

## The influence of gender on environmental entrepreneurship

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### Project description:

The PhD candidate will undertake in-depth empirical interrogation of aspects gender and environmental entrepreneurship. Many studies have examined the societal impacts of women entrepreneurs and gender-related aspects of entrepreneurial activity (Hughes and Jennings, 2012; Kimbu and Ngoasong, 2016). In the recent past, environmental entrepreneurship has emerged as a fascinating area for researchers and public policy managers (Wahga, Blundel, and Schaefer, 2018). It has also attracted the attention of various global stakeholder looking to achieve sustainable development goals (Kyrö, 2015). However, limited attention has been paid to examining the role of gender in advancing environmentally sustainable entrepreneurial activity both in developed and developing economies (e.g. Braun, 2010; Schaefer, Williams, and Blundel, 2018). Given the ever increasing participation of women in businesses across the globe (Hughes and Jennings, 2012; VanderBrug, 2013), it is imperative to investigate not only what might motivate but also enable women to become environmentally responsible entrepreneurs. At the same time, factors inhibiting women from becoming environmentally responsible entrepreneurs also need to be examined. Some of the inhibiting factors to sustainable and environmental engagement that can be considered include lack of financial resources (Scholtens 2014), information and communication technologies and limited support from formal institutional structures (Ngoasong, 2017; Wahga et al., 2018). The PhD student will research any of these aspects and the implications for the sustainable development goals.

The research project should examine one of the following topics, but should establish a link with gender, environmental entrepreneurship and the sustainable development goals.

- the microfoundations of the link between gender and environmental entrepreneurship
- the role of intermediaries in promoting women ecopreneurs
- studies that compare and contrast environmental business models in men and women led SMEs
- gender-related studies that compare enterprise financing (e.g. philanthropic venture capital, microfinance, social finance, socially responsible investing) in terms of reducing environmental footprints of SMEs.

We are interested in studies that apply qualitative methods from either developed or developing countries and target specific industry/service sectors. However, the study could take a comparative approach.

### References:

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