

**Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems Community:
Aligning purposes, policies, professional roles, and publications**

Sponsor: ENT

Potential Co-Sponsors: TIM, PNP, MED, SAP, NEU, MOC

“You cannot do great ecosystem research from an armchair; you need to be immersed in all stakeholders, especially entrepreneurial champions from practice and from policy.”

Kauffman Foundation’s ESHIP initiative

Abstract (231 words)

The 2024 Academy of Management theme, "Innovating for the Future: Policy, Purpose, and Organizations", is perfect to facilitate a dialogue amongst multiple stakeholders (policymakers, academics, entrepreneurs, civil society, and ecosystem agents) who all play a critical role in driving innovation and entrepreneurship forward. By facilitating dialogue between them, the AoM ecosystem community hopes to empower entrepreneurs not only to develop groundbreaking solutions but also to find mechanisms to enhance their entrepreneurial and innovative abilities, equipping their organizations to face future challenges with greater confidence. Our *Ecosystem Community is truly a community*, comprised of global experts (and newcomers) from multiple disciplines (beyond b-schools) and roles (scholars, entrepreneurs, ecosystem agents/intermediaries, policymakers), stimulates this PDW proposal as a platform for “Meetings of the Minds”, where we can debate about urgent matters as the alienation of organizational **purpose** (social, economic, digital, technological, sustainable), **policies and initiatives** (metrics, capacity building, follow-up), **ecosystem professional roles** (builders, intermediaries, specializations), and different types of disseminating **publications** (policy briefs, reports, academic).

We will bring together all of these important voices and focus on vigorous, creative discussions to help co-create the future of entrepreneurial communities that advances these disparate stakeholders of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The heart of healthy ecosystems are passionate, proactive, and professional connectors. Imagine 50+ passionate, proactive professionals in one room, co-creating the most important questions we need to ask... and answer. Provoking intense, joyous conversations about these themes in the context of a vibrant ecosystem like Chicago! And co-create innovative partnerships to do that.

Explanation/Justification: Value Propositions for Sponsoring Divisions

ENT: Our “meetings of the minds” have always been fruitful for ENT – multiple new research/project collaborations and new research outputs/impacts have always arisen. If we are to build a better world together, we need to keep bridging the divides between education, research, ecosystem capacity-building, public policy, and dissemination. ENT has always welcomed practitioners and policy experts, usually through these “Meeting of the Minds” (a concept energized by the Kauffman Foundation and other policymakers). It is difficult to envision a better home for those interested in advancing this topic. What will happen when we bring together people passionately interested in growing ecosystems with those passionately interested in learning? Let’s embrace key ecosystem stakeholders and focus on what practitioners and policymakers consider the key leverage points – the ecosystem, the learning, and how they work together (or not).

TIM: If there is one Division besides ENT that truly gets entrepreneurship and how to grow entrepreneurship and innovation, it is TIM (they have co-sponsored prior similar events). Their scholars have done just as much in growing our understanding of innovation/knowledge ecosystems (and learning), and they share our passion to learn more and connect with us. Specially, this edition that comprises the crucial role of innovation for being prepare to the challenging future. We would welcome TIM once again as a full partner in this effort!

PNP/SAP: PNP and SAP have cheerfully supported past ecosystems PDWs and symposia and contributed significantly so we want to invite them. Our signups have more than a dozen “home” Divisions; we are working to expand that! We have identified ambassadors to reach out to all the Divisions/Interest Groups to recruit attendees for the community of practice and PDW. Interestingly, NEU, MED and MOC have co-sponsored similar workshops in the past.

What is NEW?

***) Starting Early, Starting Now: Ecosystem Community connecting young/senior scholars, practitioners, and policymakers** – starting in January, joining forces with the Kauffman-supported Ecosystem Builder Leadership Project & ESHIP [>1000 top practitioners] plus the International Council for Small Business. This will lay considerable groundwork to shape the August workshop (e.g., identify specific hot topics and additional invitees).

***) Increased Presence of Policymakers:** UN, European Commission, OECD, BID, EDA

- * **Increased Presence from the Local Entrepreneurial Community (Chicago):** Among our invitees: Skip Heizer (Heizer Capital), Tom Walter (serial entrepreneur and A++ mentor), Desiree Vargas Wrigley (ex-Kauffman) and Louisa Shepherd (former Ecosystem Building Goal Champion for ESHIP). *Negotiations underway for a separate off-site meetup!*
- * **50% New Voices:** every continent and ~30 countries, diversity/equality representation demographically and intellectually [adding expertise in economic geography, community development, capacity-building, new methodologies, and practical tools]
- * **Breakouts** all have dedicated facilitators plus scribes plus video recording per AoM rules.
- * **Ambassadors** to connect with other DIGs and other groups.
- * Perhaps most important: **Vigorous conversation, not talking heads.**

