

April 30, 2008

**SPECIAL CALL FOR**  
**“GROWTH VENTURING”**

**ABSTRACTS AND  
DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM APPLICATIONS**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MAY 20, 2008**

**CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE ON SEPTEMBER 22-24, 2008  
Aboard a cruise ship between Helsinki/Finland and Stockholm/Sweden**

Under the spirit of “change and changeability”, the 8<sup>th</sup> EBRF conference will be held aboard a Viking Line cruiser between Helsinki and Stockholm. One of the Special Themes of EBRF 2008 is “Growth Venturing”.

Growth Venturing refers to the ambitious determined activity of different principal stakeholders (inventors, entrepreneurs, co-entrepreneurs, business angels, venture capitalists, etc.) seeking swift maximal realization of observed business opportunities – via building business “from idea to IPO”, ideally, in partnership – by using corporations as vehicles and ownership as the key instrument. We are especially inspired by Growth Venturing tackling “problems worth solving”: Global warming, digital divide, etc.

We call for explorers of both classic *function specific* and emerging *context specific* forms and ways of successful business creation. Our chief interest is in understanding the changing dynamics of Growth Venturing in the midst of “knowledgezation” and globalization. Anything and everything to help the Great Entrepreneurial Explorers of our time find New Worlds. Besides research stemming from the classic streams (accounting, economics, entrepreneurship, finance, industrial engineering, marketing, management, etc.) we call for market, sector, and technology specific research stemming from any field of science. How to build business from venture to capital, for example, in emerging markets, energy sector, or the nano tech space?

We call for innovative means and ways of acquiring and attracting the critical competences – committed technology, production, leadership and market wisdom – into emerging enterprises. Bootstrapping, angel investing, co-entrepreneurship, profit pools, value creation partnerships. Anything and everything it takes to emerge from “mayday to payday”. With regard to university transformation, we are driven by a vision of a globally networked entrepreneurial business creation platform: Something that breaks old-world silos.

In terms of scholarly contributions, we seek both conceptual and empirical, qualitative and quantitative research abstracts. In addition, we offer 20 seats in a Doctoral Consortium on Growth Venturing to dedicated PhD students. We encourage doctoral candidates to send a research abstract and an application!

**SMALL SAMPLE OF INTERESTS AND TOPICS ADDRESSED AND CALLED FOR**

- Defining “growth venturing” as research domain
- Any “new new thing” vs. “problems worth solving”
- Social venture capital and the “greening” of growth venturing
- Growth venturing in, for example, energy, IT, and nano technology space
- Business creation in developed vs. emerging economies, and across both
- Entrepreneurial intent, student venturing, and business plan competitions
- The “mayday” (valley of death): Entrepreneurial forms of finance and marketing
- Brands, universities, and “significant others” as growth platforms
- Critical management vs. leadership competences through the stages of growth
- Controlling growth: Growth and performance measurement
- Case stories on global success through local complexities
- The “payday” (successful exit): Issues around IPOs and Trade Sales

### **SPECIAL CALL ABSTRACT DEADLINE MAY 20, 2008**

Please submit a maximum of two page abstract for double blind review through the conference website [www.ebrf.fi](http://www.ebrf.fi). At the website, you will find further instructions and an abstract template. The abstracts will be subject to a constructive review process by an international group of senior scholars representing cutting-edge knowledge on the themes at hand. In your abstract text and/or when submitting your abstract to the electronic system, please indicate that your abstract is addressing the Special Call for Growth Venturing.

Presentation of an accepted abstract leads to publishing a full paper in the conference proceedings. In the EBRF publication process, presenters will have a few months after the conference to finalize their papers taking into account the feedback received at the conference. The conference proceedings in the form of a CD-ROM publication will be included in the conference fee and sent to the participants after its publication.

The best 1-3 Growth Venturing papers of EBRF 2008 may emerge as candidates for a special issue on related topics in an established journal.

### **DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM APPLICATION DEADLINE MAY 20, 2008**

Please submit a maximum of two page application letter and a separate research plan or manuscript (no page limitations), via email, to Marko Seppä at [marko.seppa@econ.jyu.fi](mailto:marko.seppa@econ.jyu.fi). The application will be subject to a confidential review and selection process by the Doctoral Consortium Board Members. The costs of the Doctoral Consortium will be covered by the regular conference participation fee. Among other things, a cutting edge workshop on "How to write a winning journal article?" will be offered by Eelko Huizingh.

*Top journals have an acceptance rate of 1 in 10, or worse. How do you get your paper accepted by a top journal? In a half-day workshop, the essentials of academic writing will be discussed. We analyze both published and participants' papers. This enables the participants not only to learn about writing academic papers, but also to put this knowledge into practice. We focus on the introduction of the paper, finding a fitting research question and the paper's positioning. The workshop is based on an interactive format. For more information about this and other workshops see [www.HAcademic.com](http://www.HAcademic.com).*

### **DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM BOARD**

Professor Dhruves Biswas, IIT Kharagpur, India  
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 Professor Marko Torkkeli, Lappeenranta University of Technology, Finland

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Special Call Abstract and Doctoral Consortium application deadline  
 Notification of acceptance  
 Registration (Presenting Scholars and Doctoral Consortium Participants)  
 Conference  
 Full paper submission  
 Publication of conference proceedings

**May 20**  
**by June 20**  
**August 8**  
**September 22-24**  
**November 30**  
**January 2009**

### **GENERAL EBRF 2008 CONFERENCE INFORMATION**

Dr.Nina Helander, Chair of EBRF 2008  
 Tampere University of Technology  
[nina.helander@tut.fi](mailto:nina.helander@tut.fi), tel. +358 50 400 4275