



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

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Program for the conference:

Day 0 – 8th of October 2025		
10:00-16:30 – PhD workshop (general program here: https://blogs2.abo.fi/bpm2025/PhD-workshop/ . For more detailed program and participation please write to the organizers)		
18:00-20:00 – Welcoming reception at ASA Aula (address: Vänrikinkatu 3, see the map on last page) Welcoming words from the Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences at ÅA – Malin Brännback		
Day 1 – 9th of October 2025		
8:30- Registration (open whole day)		
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 1.1 <i>Special track: Digitalization in refugee-led business ventures</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Mariana Rosca</p> <p>Anurag Hazarika, Samikshya Madkullya and Anwesha Hazarika: <i>Digitalization in business initiatives run by refugees: Closing the digital gap</i></p> <p>Toli Amare: <i>Becoming in the margins: How virtual incubation shapes entrepreneurial identity formation among urban refugee women in Kenya</i></p> <p>Mariana Rosca: <i>Digital regression in displacement: The downward digital divide among refugees</i></p>	<p>Session 2.1. <i>Migrant and refugee entrepreneurship in the Nordics and beyond</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Maria Ivanova-Gongne and Stefan Lång</p> <p>Moses Osofero, Sara Abbas Abdallah Mohammed, April Spivack and Quang Evansluong: <i>Exploring the causes and impacts of migrant entrepreneurial engagement in Nordic's informal economy: Finland and Sweden as case study</i></p> <p>Muntaser AlHamad and Pushpa Rani: <i>Resilience strategies for business survival in Finland: How do refugee entrepreneurs adapt identity in rural area</i></p> <p>Natalia Vershinina & Ulla Hytti: <i>Beyond Survival: A Critical Reappraisal of Immigrant Entrepreneurship</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break		
11:00-12:30	<p>Session 1.2: <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Alexandra David & Judith Terstriep</p>	<p>Session 2.2. <i>Special track: Migration and Displacement due to Conflicts</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Natalia Vershinina</p>

	<p>Aziza Al Ghafri: <i>The Challenges and Coping Strategies of Women Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Sweden</i></p> <p>Lukas Zaghow: <i>Death by A Thousand Needles – How Germany Rejects the World’s Best and Brightest (Migrant Entrepreneurs)</i></p> <p>Jagat Kunwar: <i>Entrepreneurship as Survival, Adaptation, and Symbolic Authorship: An Arendtian Meta-Synthesis of Immigrant Narratives in Finland</i></p>	<p>Tapuwa Mwedzi: <i>Forms of precarity experienced by forced migrant entrepreneurs (FMEs) and implications in host countries: Preliminary findings</i></p> <p>Geoffrey Bwireh: <i>Work and entrepreneurship among Congolese refugees in the Global South: A grounded theory approach</i></p> <p>Muhammad Mudassar Hussain: <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></p>
12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch		
13:30 – 13:45 Welcome words from Refugee Entrepreneurship Research Group Room: ASA Stora Auditoriet A120 (NOTE: different building, address: Vänrikinkatu 3)		
13:45-15:00 Opening Panel by Prof. Leo-Paul Dana, Maria Elo, Saara Pellander, & Muntaser AlHamad Room: ASA Stora Auditoriet A120 (NOTE: different building, address: Vänrikinkatu 3)		
15:00 – 15:30 – Coffee break		
15:30-17:00	<p>Session 1.3 – <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Alexandra David & Judith Terstriep</p> <p>Satu Aaltonen, Tommi Pukkinen, Anna Elkina & Ulla Hytti: <i>Navigating the entrepreneurial journey: immigrant entrepreneurs’ experiences and future aspirations across life and business trajectories</i></p> <p>Dan Ha Le, Madalin M. Deliu & Anna Elkina: <i>What does it mean to belong? Reconceptualizing belongingness across different life domains</i></p> <p>Inna Melnykowska: <i>From Civic Belonging to Entrepreneurial Embeddedness: Dual Agency of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Trans-National Ecosystems</i></p>	<p>Session 2.3 – <i>Identity and intersectionality</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Wilhelm Barner-Rasmussen</p> <p>Sahizer Samuk and Lina Daouk-Öyry: <i>Reconciliation of Identity Tensions Through Agentic Adaptations among Highly Skilled Migrant Spouses</i></p> <p>Devendra Kumaria, Rajeev Kamineni and Wendy Lindsay: <i>Entrepreneurial Entry by Skilled Migrants: A mechanism for Eudaimonic Identity functioning and Well-being.</i></p> <p>Nasim Aryannejad: <i>The intersection of religion and gender among immigrant women entrepreneurs</i></p>

