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Essays on entrepreneurial cognition, institution building and industry emergence

Publication status and date:

Published: 05/09/2019

Document Version

Other version

Citation for the published version (APA):

Smolka, K. (2019). *Essays on entrepreneurial cognition, institution building and industry emergence*. [Doctoral Thesis, Erasmus University Rotterdam]. Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (EUR).

[Link to publication on the EUR Research Information Portal](#)

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Propositions belonging to the doctoral thesis

**ESSAYS ON ENTREPRENEURIAL COGNITION,
INSTITUTION BUILDING AND INDUSTRY EMERGENCE**

by Katrin M. Smolka

Public defense at Erasmus University Rotterdam, 5 September 2019



- I. Neither effectuation nor causation is superior. Rather, their combination is beneficial for ventures.
(Chapter 2)
- II. The process by which regulation in new industries comes into existence is a collective effort through which entrepreneurs can shape their own future.
(Chapter 3)
- III. Entrepreneurial reasoning and action are driving firm success and economic progress.
(Chapter 2 & 3)
- IV. The military is an important institution for innovation, although largely overlooked by management scholars.
(Chapter 4)
- V. Institutions play a vital role in enabling innovation. This applies to groups of pioneering entrepreneurs as much as it pertains to entire countries.
(Chapter 3 & 4)
- VI. Entrepreneurship is a consequence and outcome of the process of social construal, as much as it is the point of departure for it.
- VII. In newly emerging technology-driven industries, the usual challenges of entrepreneurship in terms of accessing and assembling resources are compounded by the need to build legitimacy not only for their ventures, but also for their innovations when both the underlying technology and its commercial applications are novel.
- VIII. Entrepreneurship education has its merits, but educators waste their own and their students' time when teaching compulsory entrepreneurship courses instead of courses into which students self-select.
- IX. Junior academics are particularly vulnerable to fall prey to the "imposter syndrome".
(Bothello & Roulet, 2019)
- X. "But the machine is not an end in itself. The airplane is not an end. It is a tool. Just like the plough."
(De Saint-Exupéry, 1939)
- XI. A paper under review is Schrödinger's Cat for academics.