THE SIGNIFICANCE AND THE STATUS QUO OF FEMALE IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDY

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Welfare Regimes and Labour Market Integration of Migrant Women (Insights into Entrepreneurship and Employment)
15th March 2024, TU Berlin, Germany
Today's Discussion

- VIFRE Project (Erasmus+)
- Practical and Research Relevance
- Research Gap
- Current Research Trend
- Future Outlook
Virtual Incubator for Refugee Entrepreneurs (VIFRE)
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What is That?

An online business incubator platform that navigates entrepreneurship education explicitly designed for refugee entrepreneurs.

Project Aim:

1) Social inclusion (integration of refugees)
2) Open and innovative practices in a digital era.
3) Achievement of relevant and high-quality skills and competencies.
Practical and Research Relevance: Research Gap of Female Immigrant Entrepreneurship Study
Female Immigrant Entrepreneurship

- Entrepreneurship undertaken by females with an ethnic migration background based on immigration to a new host country.
- First and second generation female migrant entrepreneurship.
- Terminology used: Women or female migrant entrepreneurship.
Practical Relevance

41% of the female founder call for more political support to reconcile family and work.

43% More women than men cited family reasons for leaving the company (GEM2022/23 Women’s Entrepreneurship Report: Challenging Bias and Stereotypes)
Female immigrant entrepreneurship is formed by the **double effects of gender and ethnic diversity** (Levent et al., 2003).

Business start-ups among both female and immigrants has led to **expanding literature** on female immigrant entrepreneurship (Levie, 2007; Bachan, 2018).

Contrast to immigrant entrepreneurs, female immigrant entrepreneurs **face added barriers such as work-family balance, lack of business training, child support systems and stereotyping** (Ramadani et al., 2013, 2015; Meyer, 2018).

The **socio-cultural environment directly influences** female entrepreneurial activity.
Research Gap

- There has been a surge of research on the female entrepreneurship and immigrant entrepreneurship (Kwong, 2009; Esser & Benschop, 2007) but the intersection between gender and ethnicity is not yet fully explored.

- The literature lacks comprehension of how ethnic diversity and gender impact entrepreneurship, particularly in the context of female immigrant entrepreneurship.

- Female entrepreneurs face difficulties in finding a balance between their family responsibilities and work obligations.
Significance of the study

1) Female immigrant entrepreneurship closely intertwines with a social and cultural framework that comprises family and ethnic networks.

2) Entrepreneurial support organization plays a vital role in assisting female immigrant entrepreneurship.

3) Religion adds to the complexity of female immigrant entrepreneurship, especially when women need to follow specific norms (Mwila, 2013).

4) The mixed-embeddedness of female immigrant entrepreneurs offers both opportunities and challenges.
Current Research Trend and Future Outlook
The figure displays the growing interest in female immigrant entrepreneurship.
Current Studies

- Most studies emphasize female immigrant entrepreneurs who migrate from developing to developed countries. There is a paucity of research on female immigrant entrepreneurs from developed countries.

- Research on female immigrant entrepreneurs' businesses includes grocery shops and restaurants, a bride salon, and shops selling clothes.

- There is limited research on female immigrant entrepreneurs in areas such as the industrial and high-tech sectors.

- Theoretical Lens: Embeddedness, Mixed-embeddedness, Bricolage, Resilience, Motivation, etc. (borrowed from Immigrant studies)
Further Studies

- Need for more balanced view of female immigrant entrepreneurship. Literature often focused on lower skill, low growth sectors, while higher skill, high growth sector strategies of female immigrant entrepreneurs do not seem to be actively pursued in research.

- More studies are needed on cross-country differences in female immigrant entrepreneurship. Studies on female immigrant entrepreneurship of the same ethnic group in different host countries are rare.

- Reverse phenomenon - female immigrant entrepreneurs moving from developed to developing countries is worth pursuing.


