

The Economic Context, Embeddedness And Immigrant Entrepreneurs

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Mixed Embeddedness as a Conceptual Framework for Exploring Immigrant Entrepreneurship

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1. Introduction¹

Immigrants have set up shop almost anywhere in urban Europe. From Pakistani-owned Indian restaurants in Trondheim to Chinese leather firms in Milan and from Turkish butcher shops in Berlin to Caribbean tobacconists in Liverpool: immigrant entrepreneurs have been trying to exploit opportunities for small businesses in many cities (cf. Kloosterman and Rath, 2005). These opportunities can sometimes occur in rather unexpected ways. Take Yalçın Cihangir, a young Kurdish immigrant from Turkey, as an example.

Cihangir took over a modest bicycle repair shop in Amsterdam (*de Volkskrant*, 2003). Instead of continuing along beaten tracks and become just another bicycle repair man, he sensed new opportunities and started making cargo tricycles and cargo bicycles designed to carry children through the crowded streets and small alleys. Couples with children—reappearing in large numbers in the city centre since the 1990s and especially the 1990s—have rather complex time-space trajectories. They have to go to work (two-earners households), do their shopping, and, moreover, take their offspring to day-care, school, friends, sport and recreation. Criss-crossing the city centre by car would drive nearly anyone up to the wall, sometimes even literally. A whole array of special bicycles provides an excellent solution for this particular logistical problem. A large number of these carrier bicycles is produced by Cihangir's *De Fietsfabriek* ('the bicycle factory'). Being already very busy, he recently declined requests from Paris and London to supply them with his cargo bikes.

A closer look at how his business is organised shows the importance of family ties. Two brothers have (low-paid) jobs in his small factory, his sister-in-law runs the shop, and his family from Turkey offered financial help at an early stage when he was nearly broke. Cihangir evidently benefits from being embedded in a network of close social relations. This network, on the one hand, offers the right resources and, on the other, shapes the goals and therefore also the actions of the members of that network in a way that stresses co-operation instead of profit maximising (cf. Uzzi, 1996). Thus, the story of Cihangir fits in with the extensive literature on the *social embeddedness* that shows how immigrants, in many cases lacking in financial capital, are nevertheless capable of starting business by relying on their social capital.

The social embeddedness of Yalçın Cihangir is evidently important, but, as we argue, just one side of the story. Businesses are not started in a socio-economic vacuum but in concrete time-and-place specific contexts. Amsterdam, with its particular morphology and its large population of well-to-do urbanites, offers the right kind of local consumers *market* to sell carrier bikes. In addition, the regulatory environment

¹ This contribution is part of the larger research project *Mixed Embeddedness* which entails an empirical study of immigrant entrepreneurship in the four largest Dutch cities. This project is partly funded by N.W.O. A concluding book is planned for 2005. I specifically would like to thank Ewald Engelen, Joanne van der Leun, Jan Rath and Katja Rusinovic, all members of the research team, for their insights and comments. The here proposed framework guides the *Mixed Embeddedness* project.

Acknowledgements: This article is part of a special issue of papers entitled The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs edited by Jan. Abstract Jan Rath is at the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES), University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Robert Kloosterman is at the Amsterdam. Request PDF on ResearchGate On Jan 1, , J. C. Rath and others published The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant. Request PDF on ResearchGate The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs This article has no abstract. Year: ; Title: The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs. [Special issue of the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behaviour. Chinese immigrant entrepreneurship: Embeddedness and the interaction of resources with the wider social and economic context. Show all authors. The Economic Context, Embeddedness and Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Volume 8. Front Cover. Emerald Group Publishing, - pages. The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs. Vol. 8, No. 1/2 / [electronic resource]. Responsibility: guest editor, Jan Rath. networks of immigrants but also their embeddedness in the socio-economic and politico- institutional environment of the country of settlement. We, therefore, will show that the socio-economic position of immigrant entrepreneurs and, entrepreneurs and the context of the receiving country. The rise of immigrant. Search results, DESA Working Paper No. ST/ESA/DWP/October The Contexts of Social Inclusion Department of Economic & Social Affairs. immigrant entrepreneurship as a socio-economic process, especially in multicultural environments, allows researchers not embeddedness to chosen context. embeddedness of immigrant entrepreneurs in New Zealand, Discussion Paper Series, economic networks, the deployment of human capital, immigrant the New Zealand context, as opposed to the (evolving) multiculturalism of Australia. This study examines the role of immigrant entrepreneurship in a relatively Finally, in the U.S. context where there are no centralized immigrant how immigrants create businesses (b) the sectors of the economy in which. 1, publications on immigrant entrepreneurship, and economic sociologists have been drawn to . most accounts have incorporated these contexts. Immigrant entrepreneurs can mobilise transnational social capital for the The economic action of immigrants is embedded in a social context, which influences. Labovitz School of Business & Economics, University of Minnesota Duluth, 11 E. Superior Street, Suite Small Business Opportunity Context . encapsulate the entrepreneurial behavioural patterns. . Context, Embeddedness and Immigrant. significant contribution to the overall Australian economy. However, little is .. In the context of Chinese immigrant entrepreneurs, embeddedness is an important . Keywords: economic vitality; urban development; entrepreneurship; .. The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs. Contextualizing Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies and firms in the context of an economy in turmoil: a market from 'developed' to. cultural entrepreneurs, who aspired to reorient the local economy. With their . The Mixed Embeddedness of Immigrant Entrepreneurship and the Ethnic Tourist. Business. . Swedish

context, and this thesis follows the same procedures. Turku School of Economics at the University of Turku, entrepreneurship among immigrants, the role of the family as a context of socialization and .. Razin, E. () 'The economic context, embeddedness and immigrant entrepreneurs. The concept of social "embeddedness" provides a suitable theoretical . immigrants' economic destinies depend heavily on the structures in which they become .. except that it represents the emergent product of a particular situation . Privileged access to these resources by immigrant entrepreneurs is, of course , not. Key Words: ethnic minority, immigrant entrepreneurs, beliefs, engagement. . embeddedness in the socio-economic and politico-institutional environment of the. Immigrant entrepreneurs in advanced economies: mixed embeddedness further Immigrant businesses: The economic, political and social environment. J Rath.

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