

**Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences**  
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**Call for Papers for the Launch Special Issue:**  
**“Female Entrepreneurship in the Global South”**

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Many scholars have examined the relationship between culture and economic growth – exploring how certain cultures with ‘achievement-oriented’ values have accomplished rapid economic growth (Beugelsdijk and Smeets, 2008; Beugelsdijk, Kostova and Roth, 2017), compared with cultures in developing countries where entrepreneurs, especially women, face severe challenges (Ojo, Mafimisebi and Arndt, 2022). For some scholars, culture (i.e., individual values and beliefs) has a causal effect on economic development (cf., Klüppel et al., 2018), though others reject the oversimplification of ascribing economic growth to cultural values (Petiteville, 1995; Lichy, Farquhar and Kachour, 2021).

Globalisation together with information and communication technology (ICT) have precipitated seismic shifts in business and society, offering entrepreneurs new opportunities (Eggers et al., 2017), while facilitating new-venture creation and enhancing productivity (Le Dinh, Vu and Ayayi, 2018). This digital revolution has not only reshaped business practices but also revolutionised communication channels (Kraus, Roig-Tierno and Bouncken, 2019), creating a fertile ground for entrepreneurial endeavours (Nadi et al., 2024). Distinct from traditional entrepreneurship, digital entrepreneurial activities evolve in response to technological advancements and interactions within the digital economy, generating new digital business ecosystems (Ojo et al., 2022).

Yet, scholars continue to uphold the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ model as a reference (Schumpeter, 1942), perpetuating notions of male-gendered entrepreneurship and innovation (Tlaiss and Kauser, 2019) framed by the North American research paradigm (Emery and Trist, 1960) – thus marginalising research on women entrepreneurship in developing countries (Tlaiss 2019, Lichy et al., 2021). The relevance of the North American research paradigm (Emery and Trist, 1960) for the global north is indeed questionable to say the least; its relevance to the global south is

derisory, particularly in the case of women entrepreneurs. To this end, this special issue sets out to examine the multifaceted issues that face women entrepreneurs in the global south.

Women entrepreneurs have been recognised as an important source of economic growth and social development (Ojo et al., 2022), creating new jobs for themselves and others and providing society with innovative solutions for management, organisation and business problems (Dabić et al., 2022). Nevertheless, they still represent a minority of all entrepreneurs, held back by social norms (Jayachandran, 2021) and numerous gender-based barriers to starting and growing their businesses, including patriarchal structures, lack of access to formal funding mechanisms (Yacus, Esposito and Yang, 2019), limited mobility and access to information and knowledge networks (Ojediran and Anderson, 2020).

The ongoing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs point to a gap in knowledge regarding what researchers might learn from severely challenged entrepreneurs in the Global South – not only women but also refugees, disabled, citizen entrepreneurs, do-it-yourself entrepreneurs and people's entrepreneurs. The majority of women entrepreneurs are operating in the informal sector or circular economy – the sector that created more job opportunities when the formal sector was unable to cope during Covid-19, and terminated contracts of many employees. It can be argued that the informal sector helped stabilise the economy while businesses in the formal sector were focusing on survival – which may not be a bad thing – however, the informal sector remains a very under-researched field.

Not everyone will become an entrepreneur but most of us are entrepreneurial – and have entrepreneurial skills to engage citizens. This special issue aims to explore the complex dynamics of empowering women entrepreneurs in developing countries, with a focus on examining the intersections of policy, innovation and support mechanisms, in order to develop sustainable business models.

We encourage theoretical contributions to further the understanding of the 'black box' of entrepreneurship, ideation, venture creation and problem solving – with a particular focus on sustainable business models.

We therefore welcome papers that make a theoretical contribution, from an interdisciplinary perspective and using empirical evidence – including qualitative or quantitative analyses, mixed

methods and action research. Authors are invited to submit work with a focus on the following objectives:

- (i) to critically examine the impact of government policies on the empowerment of women entrepreneurs, particularly in relation to access to finance, regulatory frameworks and market opportunities,
- (ii) to put forward actionable recommendations for policymakers, practitioners and academics to develop a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for women entrepreneurs in developing countries,
- (iii) to explain how women entrepreneurs in the Global South operate within the informal sector and circular economy, and the role this plays in job creation and economic stability, particularly in contrast to the formal sector? What are the implications of these dynamics for understanding and supporting women's entrepreneurship?
- (iv) to explore innovative approaches to business model design and leveraging technologies for facilitating the growth and sustainability of women-led businesses in developing country contexts,
- (v) to investigate support mechanisms, including mentorship, networking and access to markets, aimed at enhancing the capacity and resilience of women entrepreneurs,
- (vi) to offer guidance to women entrepreneurs for fostering collaborative engagement to upscale sustainable business models, and avoid 'mission drift', which stops many entrepreneurs from scaling up,
- (vii) to establish a framework aimed at fostering multi-stakeholder alignment for sustainable business model innovation,
- (viii) to suggest why differences between male and female entrepreneurs matter particularly in developing economies where a fewer number of ventures can move the economic dial more significantly than in many developed economies.

In this vein, we welcome papers that address a variety of issues, including but not limited to:

- To what extent can comparative studies at a national or international level of female entrepreneurs in the Global South provide insights into the distinctive nature of female entrepreneurship, and how might the analysis of data on women-launched and -owned ventures contribute to our understanding of this phenomenon given the scarcity of comprehensive data?

- How do the profiles and narratives of women entrepreneurs beyond necessity traders contribute to interdisciplinary and entrepreneurship studies, particularly for explaining the motivations, methods and unique challenges faced by women in creating businesses, considering the influence of biological, cultural and behavioural attributes and characteristics?
- What constitutes female entrepreneurship, and how can studies of entrepreneurs from the Global South contribute to our understanding of this phenomenon; using empirical or conceptual investigations of female entrepreneurship, what insights can be gained regarding the motivations, interests and goals of these female entrepreneurs, and what lessons can entrepreneurship scholars derive from their experiences and perspectives?

Above all, the intention is to raise awareness of the complex challenges and opportunities facing women entrepreneurs in developing countries, while also identifying actionable strategies for promoting their economic empowerment and social inclusion. By bringing together diverse perspectives and empirical evidence, we aim to inform policy debates, inspire innovative solutions and catalyse positive change in support of women's entrepreneurship globally.

#### Submission Information:

All papers should be submitted on the submission website (ScholarOne) of the journal, and under the title of the Special Issue, "The Nature of Long-lived Family Firms".

Registration and access are available at: <<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cjas1>>. Please study and follow authors' guidelines: <<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/19364490/homepage/forauthors.html>>. Authors should select, from the drop-down menu, the Special Issue in response to the request: "Please select the issue you are submitting to".

Submitted articles must not have been previously published, nor should they be under consideration for publication anywhere else when submitted to or while under review for this journal. Please repeat this last sentence in the covering letter of your paper. Thank you!

#### Deadlines:

Opening date for submissions on ScholarOne: September 9, 2024

Deadline for submissions: June 15, 2025

Submitted papers will be published on a rolling basis (i.e., as soon as papers are accepted) from September 9, 2024.

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