Summer Research Project

Business School

Innovation and entrepreneurship processes: Effectuation behaviour of researchers in a National scale research programme

The Role

This is an exceptional opportunity for the right candidate to be part of a research programme that has impact on 'Building New Zealand's Innovation Capacity' (BNZIC). The summer scholar will contribute to an externally funded research project through the Science for Technological Innovation National Science Challenge via AUT's Faculty of Business, Economics and Law. The role reports to Dr Paul Woodfield at the AUT Business School and will include tasks such as literature reviews and providing insights from data analysis to support manuscript preparation.

The project seeks to answer the follow question: *How effective are effectual and causal processes/behaviours in accelerating technical science in a research and development (R&D) context?*

The effectuation process promotes the examination of the means available to the entrepreneur including background, education, networks, and personal characteristics.[1] Although the effectuation process has grown in prominence in relation to 'expert' entrepreneurs, what is not well understood is how effectuation behaviour plays out in different settings. Recent research shows a shift toward better understanding effectuation and causation processes in a R&D team context.[2]

Related to decision-making where there is uncertainty, effectuation can be observed in how projects decide upon, and bring together, the appropriate team, resources, and stakeholders. From establishing the project and developing the science through to commercialisation, exploring these processes/behaviours can help us understand how effective they are in the SfTI's projects. The research question aligns with addressing the following BNZIC aims/questions: What learnings can be applied as new teams are formed and their projects develop? and How effective are process innovations for accelerating technical science?

For the right candidate, this is a great opportunity to be involved in 1) cutting edge innovation and R&D research/policy activities; and 2) a progressive and output-focused research team. The primary objective of this role is to contribute to impactful research outputs.

Your Skills and Experience

We are looking for a scholar who would like to work on innovation and entrepreneurship research that is connected to cutting-edge science and technology for economic and social good. We are looking for a scholar with qualifications, capabilities, characteristics including:

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[1] Sarasvathy, S. D. (2001). Causation and effectuation: toward a theoretical shift from economic inevitability to entrepreneurial contingency. *Academy of Management Review, 26*(2), 243-263. doi:10.5465/AMR.2001.4378020; Fisher, G. (2012). Effectuation, causation, and bricolage: A behavioral comparison of emerging theories in entrepreneurship research. *Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice, 36*(5), 1019-1051. doi:10.1111/j.1540-6520.2012.00537.x

[2] Brettel, M., Mauer, R., Engelen, A., & Küpper, D. (2012). Corporate effectuation: Entrepreneurial action and its impact on R&D project performance. *Journal of Business Venturing, 27*(2), 167-184. doi:10.1016/j.jbusvent.2011.01.001

- The summer scholar will have completed at least three years of undergraduate study:
    i. undergraduate degree
    ii. final year honours degree
    iii. first-year master's degree; or
    iv. a Postgraduate Diploma. This is to ensure a reasonable level of autonomy and experience.

- The preferred capabilities and characteristics a successful student should possess include:
    - Demonstrated competency in qualitative research
    - Experience using NVivo is preferred
    - Motivated with initiative and an interest in scholarly achievement
    - Good relational and communication skills
    - Effective writing skills with an ability to contribute to articles and reviews
    - Good time management and organisational skills
    - Applicant who has recent research experience
    - Need a keen interest in research related to science, technology and/or innovation and entrepreneurship
    - Enthusiastic about the BNZIC's success indicators that will be outlined in the application

We acknowledge that this Summer Scholarship is a result of the generous support of the **Building New Zealand's Innovation Capacity** spearhead which is part of the **Science for Technological Innovation National Science Challenge – *Kia Kotahi Mai: Te Ao Pūtaiao me Te Ao Hangarau*** (links below).

- https://www.sftichallenge.govt.nz/
- https://www.sftichallenge.govt.nz/our-research/projects/spearhead/building-new-zealands-innovation-capacity/

Further Details

For further information, or to discuss the role in confidence – please contact Dr Paul Woodfield at paul.woodfield@aut.ac.nz

Start Date:	**1 December 2020**			
End Date:	**28 February 2021**			
Milestone tasks	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Literature reviewed and drafted				
NVivo analysis and summary of key insights				
Descriptive data analysis drafted based on insights				
Final report within four weeks of the completion of the Scholarship term*				
** End of project report with introduction, methods, results, and discussion sections*				