Format

We propose in-person research tables on key subtopics, each co-led by an expert scholar, an experienced facilitator, and a practitioner, champion, or policymaker. As we get closer to August, if/what hybrid options are feasible. The PDW is structured in 3 phases: (i) pump-priming: very short expert presentations as fire starters on key issues in each of our 2024 focus areas and round table -particularly calling on academics, practitioners, and policymaker experts; (ii) extended small group discussions in separate research tables and implement the give-take strategy to encourage participants' interventions, (iii) to continue building and promoting new initiatives within this as a fast-growing ecosystem community. We will partner this already-growing community with academic groups who share our passion for this (ICSB is eager to combine forces), leading policy experts (Right to Start in the USA; OECD and EU globally, and practitioners, especially the Kauffman-supported Ecosystem Builder Leadership Network where this PDWs organizers are already helping.

Attendees get to ask questions, pitch, and discuss their own research ideas. The tables will be initially set up in a modified unconference format where important questions drawn from registrants set the stage for the tables. Experts provide quick overviews, hear attendees' ideas, and ask attendees to commit to an action item (e.g., a research project; past experiences suggest that at least 1 collaborative project will surface from each table). Each table has a trained facilitator, scribe, and will be recorded. After 30 minutes, attendees will present a list of give-take list to the general group discussion. in 2.5 hours, we can do three rounds of table discussions (in 2 hours we can do 2 rounds) so attendees can work on more than 1 subtopic. Multiple rounds have been especially popular – and powerful — in prior workshops.

	<u><i>With 180 minutes</i></u>	<u><i>With 150 minutes</i></u>
Welcome and Introduction	10 minutes	10 minutes
Initial overview [we will also provide attendees in advance]	20 minutes	20 minutes
Small groups discussion on the 4 themes [facilitators + participants]	120 minutes [3 rounds of 40 minutes]	90 minutes [2 rounds of 45 minutes]
Give-take reports per group [everyone]	20 minutes	20 minutes
Wrap-up [organizers]	10 minutes	10 minutes

n.b.: the organizers are well experienced at pivoting when faced with adversity

Overview

If we are to have a productive meeting of the minds, we need to draw on the best thinking in entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems who get the need for bottom-up, entrepreneur-centric approaches AND experts on fostering great entrepreneurial learning. We have assembled academic experts from around the world experts from the field (the best ecosystem builders in the world will be represented) and the top experts on entrepreneurship policy. Our participants hail from 6 continents, representing 30 countries so far. We will start before AoM to bring together virtual research round tables on specific subtopics on metrics and policy, with each table co-hosted by a scholar and a practitioner. By August, we will have powerful content to spur further discussion during and after AoM.

Over the last decade, we have observed initiatives promoted by the Kauffman Foundation ([ESHIP initiative](#)), European Commission ([Science for Policy Ecosystems](#)), IDB ([SMEs Development](#)), OECD ([Entrepreneurship Center](#)), and others. Most of these initiatives have shared resources for similar purposes of “guiding” (support services, collaborations, capacity-building, and metrics) and “providing” (tools, mappings) to build or to nurture grassroots efforts that support healthy entrepreneurial ecosystems. For example, OECD and UN are eager to make better use of entrepreneurial students. During the last five AoMs, our *Ecosystem Community* has debated multiple themes, such as the development and implementation of policies at different levels (macro, meso, micro) and their interconnection with measures of performance, including the development of human capital. Particularly,

thinking about enhancing entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems for the future, **we would like to focus on how to align four critical dimensions:**

(a) Purposes: what are the current organization's purposes (social, economic, digital, hybrid)?

(b) Public policy priorities: what are the current priorities and allocation of resources?

(c) Professional roles: what are the primary services and roles of ecosystem professionals?

(d) Publication channels: how to ensure the dissemination through the appropriate publication channels (policy briefs, guidelines, reports, tools, academic) so we make a true difference?

In 2024, it is time to move forward and learn from successful examples and from our failures. Bring together all the right people to co-create the right questions and provoke intense, joyous conversations about these themes in the context of a vibrant ecosystem like Chicago!

