

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue of *Small Business Economics: An Entrepreneurship Journal*

Developments in entrepreneurial finance: crowdfunding, blockchain, and ICOs

Joern H. Block, University of Trier, Germany

block@uni-trier.de

Lars Hornuf, University of Bremen, Germany

hornuf@uni-bremen.de

Alexander Groh, EMLyon Business School, France

groh@em-lyon.com

Tom Vanacker, Ghent University, Belgium

tomr.vanacker@ugent.be

Silvio Vismara, University of Bergamo, Italy

silvio.vismara@unibg.it

Research topics

Recent developments in technology and regulation have led to new forms of entrepreneurial finance. New players and new ways to finance entrepreneurial firms have emerged or will emerge (Block et al., 2018). Some financial instruments like crowdfunding in its various forms have found their way into the entrepreneur's toolbox and are on their way of getting mature, whilst others like initial coin offerings (ICOs) are only now becoming available but have a huge potential to shape the entrepreneurial finance landscape in the future. This special issue intends to increase our understanding of these new forms of entrepreneurial finance, with a particular focus on crowdfunding, blockchain technology and initial coin offerings (ICOs).

In particular, we aim at collecting both empirical and theoretical contributions that, building on the available evidence on the complex relationship between new financial markets and young innovative firms, provide robust analyses and new insights. Papers that embrace different approaches or levels of analysis and adopt an international perspective are especially welcomed. Papers could focus on (but are not limited to) the following topics:

- How do blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies change the entrepreneurial ecosystem? To what degree do ICOs and crowdfunding shift entrepreneurial financing preferences? What are the relationships between new and traditional entrepreneurial finance providers? Are they complements or substitutes?
- What are the potential benefits and challenges of ICOs? Which types of entrepreneurs seek financing via ICOs? Which business models are funded, which not? What is the role of intermediaries in ICOs?
- Are ICOs a real financial innovation or do they simply help issuers to circumvent securities regulation? What is the nature of the potential innovation? How should securities regulators react to different kinds of ICO offerings?

- To what degree and how should regulation change to adapt to this changing entrepreneurial finance environment? Which countries attract ICOs and create a favorable regulatory environment? How to limit the risk of bubbles?
- How do ICO investors value firms? How are ICOs priced? How do crowdfunding platforms select firms? On what dimensions do crowdfunding and ICOs compete?
- How does crowdfunding relate to crowdsourcing? Which types of relationships are generated in crowdfunding and blockchain transactions? What do investors do after an investment? Do they interact with the entrepreneurs they finance?
- Who invests in ICOs? Who in crowdfunding? How diversified are these investors? How different from investors in traditional markets? How do companies decide to deliver voting rights in crowdfunding and ICOs?
- Existing papers on crowdfunding focus on the success factors of the campaigns. The ultimate goal of crowdfunding, however, is to build an enduring business. What happens after the offerings? How do ICOs and crowdfunding interact?

Key dates

To aid in the development of papers, we suggest the following two events:

First, a special issue-workshop will be organized by the editorial team on June 6, 2018 at EMLYON Business School in Ecully (Lyon), France, <http://www.em-lyon.com/minisiteen/ReCEntFin/SBE-Workshop-2018>. The deadline for submission to this workshop is April 30, 2018. Papers or extended abstracts should be sent electronically to silvio.vismara@unibg.it with the subject line “SBE Crowdfunding and blockchain workshop”.

Second, members of the editorial team will be available at the [6th Crowdfunding Symposium](#) “Blockchain and Initial Coin Offerings” on July 20, 2018 organized at the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition in Munich, Germany. Please send your paper or extended abstract to crowdfunding-symposium@ip.mpg.de by May 15, 2018.

Acceptance for these events does not guarantee acceptance for the special issue. Also, attending these events will not be a precondition for acceptance of a paper for the special issue.

Paper submission procedure

Submissions to the special issue should be sent electronically with the subject line “SBE Crowdfunding and blockchain Special Issue” to silvio.vismara@unibg.it before October 31, 2018. All submissions will be subject to the standard review process followed by *Small Business Economics: An Entrepreneurship Journal*. All manuscripts must be original, unpublished works that are not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere. All submissions should conform to the SBEJ manuscript submission [guidelines](#).

References

- Belleflamme, P., Lambert, T., Schwienbacher, A. (2014). Crowdfunding: Tapping the Right Crowd. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 29(5): 585-609.
- Block, J.H., Colombo, M.G., Cumming, D.J. Vismara, S. (2018). New players in entrepreneurial finance and why they are there. *Small Business Economics*, 50(2), 239–250.
- Block, J., Hornuf, L., Moritz, A. (2018). Which updates during an equity crowdfunding campaign increase crowd participation? *Small Business Economics*, 50(1): 3-27.
- Catalini, C., Gans, J. S. (2016). Some Simple Economics of the Blockchain. NBER Working Paper No. w22952.
- Conley, J. P. (2017). Blockchain and the Economics of Crypto-tokens and Initial Coin Offerings. Vanderbilt University Department of Economics Working Papers 17-00008.
- Cumming, D.J., Johan S.A. (2018). Crowdfunding: Fundamental Cases, Facts, and Insights, Academic Press, New York.
- Haddad, C., Hornuf, L. (2018). The emergence of the global fintech market: Economic and technological determinants. *Small Business Economics*, forthcoming.
- Harvey, C.R. (2016). Cryptofinance. Unpublished Working Paper, available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2438299>
- Hornuf, L., Schwienbacher, A. (2017): Should Securities Regulation Promote Equity Crowdfunding. *Small Business Economics*, 49(3): 579-593.
- Moritz, A., Block, J.H. (2014). Crowdfunding: A Literature Review and Research Directions. Unpublished Working Paper, available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2554444>
- Rohr, J., Wright, A. (2017). Blockchain-Based Token Sales, Initial Coin Offerings, and the Democratization of Public Capital Markets. Cardozo Legal Studies Research Paper No. 527; University of Tennessee Legal Studies Research Paper No. 338.
- Signori, A. Vismara, S. (2017). Does success bring success? The post-offering lives of equity-crowdfunded firms. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, doi.org/10.1016/j.jcorpfin.2017.10.018.
- Vismara, S. (2016). Equity retention and social network theory in equity crowdfunding. *Small Business Economics*, 46(4), 579-590.
- Vismara, S. (2017). Information Cascades Among Investors in Equity Crowdfunding. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, doi:10.1111/etap.12261.
- Yermack, D. (2013). Is Bitcoin a real currency? An economic appraisal. NBER Working Paper w19747.
- Yermack, D. (2017). Corporate Governance and Blockchains, *Review of Finance*, 21(1): 7-31.