

RENT PDW 2018

Crafting Scholar / Researcher Wisdom: Co-constructing Learning and Identity – Observations, Reflections and Futures

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Key Words: Entrepreneurship (Research) Development, Critical Thinking, Learning Space, Reflexivity, Relational Learning



Learning to do good quality research is a vital element of entrepreneurship study, the development of competent researchers is one of the key challenges facing the entrepreneurship field today. Concerns have been expressed about the need for entrepreneurship scholars to engage more critically with the applied aspects of entrepreneurial practice through alternative methodological approaches, seeking to account for and highlight social, political and moral aspects of research. Equally, in a time where funding in higher education has become increasingly dependent on research *impact* there are renewed pressures to educate/ develop researchers/scholars as opposed to indoctrinate them

into traditional norms of research techniques and methods currently in the field. It is of fundamental importance we pay attention to how we craft and practice our inquiry to reflect and appreciate the distinctive nature of our own professional development, by reflexively questioning our existing assumptions against existing established discourses by challenging current methods of scholarship in the field. This Professional Development Workshop (PDW) serves as a timely opportunity to reflect upon and critique the skills and knowledge which are required by qualitative scholars / researchers to develop and thrive.

Instead of giving answers to people or advising them on how to be scholarly, our learning in this PDW will raise questions and create dialogue about what is meaningful for participants in their work:

Discussion Points

1. Why adopt or become a Qualitative researcher, of whom and what is the benefit? How this method does define us and shapes our identity with the Entrepreneurship Community?
2. Is qualitative research a good career choice?
3. What kinds of problems does qualitative scholar experience in their professional journey?
4. To what extent have qualitative scholars felt anxiety, lack of interest, stress, and exhaustion, and are these experiences related their plans to future career development?
5. What inspires or blocks one to develop more enacted methods of research?
6. How can we construct meaningful research practice in the entrepreneurship field?

The workshop will use the practice of self-critical reflexive dialogue to practically enhance understanding of how we can facilitate more collaborative and purposeful ways of “self” as a researcher/scholar for our own professional development. The workshops focus on developing the capacity of the participants to imagine and analyse the potential of their scholarship for the future

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by identifying opportunities to create and achieve new directions. The delivery style of the workshop will be informal, interactive and participant led, the PDW will be designed to enable complete participant involvement in a safe environment for all. The style of this workshop will be highly interactive and is based on small group dialogical exchange facilitated by a key **discussant provocateur**. A set of 4 **discussant provocateurs**, will serve a critical need to help participants develop their discussions. The PDW success will be in proportion to the willingness of us as participants to share our experiences, challenge each other's ideas and offer input and suggestions.

DPW Key Learning Outcomes

- Reflect on own and others' practice to improve research.
- Consider, critique and manage own requirements for continuing development.
- Engage with storytelling to communicate with one's academic and professional community in confident and autonomous ways.
- Foster an independent learning ability required for continuing professional study, making professional use of others where appropriate

Why the workshop should be of interest to RENT delegates?

The workshop will be of interest to academics, practitioners, and policy makers, who are interested in developing leading edge research and practice in entrepreneurship research and practice by to challenging conventional canons of Entrepreneurship Research.