

Challenges and opportunities of women in entrepreneurship

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

**Challenges and opportunities of women in entrepreneurship
Essays on motherhood and access to finance**

by

Pomme L.H.M. Theunissen

1. Mothers use the paid parental leave period following child birth to incubate new businesses (*Chapter 2*).
2. Crowdfunding offers new opportunities for entrepreneurs to finance their business, benefiting female entrepreneurs most (*Chapter 3*).
3. The “*wisdom of the crowd*” overcomes the discrimination towards female entrepreneurs that occurs in traditional loan markets (*Chapter 3*).
4. Self-employment is a positive signal of labor market attachment for mothers of young children (*Chapter 4*).
5. Entrepreneurship is an avenue for women to circumvent the glass ceiling and earn the labor income that reflects the skills they have.
6. Mothers of young children constitute an untapped supply of dedicated labor constrained by current employment schemes.
7. Current EU initiatives that aim to encourage female entrepreneurship miss the “mom” target.
8. De (G)SOEP wordt niet zo heet gegeten als zij wordt opgediend.¹
9. *No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle* – Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965).
10. *Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning how to dance in the rain* – Wisdom of the Icelandic Elves.

¹ Dutch saying: “The soup is not eaten as hot as it served” – Translated as: “Things are not as bad as they look.”