Determinants of graduates’ entrepreneurial activity: New survey evidence from university alumni

Seminar Series 2018 - 19
Dr Shiri Breznitz
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This paper focuses on individual factors and examine the role of academic subject and foreign education experience of students in their propensity to enter entrepreneurship. Our analysis extends the scope of existing research, whose major limitation is that it generally takes a snapshot of graduates’ background but does not consider it comprehensively. The study contributes to our understanding of graduates’ entrepreneurial activity.

Our results indicate:

- A negative relationship between having a STEM degree and entrepreneurial activity.
- A combination of STEM and non-STEM degrees is positively related to the entrepreneurial propensity of graduates.
- Foreign education has a positive impact on entrepreneurship.

Shiri M. Breznitz, an economic geographer, specializes in innovation, technology commercialization, and regional economic development. Her research is at the critical intersection of theory and policy to fit the new realities of globalization. Dr. Breznitz's work has informed policymaking at the local, national, and international levels. She has advised on the role of universities in the larger story of innovation, on the economic impact of biotechnology, and on the role of clusters in driving innovation. In addition, Dr. Breznitz is one of the section editors for Economic Geography at the Geography Compass Journal. Current projects include the role of STEM and non-STEM education and migration on entrepreneurship, the geography of crowdfunding, and ecosystems of innovation.

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