

Entrepreneurship Research in *AMJ*: What Has Been Published, and What Might the Future Hold?*

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Ours is a multifaceted academic discipline. Indeed, scholars seeking to publish their management-related research in *AMJ* have interests in diverse areas of inquiry, such as management history, technology and innovation management, and management spirituality and religion, among a host of others. The Academy of Management's 24 divisions and interest groups are perhaps a meaningful proxy for the sheer diversity of management scholarship. One might even argue that the eclectic nature of this scholarship contributes to researchers' ability to consistently produce intriguing and stimulating findings.

Not unexpectedly, many scholars are passionate about their research and about the importance of the area of inquiry with which they are intellectually engaged. In many ways, of course, passion for one's research interests and chosen area of inquiry is highly desirable. After all, passionate scholars care deeply about scholarly research and are committed to trying to make contributions that will result in important additions to one or more stocks of knowledge.

Sometimes, scholars' passion for their research may lead to a belief that journals should publish a larger number of articles concerned with their chosen area of inquiry. Indeed, Sara Rynes, reporting a survey of *AMJ*'s Editorial Board members, wrote this: "Approximately half (51%) of the respondents felt there were some research areas that should receive more coverage in *AMJ*" (2005: 10). Of course, this reported finding also means that roughly half the respondents believe that the articles *AMJ* publishes represent an acceptable balance among the diverse areas of management scholarship.

Entrepreneurship is an area of inquiry on which some (but certainly not all) scholars take the position that *AMJ* has not published a sufficient number of articles. Those holding the view that *AMJ*, should publish more entrepreneurship research might further suggest that this is not a desirable situation, especially in light of the fact that this area of management scholarship continues to attract the interest

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of an increasing number of scholars (Chandler & Lyon, 2001; Low & MacMillan, 1988). Using arguments advanced by Lumpkin and Dess, we can briefly introduce entrepreneurship by noting that “the essential act of entrepreneurship is new entry,” where new entry is seen as “the act of launching a new venture, either by a start-up firm, through an existing firm, or via internal corporate venturing” (Lumpkin & Dess, 1996: 136). Different perspectives about entrepreneurship’s domain are offered later in this editorial.

To a degree, one’s answer to the question about the sufficiency of the number of articles related to a discipline that a particular journal publishes is subjective. Nonetheless, there are some objective measures one can use to consider the matter of how much of a particular type of research a journal has published or is publishing. In this context, the main objective of this editorial is to determine how much entrepreneurship research has been published in *AMJ*. In some ways, our objective is similar to the one Brad Kirkman and Kenny Law (2005) established for their recent piece (see the June issue of this volume of the *Journal* to read their work). A principal difference between the two editorials is that while Kirkman and Law’s focus was on the publication of international management research in *AMJ*, our focus is on the entrepreneurship research published here. Our interest is to (1) describe the trends associated with publishing entrepreneurship research in *AMJ*, (2) identify some of the characteristics of the entrepreneurship research that *AMJ* has published, and (3) offer a few expectations about the entrepreneurship research that *AMJ* may publish in the future.

Review Methodology

Entrepreneurship is a relatively young field (Cooper, 2003); some argue that it is in its adolescence (Low, 2001), others that it is still emerging (Busenitz, West, Shepherd, Nelson, Chandler, & Zacharakis, 2003). Supporting those positions are arguments suggesting that entrepreneurship is a field (1) in which the search for a distinct theory of entrepreneurship continues (Phan, 2004), (2) that is characterized by low paradigmatic development (Ireland, Webb, & Coombs, 2005), and (3) that scholars have frequently evaluated in order to assess its progress and status as an independent field of study (Davidsson, 2003; Sarasvathy, 2004; Smith, Gannon, & Sapienza, 1989). Kuhn asserted that less-developed paradigms are “regularly marked by frequent and deep debates over legitimate methods, problems, and standards of solution” (1996: 47–48).

The lack of agreement regarding the definition of entrepreneurship as a construct (Davidsson, 2003; Gartner, 1990) is an indicator that entrepreneurship is a field of inquiry with relatively low paradigmatic development. However, Low (2001) argued that scholars are allocating too many of their research efforts to developing a widely agreed upon definition of entrepreneurship. Differing opinions as to the type of research scholars should complete to examine important questions, including the question of how a construct should be defined, are symptomatic of low paradigm development.