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Shayegheh Ashourizadeh is a researcher in the field of Entrepreneurship. She had accomplished her masters in Entrepreneurship at the University of Tehran. Her research is primarily within the entrepreneurial processes of immigrants, notably how the variety of contextual embeddedness in home-country and host-country affect immigrants' performance through their human and social capital. She has presented her works at the international conferences, including RENT and Druid. Her recent article is on Institutional distance affecting migrant firms' innovation, submitted for Entrepreneurship and Regional Development journal. Her earlier works have been published in *International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business* (2014) and *International Journal of Business and Globalisation* (2013-16). Her research is supported by the Sino-Danish Center for Education and Research.



PhD Dissertation of

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at the Department of Entrepreneurship
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Discuss how dual embeddedness,
liability of foreignness and institutional
distance effect the performance of
immigrant businesses

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Immigrant Entrepreneurship: Exploring the Variety of Contextual Opportunities and Constraints

Immigrant entrepreneurship has become an important phenomenon for all economies. This research deciphers some of the contextual differences affecting immigrants and their implications for the use of human and social capital for entrepreneurship; firstly by comparing specific groups of immigrant entrepreneurs in different countries with natives back home. Secondly, immigrants of different nationalities operating in various host countries are compared with native residents of host societies. Next, first- and second-generation immigrants' contextual embeddedness in their home and host countries are compared. Lastly, immigrants' contextual embeddedness is compared in different institutions in terms of the institutional distances between home and host countries.

To test the hypotheses, five distinctive samples from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) dataset have been considered. Analyses were undertaken using SPSS software to compute Correlations, Linear and Logistics Regression and Linear Mixed-effect Models.

The paucity of comparative studies of immigrants residing in different host countries and their native counterparts back home is addressed in the first paper. The findings show that the contextual embeddedness of immigrant entrepreneurs enables them to have better outcomes in terms of innovation, exporting and growth-expectations than native entrepreneurs.

In a similar vein, the second paper advocates for immigrants' contextual embeddedness enhancing not only their intention to start a business, but also the benefit from human capital on their entrepreneurial intention. However, the benefit of social capital, in the form of role-models, on entrepreneurial intention is less for immigrants than for natives, probably suggesting that institutional factors in their homeland impact natives' intention to start a business.

The scarcity of large-scale studies on contextual embeddedness of immigrants from different nationalities operating in various host countries has been considered in the third paper. Findings indicate that both first- and second-generation immigrant entrepreneurs, from various home countries and settled in different host countries, have higher export levels than native entrepreneurs in the host country. Also, the effects of education and gender on their export performance are different compared to native entrepreneurs.

In the fourth paper, the differential embeddedness in home and host countries among first- and second-generation immigrants have been considered, and found to affect the benefit, for exporting, of networking in the private and public spheres for first- and second-generation immigrant entrepreneurs. Specifically, second-generation immigrant entrepreneurs' exporting benefits more from networking in the public sphere than

in the case for first-generation immigrant entrepreneurs and native entrepreneurs.

The fifth paper considered the differences of home and host countries with regard to institutional distances. The results indicate that the dual-embeddedness of first-generation immigrant entrepreneurs in various institutional contexts affect their innovativeness. More specifically, dual-embeddedness of first-generation immigrant in two culturally different institutions, i.e. high cultural distance, improves their innovativeness.

This research offers an overall contribution in the realm of immigrant entrepreneurship, through a comprehensive understanding of immigrants' contextual embeddedness; in particular, its potential and constraints for immigrants' entrepreneurial capitals and outcomes. Each paper provides a different as well as nuanced understanding of the contextual nature of immigrants; considering the heterogeneity of immigrants of different generations, from various origins and host countries.

This research enhances our understanding about the interplay of human and social capital with the contextual embeddedness of immigrants, and the effect of that interplay on immigrants' entrepreneurial outcomes. Furthermore, it recognizes the differential dual-embeddedness among first- and second-generation immigrant entrepreneurs and the use of social capital for their performance. Finally, this research contributes towards understanding the variety of embedding environments by addressing the issue of institutional distance and its effect on immigrants' performance.

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The Department of Entrepreneurship and Relationship Management is located at the University of Southern Denmark, campus Kolding, and employs approximately 85 people. This location is central to the growth centres within the Triangle Region and offers a unique opportunity to close cooperation with the companies and public authorities in the region in respect to research and educational projects.

For several years the research of the department has been based on learning networks with companies and trade promotion institutions. In addition to this, the department has a long tradition of problem-based cooperation across traditional business research areas and very often by means of external funding. The research of the department concentrates on two key areas: entrepreneurship and relationship management and originates from traditional research areas such as marketing, applied economics, accounting, operation management and organization.

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