

COLLOQUIUM ON THE MULTI-DIMENSIONAL IMPACTS OF BUSINESS ACCELERATORS

The Financial Markets Group at the London School of Economics,
in collaboration with **IKEA Social Entrepreneurship**

We invite scholars and practitioners to the **Colloquium on the Multi-dimensional Impacts of Business Accelerators**.

The Colloquium aims to stimulate close and fruitful collaboration between scholars like academics and practitioners in understanding the impacts of business accelerators on the economy. We will discuss what we know and do not know from research about the impact of business accelerators.

Leading scholars will share success stories of past collaborations between academics and practitioners. Participants will also have opportunities to network and generate partnerships for future research projects.

The Colloquium will be held in person at the London School of Economics but will also be accessible online. Attendance is invite-only and has limited space (email fmg.events@lse.ac.uk for more information). All times BST.

Location: @MAR 1.06, Marshall Building [[map](#)]

11:45 – 12:45 pm

Registration and welcome lunch (Hybrid registration begins at 12:35 pm on Zoom)

12:45 – 12:55 pm

Welcome

Colloquium organizers: Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe and Ouafaa Hmaddi, in collaboration with Jens Andersson at IKEA Social Entrepreneurship.

12:55 – 1:05 pm

Session Chair: [Jens Andersson](#) is Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Specialist at **IKEA Social Entrepreneurship**. He is a social impact specialist with 20+ years of experience of leading strategy development, monitoring and evaluation in the intersection of business, philanthropy and development. Jens has a PhD in Economic History from Lund University.

Presentation

The multi-dimensional impacts of business accelerators: what does the research tell us?

[Juanita Gonzalez-Uribe \(LSE, CEPR and JPAL\)](#) and [Ouafaa Hmaddi \(CUNY\)](#)

Written in collaboration with IKEA Social Entrepreneurship, this paper bridges disciplinary divides to take stock of research lessons on the multidimensional impacts of business accelerator impacts and advance a guide for future research.

1:05 – 1:20 pm

Q&A with audience

1:20 – 1:30 pm

Stretch Break

Panel Discussion

“Avenues for research on business accelerators”

This session will explore future avenues for research on accelerator impacts, combining perspectives from research and practice. It is also an opportunity for practitioners to marshal the scholarship of experts in accelerator research and discuss the burning issues they face. It will feature several expert panelists on the topic, including:

Moderator: **Thomas Hellmann** is the DP World Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at **University of Oxford**. Thomas' research focuses on entrepreneurial finance, entrepreneurship, innovation and public policy. His academic writings have been published in many leading economics, finance, and management journals. He is also the Academic Advisor of the Oxford Foundry, the Academic Director of the SBS Entrepreneurship Centre and Academic Director and Site Lead of the Creative Destruction Lab – Oxford.

Ben Hallen is the Longbrake Endowed Professor in Innovation at the **University of Washington**. His research is focused on the strategic aspects of entrepreneurs forming early network ties and obtaining support from key resource providers, including accelerators. His prominent paper “Do Accelerators Work? If so, How?” with Susan Cohen and Chris Bingham had an incredible impact in the field of accelerator research.

Mairi-Jane Fox is the ESG Director at **Techstars**, a VC firm with 50 accelerators around the world that aims to connect startups, investors, corporations, and cities to create a more sustainable and inclusive world. Since 2006, Techstars has invested in more than 2,900 companies and today has a market cap of \$73 Billion. Prior to her role at Techstars, Dr. Fox was an assistant professor of economics and finance and director of the Sustainable Economic Enterprise Development Institute at Regis University in Denver, Colorado.

Diane Morgan is Head of Talent at **Zinc**. Diane works across broad ecosystems, spotting great talent, opening doors and connecting talent and investors. Diane was formerly Global Managing Director of Trilogy Education, a workforce accelerator partnering with universities and companies to bridge the digital skills gap and Associate Dean of Imperial College and London Business School. **Zinc** is an early stage venture capital fund that backs mission-driven talent, pre-team and pre-idea, to build brand new commercial and global businesses that address our greatest societal problems.

Lisa Portz is the Head of Acceleration & Programme Design at **LSE Generate**. She experienced accelerators from every perspective: as a participating founder, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, program director, as well as a mentor and a coach. Her rich accelerator experience has been translated into a PhD in Entrepreneurship at Imperial College that she is about to submit.

