



REPORT

2018 Oxford Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars, June 26-30

Sponsored by the Templeton Education and Charity Trust (TECT)

Introduction

The Oxford Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars is an innovative conference, centred on informality, ideas and inspiration. Its focus on deep interactions between scholars without the constraints of traditional conferences has allowed it to become a staple event in the entrepreneurship field, reflected in scholars' enthusiasm to engage with this community, as well as their resulting research output. After Mirjam van Praag (Copenhagen Business School) stepped down in order to become President of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, co-founder Saul Estrin (London School of Economics and Green Templeton College Associate Fellow) was joined by distinguished researcher Maryann Feldman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) in organizing the 7th annual event. The 2018 Residence Week for Entrepreneurship Scholars took place in Oxford between June 25 and June 29, with the continued generous support of the Templeton Education and Charity Trust.

Participants

The Residence Week fosters an exciting atmosphere conducive to new ideas by creating a mix of famous researchers and promising young scholars, from Europe and overseas, new and returning, in economics, psychology, finance, or management. This year, 20 scholars participated, refreshed with a large share of first-time participants. This group size is small enough to ease fruitful research interaction, yet large and diverse enough to allow valuable input from different perspectives.

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 more formal presentations hosted by Saïd Business School on the Thursday.

Content

As the Residence Week aims to facilitate informal conversations between scholars, casual, dynamic discussions are preferred to the traditional, restrictive conference format. The bulk of the Residence Week schedule is therefore left to participants' choice, and is ultimately devoted to organic small group debates and collaborations. Aside from working on personal projects, scholars revise papers co-authored with other participants, design future projects, grant applications, and special issue proposals. The fixed point of the Residence Week consists of the 4pm presentation sessions each day, allocated flexibly to interested scholars. These sessions are open to participation by Green Templeton College fellows, allowing them to gain insight into state-of-the-art research in entrepreneurship. Most papers presented are in their early stages, where feedback is most helpful; this is doubly helpful in the friendly, but critical environment created by the Residence Week.

The presentations covered, among others, the early-life interactions and experiences that influence self-employment and growth-oriented entrepreneurship, the (non)cognitive skills that entrepreneurs require to scale up and become successful, the interaction of regulation and innovation, and the collaboration/litigation behaviour of firms in standard development organizations.

On Monday evening, the participants had the opportunity to share their research with Dr. Jonathan Reynolds, Governing Body Fellow & Chair of the College Trustees of the Templeton Education and Charity Trust, over dinner in the Radcliff Observatory of Green Templeton College. Tuesday evening also provided participants with an opportunity to connect more deeply to the College and get a sense of the breadth and diversity of its activities, as Principal Denise Lievesley welcomed the participants to her lodgings to share their research and discuss the activities for the upcoming week and the outcomes of previous Residence Weeks.

To further open up the Residence Week to participation by Green Templeton College fellows and Saïd Business School faculty, the Thursday programme included four formal seminars, followed by drinks and dinner at Saïd Business School, generously hosted by Thomas Hellmann. The presentations were by Wendy Bradley (Saïd Business School, Oxford), Pontus Braunerhjelm (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Maryann Feldman (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill), and Martin Murmann (University of Zürich). The topics included the role of patent pools in spurring cumulative innovation, the effect of individual and corporate philanthropy on university innovation, the transfer of organizational practices between parent firms and spin-offs, and the role of middle management in information processing and allocation in high tech firms, with implications for innovation outcomes.

Outcomes

As in previous years, the Residence Week allowed 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.

- *“I have rekindled previously shelved work, got excellent feedback on ongoing work, formulated exciting new projects, and got a lot of work done on an urgent paper submission. There are weeks that go by during the year when I am not this productive.”*
- *“One of the papers I presented last year is now forthcoming in the Journal of Business Venturing – the feedback received allowed us to develop a section of the paper that referees were keen on. This year’s meeting has probably been the most fruitful one, with great new ideas for the future!”*
- *“It was a really constructive and interesting week – I already have plans for future collaborations with some of the participants, and I got plenty of work done!”*
- *“As always: great company, wonderful colleagues, and great venue. I used this year’s Residence Week to present work in progress and discuss comments at length, to develop a new co-authorship relation, and to revise my book manuscript.”*
- *“As a junior scholar approaching the job market, I received not just useful comments on my research, but also coaching for job applications and for managing the transition from PhD to Assistant Professor. Moreover, I developed a set of new projects, which will keep me busy!”*
- *“The relaxed but productive atmosphere helped me develop one existing collaboration and start a new one, in an entirely new field for me. This Workshop really helps one understand what is going on across the field and opens one’s mind to new research possibilities.”*



Rui Baptista	Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisbon	Aija Leiponen	Cornell University
Janet Bercovitz	University of Colorado, Boulder	Tomasz Mickiewicz	Aston Business School
Wendy Bradley	Saïd Business School, Oxford	Maria Minniti	Syracuse University
Pontus Braunerhjelm	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Martin Murmann	University of Zürich
Saul Estrin	LSE and University of Oxford	Almantas Palubinskas	Syracuse University
Maryann Feldman	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Mark Sanders	Utrecht University
Thomas Hellmann	Saïd Business School, Oxford	Christian Schade	Humboldt University, Berlin
Jolanda Hessels	Erasmus University Rotterdam	Roy Thurik	Erasmus University Rotterdam
Alexander Kritikos	German Institute for Economic Research, Berlin	Theodor Vladasel	Copenhagen Business School
		Mike Wright	Imperial College Business School