

**Business and People on the Move conference**  
**9–10 of October 2025, Åbo Akademi University,**  
**Turku, Finland**

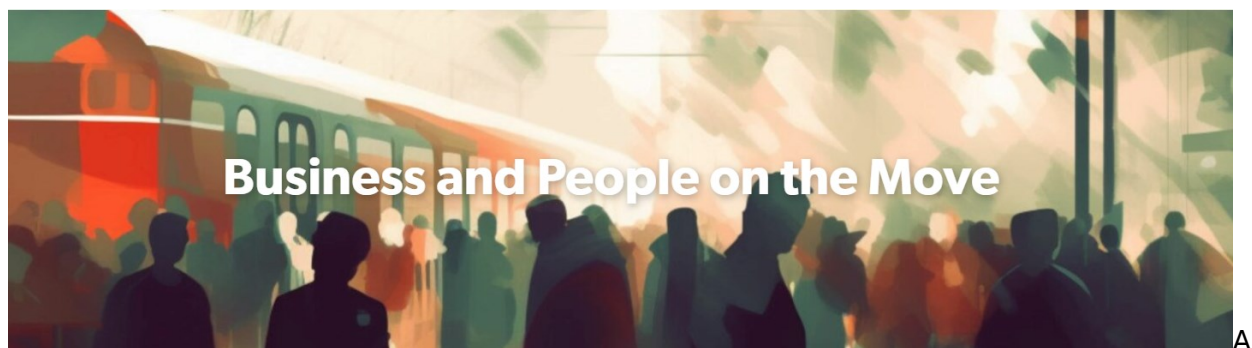
**Theme: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The**  
**Power of Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship**

Organised by the **Refugee Entrepreneurship Research Group** at Åbo Akademi University

Contact persons: Maria Ivanova-Gongne ([mivanova@abo.fi](mailto:mivanova@abo.fi)) and Stefan Lång ([slang@abo.fi](mailto:slang@abo.fi))

**In cooperation with:**





## Program for the conference:

<b>Day 0 – 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2025</b>		
<b>18:00-20:00</b> – Welcoming reception at Juridicum building		
<b>Day 1 – 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2025</b>		
8:30-9:00 Registration (open whole day though) Room: Arken Armfelt (1st floor)		
9:00 – 9:15 Welcome words from Refugee Entrepreneurship Research Group Room: Arken Armfelt (1st floor)		
9:15-10:30 Opening Panel by <b>Prof. Leo-Paul Dana, Prof. Maria Elo &amp; TBA</b> Room: Arken Armfelt (1st floor)		
<b>10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break</b>		
11:00 – 12:30	Session 1.1. <i>Special track: Migration and Displacement due to Conflicts</i>	Session 2.1. <i>Migrant and refugee entrepreneurship in the Nordics</i> Room: TBA

	Room: TBA Chair: <b>Natalia Vershinina</b> <b>Tapuwa Mwedzi:</b> <i>Forms of precarity experienced by forced migrant entrepreneurs (FMEs) and implications in host countries: Preliminary findings</i> <b>Geoffrey Bwireh:</b> <i>Work and entrepreneurship among Congolese refugees in the Global South: A grounded theory approach</i> <b>Muhammad Mudassar Hussain:</b> <i>Barriers faced by refugee women entrepreneur's well-being while creating new ventures with exploring the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems and social value creation: Empirical evidence from kingdom of Spain</i>	Chair: TBA <b>Moses Osofero, Sara Abbas Abdallah Mohammed, April Spivack and Quang Evansluong:</b> <i>Exploring the causes and impacts of migrant entrepreneurial engagement in Nordic's informal economy: Finland and Sweden as case study</i> <b>Richard Owusu, Marcellinus Dike and Perpetual Crentsil:</b> <i>Integrating Diaspora Entrepreneurs into the Nordic Business Ecosystems: A Study of Finland and Sweden</i> <b>Muntaser AlHamad and Pushpa Rani:</b> <i>Resilience strategies for business survival in Finland: How do refugee entrepreneurs adapt identity in rural area</i>
12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch		
13:30-15:00 –	Session 1.2: <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: TBA Chair: <b>Alexandra David</b> <b>Aziza Al Ghafri:</b> <i>The Challenges and Coping Strategies of Women Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Sweden</i> <b>Lukas Zaghow:</b> <i>Death by A Thousand Needles – How Germany Rejects the World's Best and Brightest (Migrant Entrepreneurs)</i> <b>Jagat Kunwar:</b> <i>Entrepreneurship as Survival, Adaptation, and Symbolic Authorship: An Arendtian Meta-Synthesis of Immigrant Narratives in Finland</i>	Session 2.2 <i>Special track: Digitalization in refugee-led business ventures</i> Room: TBA Chair: <b>Mariana Rosca</b> <b>Anurag Hazarika, Samikshya Madkullya and Anwasha Hazarika:</b> <i>Digitalization in business initiatives run by refugees: Closing the digital gap</i> <b>Toli Amare:</b> <i>Becoming in the margins: How virtual incubation shapes entrepreneurial identity formation among urban refugee women in Kenya</i> <b>Mariana Rosca:</b> <i>Digital regression in displacement: The downward digital divide among refugees</i>
15:00 – 15:15 – Coffee break		
15:15-16:45	Session 1.3 – <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: TBA Chair: <b>TBA</b>	Session 2.3 – <i>Identity and intersectionality</i> Room: TBA Chair: TBA

