

Entrepreneurial traits and innovation

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE THESIS

ENTREPRENEURIAL TRAITS AND INNOVATION

Evidence from Chile

BY JOCELYN OLIVARI NAREA

1. Dynamic inconsistency, the most detrimental state failure a society can face, could jeopardize learning within the Chilean innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem if the public institutional setting continues to be exposed to government cycles. [*Chapter 2*]
2. New ventures emerge as a consequence of diverse entrepreneurial motivations and background traits. This implies that the variety of ventures we observe is partly explained by the heterogeneous traits of the business founders. [*Chapter 3*]
3. Entrepreneurial traits, like educational attainment and motivations, are factors that explain firm innovation propensity. Therefore, any attempt to understand *why* innovative ventures emerge and *how* they develop, should take into consideration the person behind the decision making process. In other words, we need to put the entrepreneur back into the analysis of firm innovation. [*Chapter 4*]
4. The emergence process of innovative entrepreneurship is a socially embedded phenomenon. In Chile, it seems that entrepreneurs with high quality social networks and higher socioeconomic status are in a better position to successfully launch and grow an innovative startup. [*Chapter 5*]
5. Policy implications derived from the findings of this thesis point towards the need to ensure equitable access to resources: if the playing field is not leveled, the (Schumpeterian) expectations that innovative entrepreneurship can democratize the business sector and promote social mobility could be jeopardized.
6. When studying complex phenomena, economists need to avoid the streetlight effect produced by the familiarity of mainstream economic theory. We need to challenge ourselves out of this comfort zone.
7. An economist must never forget that economics is a *social* science and therefore it deals with the complex behavior and interactions of agents. The study of economic phenomena would very much benefit from a more multidisciplinary approach, as it provides the researcher with a much wider array of tools to address the social problems under analysis.
8. Innovative entrepreneurship triggering creative destruction was considered by Schumpeter as the source of economic development. My question is, for example, what are we going to do with all those workers when artificial intelligence is created and becomes pervasive.
9. “Cuando creíamos que teníamos todas las respuestas, de pronto, cambiaron todas las preguntas.” [*Mario Benedetti, Uruguayan poet*]
10. “Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto.” [*Violeta Parra, Chilean poet*]