18:30 – 21:30 – Conference dinner at restaurant Oobu, Läntinen Rantakatu 9		
Day 2 -10th of October		
9-10:30	<p>Session 1.4 – Special track: <i>Sectoral perspectives on migration</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Maria Elo</p> <p>Thiri Lynn: <i>Turning Barriers into Opportunities: Sectoral Journeys of Highly Educated Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Finland</i></p> <p>Maria Elo: <i>From displacement to inclusion : Exploring the role of refugees and vulnerable displaced people in the automotive after market sector</i></p> <p>Samu Kemppinen and Rodrigo Mello: <i>Invisible Abroad: How Remote Work and Social Support Shape Expatriates' Internal Marketability and Engagement</i></p> <p>Ruhi Lal, Zakia Tasmin Rahman & Ravinder Rena: <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: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Malin Brännback</p> <p>Ritva Hyttinen: <i>Cognitive Information Barriers and the Inclusion of Migrant Entrepreneurs in Green Transition</i></p> <p>Sharon Hofisi: Using Startup-driven initiatives as enablers of collaborative refugee entrepreneurship and integration in Finland</p> <p>Richard Owusu, Marcellinus Dike and Perpetual Crentsil: <i>Integrating Diaspora Entrepreneurs into the Nordic Business Ecosystems: A Study of Finland and Sweden</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break		
11:00 – 12:15 – Keynote by Juliane Marie Neiiendam Room: Arken A102 Armfelt		
12:15– 13:15 – Lunch		
13:15-13:45	Meet the editors	
13:45-15:15	<p>Session 1.5 – <i>Immigrant entrepreneurs in the Arctic context</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Nafisa Yeasmin</p> <p>Nafisa Yeasmin, Matti Muhos & Martti Saarela: <i>Immigrant Entrepreneurial Resilience in the Circumpolar North: A critical overview</i></p>	<p>Session 2.5 – <i>Migrant entrepreneurship across contexts</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Leo-Paul Dana</p> <p>Liang-Chih Chen, Ho-Don Yan and Cheng Lang Yang: <i>Analyzing Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Taiwan</i></p>

	<p>Mahmoud Khalik, Jose Godinez, Luis Javier Sanchez-Barrios, Shital Jayantilal, Lynda Achkouty, Sara Lopez-Gomez, Aicha Oumessaoud & Rene Diaz-Pichardo: <i>A Tale of Two Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities for Latina Migrant Entrepreneurs in the U.S. and Colombia</i></p> <p>Tabish Zaman, Rani Shahwan & Muntaser AlHamad: <i>Paths to Purpose: Institutional Support Pushing the Boundaries of Entrepreneurship</i></p>	<p>Zining Wang & Pengyu Zhu: <i>Does Residential Segregation Foster Entrepreneurial Success? Contemporary Perspectives on China</i></p> <p>Lusanda Paul & Ravinder Rena: <i>Breaking Barriers: How Refugee and Migrant Filmmakers Are Transforming Media Narratives and Entrepreneurial Spaces</i></p>
<p>15:15 – 15:30 – wrap up and farewell</p>		

Map of Arken, 1st floor

Link to the map (see first page): <https://www.abo.fi/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Arkenkarta.pdf>

Adress: Tehtaankatu 2

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

The session on 10.10 from 11:00 till 12:15 will be held in **A102 (Armfelt)**. Note that the panel discussion on 9.10 will be held in another building. See map on next page

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

Map of ASA 1st floor

Link to the map (see first page): https://www.abo.fi/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/asa-husets_karta.pdf

Adress: Vänrikinkatu 3

The room for the conference on the second floor is **A120 (Stora auditoriet)** where the session on 9.10 from 13:30 till 15:00 will be held.