	<p><b>Satu Aaltonen, Tommi Pukkinen, Anna Elkina &amp; Ulla Hytti:</b> <i>Navigating the entrepreneurial journey: immigrant entrepreneurs' experiences and future aspirations across life and business trajectories</i></p> <p><b>Dan Ha Le, Madalin M. Deliu &amp; Anna Elkina:</b> <i>What does it mean to belong? Reconceptualizing belongingness across different life domains</i></p> <p><b>Inna Melnykowska:</b> <i>From Civic Belonging to Entrepreneurial Embeddedness: Dual Agency of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Trans-National Ecosystems</i></p>	<p><b>Sahizer Samuk and Lina Daouk-Öyry:</b> <i>Reconciliation of Identity Tensions Through Agentic Adaptations among Highly Skilled Migrant Spouses</i></p> <p><b>Devendra Kumaria, Rajeev Kamineni and Wendy Lindsay:</b> <i>Entrepreneurial Entry by Skilled Migrants: A mechanism for Eudaimonic Identity functioning and Well-being.</i></p> <p><b>Nasim Aryannejad:</b> <i>The intersection of religion and gender among immigrant women entrepreneurs</i></p>
<b>18:30 – 21:30 – Conference dinner</b>		
<b>Day 2 -10th of October</b>		
9-10:30	<p>Session 1.4 – Special track: <i>Sectoral perspectives on migration</i> Room: TBA Chair: <b>Maria Elo</b></p> <p><b>Thiri Lynn:</b> <i>Turning Barriers into Opportunities: Sectoral Journeys of Highly Educated Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Finland</i></p> <p><b>Maria Elo:</b> <i>From displacement to inclusion : Exploring the role of refugees and vulnerable displaced people in the automotive after market sector</i></p> <p><b>Samu Kemppinen and Rodrigo Mello:</b> <i>Invisible Abroad: How Remote Work and Social Support Shape Expatriates' Internal Marketability and Engagement</i></p> <p><b>Ruhi Lal, Zakia Tasmin Rahman &amp; Ravinder Rena:</b> <i>A Study on Migrant Entrepreneurs' Contribution to the Economic Development: Special Reference to of Indian Origin Migrant Entrepreneurs in USA</i></p>	<p>Session 2.4 – Ecosystems and migrant entrepreneurship Room: TBA Chair: TBA</p> <p><b>Ritva Hyttinen:</b> <i>Cognitive Information Barriers and the Inclusion of Migrant Entrepreneurs in Green Transition</i></p> <p><b>Sharon Hofisi:</b> <i>Using Startup-driven initiatives as enablers of collaborative refugee entrepreneurship and integration in Finland</i></p> <p><b>Natalia Vershinina &amp; Ulla Hytti:</b> <i>Beyond Survival: A Critical Reappraisal of Immigrant Entrepreneurship</i></p>
<b>10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break</b>		
<b>11:00 – 12:15 – Keynote by Juliane Marie Neiiendam</b> Room: TBA		

12:15– 13:15 – Lunch		
13:15:13:45	Meet the editors: <b>Prof. Leo-Paul Dana, Prof. Maria Elo, Prof. Niina Nummela</b>	
13:45-15:15	<p>Session 1.5 – <i>Immigrant entrepreneurs in the Arctic context</i>  Room: TBA  Chair: <b>Nafisa Yeasmin</b></p> <p><b>Nafisa Yeasmin, Matti Muhos &amp; Martti Saarela:</b> <i>Immigrant Entrepreneurial Resilience in the Circumpolar North: A critical overview</i></p> <p><b>Mahmoud Khalik, Jose Godinez, Luis Javier Sanchez-Barrios, Shital Jayantilal, Lynda Achkouty, Sara Lopez-Gomez, Aicha Oumessaoud &amp; Rene Diaz-Pichardo:</b> <i>A Tale of Two Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities for Latina Migrant Entrepreneurs in the U.S. and Colombia</i></p> <p><b>Tabish Zaman, Rani Shahwan &amp; Muntaser AlHamad:</b> <i>Paths to Purpose: Institutional Support Pushing the Boundaries of Entrepreneurship</i></p>	<p>Session 2.5 – <i>Migrant entrepreneurship across contexts</i>  Room: TBA  Chair: TBA</p> <p><b>Liang-Chih Chen, Ho-Don Yan and Cheng Lang Yang:</b> <i>Analyzing Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Taiwan</i></p> <p><b>Zining Wang &amp; Pengyu Zhu:</b> <i>Does Residential Segregation Foster Entrepreneurial Success? Contemporary Perspectives on China</i></p> <p><b>Lusanda Paul &amp; Ravinder Rena:</b> <i>Breaking Barriers: How Refugee and Migrant Filmmakers Are Transforming Media Narratives and Entrepreneurial Spaces</i></p>
15:15 – 15:30 – wrap up and farewell		

## MAP OF Arken, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

The rooms for the conference on this floor are **G107 (Aura)** and **G106 (Kosmos)**.

Lunch will be served in **Café Arken** which is marked on the map with N.



Armfelt	A102
Atlas	G105
Aura	G107
Eisenstein	M120
Goethe	L104
Humboldt	L103
Kosmos	G106
Nikander	D101
Radiatorn	E101
Saussure	M128
Simone Weil	M134
Westermarck	C101
Voltaire	M127

Café Arken N  
 Arkens bibliotek K  
 Datorsal F



## Map of Arken second floor

The room for the conference on the second floor is **A202 (Helikon)** where the session on 22.10 from 9 till 10 will be held



Bifrost	D207
Camera Obscura	E201
Donner	M225
Fiesta	B205
Helikon	A202
Jöns Budde	M218
Kramer	M220
Källan	C201
Lorelei	B206
Pantheon	D208
Rolf Pippings torn	L201
Smedjan	M227
Valhall	D206

Fakultetskansli M206-216, M233