Emma Scarf is an investment analyst at **Village Capital**, a venture capital firm that trains and invests in early-stage ventures solving grand challenges. Emma is leading the Europe team focused on women-led businesses and sustainability. Before joining Village Capital, she worked on related projects at Vegan Capital, Dismatrix, and Fashion for Good.

2:15 – 2:30 pm

Networking - Coffee Break

(Breakout rooms for hybrid attendees)

Stories of Successful Collaborations

Session Chair: [Elena Novelli](#) is Professor of Strategy at Bayes Business School. Her research, based on natural, lab and field experiments, explores how firms and individuals create and capture value from knowledge and how problem framing can support superior decision making and performance. Her work has received multiple research grants and awards and been published in some of the top management journals. In 2019, she launched Strategy Insight Lab, funded by the UK Government BEIS, a programme to deliver free training to hundreds of UK entrepreneurs and support their decision making.

- **Building the Global Accelerator Learning Initiative**
 - [Abby Davidson](#) (Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs)
 - [Saurabh Lall](#) (University of Glasgow)
- **Bridging the capabilities gap for disadvantaged entrepreneurs**
 - [Valentina Assenova](#) (Wharton Business School)
- **The role of mentorship within university accelerators**
 - [Amir Sariri](#) (Purdue University & Creative Destruction Lab Toronto)
- **How To Accelerate Learning?**
 - [Susan Cohen](#) (University of Georgia)
- **The Blind Spots In Accelerator Programs**
 - [Amisha Miller](#) (Boston University)
- **When Does Selection Matter Less?**
 - [Adnane Addioui](#) (Moroccan Center for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship)
 - [Ouafaa Hmaddi](#) (CUNY)
- **A Scientific Approach To Entrepreneurship**
 - [Elena Novelli](#) (Bayes Business School)

3:50 – 4:15 pm

Networking - Coffee Break

(Breakout rooms for hybrid attendees)

4:15 – 4:55 pm

Fireside Chat – The changing face of corporate involvement with startups

Gary Dushnitsky is an Associate Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at **London Business School**. He also serves as a Senior Fellow at the Mack Institute for Innovation Management at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. His work focuses on the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation. His research has appeared in leading academic journals, including Organization Science, the Strategic Management Journal and Nature Biotechnology.

Bruno Moraes is the country manager at **Wayra UK**, Telefónica's Open Innovation arm. Bruno has more than 24 years of experience as an entrepreneur, executive and management consultant in the telecom and energy sectors. At Wayra, Bruno currently manages a portfolio of more than 120 invested companies, supporting their growth and helping them develop business opportunities with Telefónica. Before joining Wayra Bruno was an entrepreneur for 12 years in the energy, tech and telecom sectors, he was as Co-Founder and COO of Beegol, a company offering a platform for diagnostic and self-healing Wi-fi and Broadband networks and before he was co-founder and CEO of Stogas, developing the first underground gas storage facility in Brazil.

Alex Reynolds is the Data & Intelligence Lead at **L Marks**, a leading global innovation specialist which has launched over 75 programmes with its partners in Europe, Asia and North America. His work focuses on applying best practice across all of L Marks' programmes by providing consultation services to companies looking to launch innovation strategies. He also is responsible for the strategy and development of L Marks in-house platform 'The Bridge'.

4:55 – 5:00 pm

Closing Remarks

Colloquium Organizers:



Juanita Gonzalez-Urbe is an Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Her research focuses on entrepreneurship, innovation, and private equity. Her work in these areas has been published in top academic journals including the Review of Financial Studies, and the Journal of Financial Economics. Her work has won several prizes including the Jaime Fernandez de Araoz Prize for Best Paper in Corporate Finance, the Collier Prize Award, and the Kauffman Dissertation Award. She has also won several research grants including the NBER Innovation Policy Grant and the NBER Entrepreneurship Grant. Juanita earned a PhD in Finance and Economics from Columbia University, and, a Master in Economics and a Bachelor in Economics and Mathematics from Universidad de los Andes (Colombia).



Ouafaa Hmaddi is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oregon and will join the City University of New York as an Assistant Professor of Economics and Management. She studies how new ventures form strategy in resource-constrained environments and what drives variation in ventures' performance based on their access to resources. She uses data from field experiments and surveys in different market settings, including Morocco, Bangladesh, and distressed neighborhoods in the U.S. Ouafaa has received multiple research grants in competitive funding including the Small and Growing Businesses (SGB) Evidence Fund, the Responsible Research for Business and Management (RRBM), and the Will Mitchell Dissertation Research Grant (WMDRG).