforts, loss of “best practice” and knowledge transfer in policy practice, and waste of scarce resources (see *AMP* special issue, Bradley & Klein, 2016).

Theoretical motivation for public investments stems from the notion that *if* the benefits of new knowledge distribute beyond those who developed it, a market economy may generate a sub-optimal amount of research and innovation. Yet, theory-driven assessments of innovative entrepreneurship policies remain scant in the literature. What does public economics, information economics, and public choice theory say about effectiveness of policy interventions under conditions of uncertainty and divergent incentives?

Empirical research has focused on evaluation of specific interventions for innovative entrepreneurship, finding examples of both effective and ineffective policies. However, we still lack overall assessment of *policy design* of such efforts and their generality. How does specific policies or program affect those industries and regions targeted? Under what conditions can successful policies outweigh the potential deadweight costs and crowding-out effects on firms not included in policy treatments?

This colloquium aims to deepen the discussion on governmental policies for innovative entrepreneurship. Policymakers have invested extensively in initiatives for commercialization of research and with incentives for new firms to invest in R&D and

growth. However, public investments and policy efforts are often lower impact than expected. Why? What distinguish successful from less successful policies? Are there limits to specific policy interventions or combination of policies?

Without knowledge on such issues, it remains unclear to what extent commercialization initiatives to support academic entrepreneurship are an effective and efficient way to enhance innovation and growth. Prior syntheses of such policies adopt an efficiency-enhancing perspective sprung from a market failure analysis. In other words, they focus on fine-tuning an established system rather than assessing its general effectiveness. From a market failure perspective, the belief is firms underinvest in ‘good’ research with commercial potential because of appropriability problems. Policies are then devised to ‘correct’ the failure – often by incentivising firms and other institutions to enhance R&D and promoting entrepreneurial venturing. We still have limited knowledge about the general effectiveness of specific policy efforts, nor how policies affect the overall competitive environment in industries and regions targeted.

The ambition of the Colloquium is to advance research on governmental policies for innovative entrepreneurship. We encourage papers dealing with, but not limited to the following issues:

- Specific policy interventions towards innovative entrepreneurship
- How policy interventions affect competitive environments
- Theoretical assessment of policy interventions
- Enabling or constraining resource recombination
- Methods and measures
- Other neglected topics

We expect submitted proposals (5 pages, see details below) to be work in progress: they should develop into complete papers by *July 30* (see dates below), but still be unpublished. We expect the submitted proposals to be theoretical or empirical, rigorous, and of relevance for public policy. We will select proposals after a *review* process based on relevance for the Colloquium theme and potential for stimulating discussion. Around 20 papers are accepted, following review of submitted abstracts.

Senior PhD students, postdocs, and assistant professors are eligible for participation. *Discussants will be appointed to each accepted paper*; all participants are expected to read and comment on papers assigned to them. Thanks to a generous donation from Baylor University’s Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise, the *colloquium and hotel accommodation will be free of charge for participants*. We will also reimburse reasonable budget travel expenses for all participants with full paper submissions.

RCYSS is renowned for offering participants the opportunity to interact in depth, exchange constructive comments, and share insights in a stimulating intellectual environment.

Important dates and deadlines

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| April 15 | Deadline for submission of proposals |
| May 15 | Applicants will be notified of whether they have been accepted or not |
| June 15 | Last date for registration |
| July 30 | Deadline for submission of full papers |

Guidelines

- Proposals should not exceed a total of 5 pages and 3000 words, including charts, graphs, diagrams, and references.
- Abstract of 125 words.
- Only electronic submissions to karl.axelsson@ratio.se will be accepted.
- Maximum of one (1) proposal, either as an author or a co-author, may be submitted.

Applications should include the following

- A research proposal
- A one page summary of your *research interests*
- An up-to-date CV

Venue

The Colloquium will meet at Ratio Institute, Sveavägen 59 in central Stockholm, Sweden.

Conveners

Karl Wennberg, Professor, Linköping University and Ratio (karl.wennberg@liu.se)

Steve Bradley, Associate Professor, Baylor University (Steve_Bradley@baylor.edu)

Christian Sandström, Associate Professor, Chalmers University of Technology and Ratio (christian.sandstrom@chalmers.se)

Submission and administrative inquiries: Karl Axelsson, Ratio (karl.axelsson@ratio.se)

Keynote speakers

Jay Barney is **Presidential Professor** at the Department of Entrepreneurship and Strategy at the University of Utah's Eccles School of Business. Barney is editor in chief of *Academy of Management Review*, the top journal for theoretical work in management. He is one of the

founders of the resource-based theory of competitive advantage in strategic management research, and has written extensively on entrepreneurship, management, and public policy.

Peter G Klein is Professor of Entrepreneurship at Baylor University's Hankamer School of Business; Senior Research Fellow with Baylor's Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise; Adjunct Professor of Strategy and Management at the Norwegian School of Economics; and Carl Menger Research Fellow of the Mises Institute. His research focuses on the economics of entrepreneurship and business organization, with applications to innovation, regulation, and economic growth. Klein has authored or edited five books and has published over 75 academic articles, chapters, and reviews. See [here](#) for his website at Baylor University.

Organizers

The *Ratio Institute* is an independent multidisciplinary research institute based in Stockholm, Sweden. Researchers have a background in academic disciplines such as Business History, Economics, Economic Geography, Entrepreneurship, International Business, Management, Philosophy, Political Science, and Sociology. The *Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise at Baylor University* supports the competitive free enterprise system and entrepreneurial economy through national leadership in research, teaching and informing public policy.

The Colloquium for Social Scientists aims to consolidate, integrate, and further develop ongoing efforts in understanding the interplay between institutions and corporations in economic growth. RCSS is an annual event organized around ongoing research projects at the Ratio Institute. Topics in the last three years have included: "Skills for Growth", "Financing Innovations", and "Technological Discontinuities and Industrial Transformation". The Ratio Institute event attracts distinguished scholars such as: Howard Aldrich (University of North Carolina), Richard N. Langlois (University of Connecticut), Deidre McCloskey (University of Illinois), and Mary Tripsas (Carroll School of Management, Boston College) to its scholarly events.