Introduction
A conference centred on informality, ideas, and inspiration, the Oxford Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars has become, throughout the years, one of the ‘academic highlights of the year’. Stemming from a desire to facilitate a deep interaction between scholars without the constraints of more traditional conferences, the Residence Week is an innovative concept initiated by Saul Estrin (London School of Economics and Green Templeton College Associate Fellow) and Mirjam van Praag (Copenhagen Business School and University of Amsterdam). The academic success of the Residence Week is reflected in both scholars’ research output based on previous participations, and their constant enthusiasm for engaging with the active and vibrant community that Mirjam and Saul have developed over time. To continue this tradition, the 6th annual meeting of the Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars took place in Oxford between June 26 and June 30, with the continued generous support of the Templeton Education and Charity Trust.

Participants
To ensure an exciting atmosphere, where new ideas are fostered, the Residence Week aims to obtain a balanced, yet dynamic, combination of both researchers and topics. This involves creating a mix of famous researchers and promising young scholars, from Europe and overseas, new and returning, in economics, psychology, finance, or management. The size of the group is also significant: it should be small enough to ease interaction, yet large and diverse enough to allow valuable input from different perspectives. This year, the group included 22 scholars, many of them returning (from second to sixth participation). The North American reach of the Residence Week has extended, with 7 scholars having their primary affiliation in the region.

Venue
As in all previous years, the Residence Week’s academic activities have been held in the beautiful Osler-McGovern Conference Centre of the Green Templeton College at Norham Gardens. The Centre uniquely combines the convenience of a shared office space and the respite provided by its garden with the atmosphere of academic excellence characteristic of Oxford. The programme also includes a set of formal presentations hosted by Said Business School in the middle of the week.
Content
The Residence Week is centred on the concept of fluid interactions between scholars, where research conversations replace the restricted format of traditional conferences. For this reason, the Residence Week has only a limited predefined programme, with the lion’s share of time devoted for small group discussions and collaborations. During the day, participants spend time working on personal projects, performing revisions on papers co-authored with other participants, designing future projects, grant applications, or special issue proposals. Scholars then convene at 4pm for a session of presentations, decided earlier in the day on a first-come, first-served basis, and open to participation by Green Templeton College fellows. The papers presented are usually early stage, as the ambition is to create an environment where innovative ideas can be freely discussed, in a friendly, but critical manner. In a novel format, Mirjam and Saul this year also led a broad conversation about the future of entrepreneurship research, focusing on how to establish entrepreneurship as one of the main fields in economic research.

This year, the presentation sessions covered a broad range of topics, such as investors’ perception of previous failure in equity crowdfunding, the use of financial incentives by social enterprises, digital entrepreneurial ecosystem development, financial inclusion in developing countries, same gender role models in entrepreneurship education, and hiring patterns by founding teams. As expected, these presentations were met with such enthusiasm that the conversations and intense debates they sparked were prolonged well into the evening. Monday evening also provided participants with an opportunity to connect more deeply to Green Templeton College, as Principal Denise Lievesley welcomed the participants to her lodgings to share their research and discuss the activities for the upcoming week. The drinks reception, which also allowed scholars to get a sense of the breadth and diversity of activities at Green Templeton College, was followed by dinner in the splendid Radcliffe Observatory.

To further open up the Residence Week to participation by Green Templeton College fellows and faculty at Said Business School, the Wednesday programme includes a formal seminar, followed by drinks and dinner at Said Business School, generously hosted by long-standing participants Thomas Hellmann and Nir Vulkan. The seminar, held in a more traditional conference format, included presentations by April Franco (Rotman School of Management and University of Toronto, Scarborough), Simon Parker (Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario), Ute Stephan (Aston Business School), and Nir Vulkan (Said Business School, University of Oxford). The topics were the impact of non-compete covenants on spin-outs and firm strategy, the benefits and penalties of obtaining benefit corporation certifications for socially-oriented enterprises, entrepreneurs’ mental health and well-being, or the trade-off between ownership and investment in equity crowdfunding.
Outcomes
As in previous years, the Residence Week has fulfilled its goal of allowing researchers to improve their current work, develop new partnerships, and expose their new ideas to an engaged and expert audience. The quotes below, derived from this year’s feedback, give an impression of how the workshop has benefitted participants and created a long-lasting impact on the entrepreneurship research community.

- “Based on last year’s discussions, I have published a paper in the Journal of Business Venturing; in addition, the feedback on this year’s presentation has been instrumental in improving and developing my work.”

- “I have submitted several papers, much improved after the comments I received last year; moreover, the comments I received this year were brilliant and have resulted in significant progress in my paper – you might even call it a totally different empirical study!”

- “We began a discussion on writing a proposal for a special issue of a top entrepreneurship journal. We then recruited two additional members on our guest editorial team from interactions at the Academy of Management Meeting in August 2017. We are now in the process of selecting a fifth member to add diversity to the team, and will be working together closely on writing the proposal.”

- “More than one of my top publications either benefitted from discussions with co-authors in Oxford, or actually originated in Oxford.”

- “During my stay, I polished and got key insights on a paper in its late stage, and bootstrapped a paper in its early stage; the tranquillity of the venue and the prompt availability of valuable feedback from thought leaders created the ideal environmental condition for a productive week research wise.”

- “Participation has made existing connections stronger and since the Residence Week I have been in touch with several other participants, e.g., asking for job market advice, which I would not have been able to do if it hadn’t been for the Oxford weeks (plural!, because it takes some time/multiple interactions to get to know and be able to approach new people).”

- “I, together with co-authors who have also participated in the Oxford Residence week, have benefited from this and other previous editions to complete or advance papers which are now published in JBV and in the Oxford Bulletin of Economics & Statistics respectively.”

Looking forward
The main goal of the Residence Week is to assemble a refreshing and expanding mix of participants each year, in order to maximize the potential for new and challenging ideas to develop. Moreover, the Residence Week takes on a developmental target, attempting to boost the careers of young scholars in entrepreneurship. For this reason, a natural step in the progression of this event in future years will be to increase the share of dedicated, engaged, and engaging young scholars, who can use this opportunity to nurture ideas at the cutting edge of research.
Zoltan Acs  George Mason University
Erkko Autio  Imperial College London
Rui Baptista  Instituto Superior Tecnico and Carnegie Mellon University
Janet Bercovitz  University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Saul Estrin  London School of Economics and Political Science and University of Oxford
April Franco  University of Toronto Scarborough and Rotman School of Management
Thomas Hellmann  Said Business School, University of Oxford
Leora Klapper  World Bank
Alexander Kritikos  German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin
Moren Lévesque  Schulich School of Business, York University
Adrián Mérida  Copenhagen Business School
Tomasz Mickiewicz  Aston Business School
Maria Minniti  Syracuse University
Simon Parker  Ivey School of Business, University of Western Ontario
Mirjam van Praag  Copenhagen Business School and University of Amsterdam
Vera Rocha  Copenhagen Business School
Laura Rosendahl-Huber  Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition, Munich
Christian Schade  Humboldt University, Berlin
Ute Stephan  Aston Business School
Theodor Vladasel  Copenhagen Business School
Nir Vulkan  Said Business School, University of Oxford
Diego Zunino  Copenhagen Business School