Expert Participants: Scholars, educators, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, policymakers

Co-organizers:

Maribel Guerrero, USA [Chile, Mexico, Spain, UK]

Norris Krueger, USA [EBLN Leadership Council, OECD/HEInnovate]

Expert Facilitators/Mentors: We learned early on that having first-rate facilitators made a large event with multiple breakouts incredibly successful! Some of these will also help lead the community of practice webinar series in 2024. (*italics = confirmed in-person*)

Expert Facilitators/Mentors

Jose Amoros, Mexico

Rico Baldegger, Switzerland

Maksim Belitski, UK

Dev Dutta, New Hampshire

Stéphane Foliard France

Wiebke Heinze, Germany

Gabriele Ianiro, Italy

Gabi Kaffka, Netherlands

Dafna Kariv, Israel

Yi-Peng Liu, China/Germany

Sandrine Pontois, France

Simon Raby, Canada (P)

Erik Stam, Netherlands

Samantha Steidle, USA

Sirje Ustav, Estonia

Natalia Vershinina, UK

Allan Villegas, Qatar/Mexico

Bernd Wurth, UK

Lei Xu, USA

Ieva Zebryte, Chile/Lithuania

Additional scholar/educator invitees (*italic = confirmed*)

<i>Olesia Bubnovskaia, Russia</i>	Petra Moog, Germany
<i>Angelo Cavallo, Italy</i>	Joris Meijaard, Netherlands (P)
<i>Aveline Cloitre, France</i>	<i>Erik Monsen, Vermont</i>
<i>Leo Dana, France/Canada/NZ (P)</i>	<i>Ngoze Moses L. Kenya (P)</i>
<i>Abel Díaz, Colombia/Netherlands</i>	Giovanni Negri, Italy
Colin Donaldson, Australia	Hezron Osano, Kenya (P)
Leonhard Gebhardt, France (P)	<i>Tiago Ratinho France</i>
Ciambotti Giacomo, Italy	<i>Giuliano Sansone, Ireland/Czechia</i>
Rebecca Gill, North Carolina	<i>Victor Schiller, UK</i>
<i>Ginger Grant, USA</i>	Veronica Scuotto, Italy
Gregory Gueneau, Morocco	<i>Don Siegel, USA</i>
Sophia Hess, Denmark	<i>Philipp Sieger, Switzerland</i>
<i>Aleksandra Janeska-Illiev, Macedonia</i>	Caio Flavio Stettiner Brazil (P)
<i>Indu Khurana, India</i>	<i>Ethne Swartz, NJ</i>
<i>Sophia Koustas, New Hampshire</i>	<i>Charlie Wall-Andrews, Canada</i>
	Changfeng Wang, China
	<i>Ping Wang, China</i>

Invited Chicago area entrepreneurs, ecosystem champions, and policy experts

Skip Heizer, Chicago (Heizer Capital)

Louisa Shepherd, USA (former Ecosystem Building Goal Champion for ESHIP)

Desiree Vargas Wrigley, USA (former Kauffman-ite)

Tom Walter, Chicago (serial entrepreneur and A++ mentor)

EJ Reedy (accelerator director and ex-Kauffman)

Professor David Pistrui

Professor Maija Renko

Adam Engle

Invited national/global experts on entrepreneurship policy/practice

Dr. Suresh U Kumar, President of TiE-NJ, professor at NJIT

Eric Caeg, Philippines [top Asian ecosystem builder]

Grace Belangia, Make Startups

Dr. Jacob Dolence, Virginia [EBLN]

Denise Easton, DC [consultant to World Bank/IMF, EBLN]

Katie Gales, North Carolina [NACCE, Kauffman ESHIP/EBLN]

Julie Heath, Indiana [State of Indiana, EBLN]

Samanta Jovanovic Alberta [Startup Calgary]

Samantha Steidle [NACCE; AACSB; Kauffman ESHIP]

Ayman El-Tarabishy, [ICSB president]

Victor Hwang, USA [former head of entrepreneurship for Kauffman, **Right to Start**

Chantal Line Carpentier, UN/UNCTAD [UN champion, Sustainable Development Goals]

Melissa Roberts Chapman, Federation of American Scientists

Craig Montuori, USA [Global Entrepreneur in Residence]

Ky Holland, Alaska [EBLN]

Beth Zimmer, USA [Launch New York, Kauffman ESHIP; Kauffman EBLP leader]

Jennifer Shieh, US SBA, federal Lab2Market initiative

Brittany Sickler, US SBA Director of Ecosystems, EDA Communities of Practice

Maura Shenker, SBA

Taylor Scott, et al., Research 2 Policy

Raffaele Trapasso (also Jon Potter, David Halabisky, Salvatore Zechhini) European

Union & OECD Entrepreneurship experts

SBA Community Navigator program

Dr. Melissa Bradley (chair, National Advisory Council for Innovation & Entrepreneurship)

Scott Gillespie (top international ecosystems consultant, also ESHIP/EBLP)

Heartland Forward (Ross DeVol, the top regional economist)

Center for American Entrepreneurship (top pro-entrepreneur lobbyists)

Gene Cornelius, Milken Institute (data expert)

Tom Sullivan, US Chamber of Commerce SME