

13. Research methodology and theory development in the field

When a paradigm, or field of investigation, is still in its relative infancy - as is the case with both entrepreneurship and small business - it is a sign of the commitment of researchers to its advancement to devote time to consideration of issues of methodology. At this ICSB conference (and indeed at previous ones) there will be a track dedicated to issues of methodology and theory. This reflects not just the need for such discussions, but, also the maturity of researchers in the field(s) who are willing to invest time in considering 'how' we research, rather than just 'what' should we research.

We call for papers that reflect on issues of methodology in relation to investigating entrepreneurship and small firms from both the macro (i.e. at an epistemological level) and micro (i.e. at the method level). We invite the submission of abstracts that present reflections on the whys and wherefores of the application of a particular methodological technique, rather than those that focus on the findings themselves. We also encourage contributions from those who have implemented a novel, or innovative, methodological approach to an entrepreneurship or small firm issue.

The Call for Papers for this track welcomes not only academic papers, but also case studies, and practitioners and policy oriented papers and workshops.

- Academic paper abstracts should clearly state the aim of the study, methods used, results obtained and conclusions reached for SMEs and entrepreneurship as well as implications for policy or program development. Abstracts should include title of paper, name(s) of author(s), affiliation, and full contact details.
- Workshop and case study proposals should clearly link to the themes of the conference. Proposal abstracts must include: topic, name of workshop leader (with full contact details), names of workshop panellists, and a brief description of what the workshop will cover.