

P31 - Science-based University Spin-off Ventures: People, Processes, Policy

13. TECHNOLOGY-BASED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Elicia Maine¹ (emaine@sfu.ca)

Andrew Park² (apark1@uvic.ca)

¹ Beedie School of Business, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

² Gustavson School of Business, University of Victoria, Canada

Track summary: Governments across the globe support university research as a catalyst for innovation. However, international innovation researchers continually note the difficulties in converting public funding into science-based innovation. Consequently, the technology management literature has placed growing emphasis on university spin-offs (USOs) as a pivotal avenue for science-based innovation. These entities play a crucial role in fostering economic and social development by generating innovative products and services, attracting skilled professionals, and enhancing regional and national innovation ecosystems. Relatedly, science-based ventures, which often trace their origins back to the university, have significant potential to positively impact economic and societal outcomes but often have to contend with heightened technical and commercialization uncertainty, and thus are characterized by high start-up and survival costs and long commercialization timelines. Much of the extant literature has employed quantifiable metrics to evaluate the success of science-based university spin-offs, including independent variables such as venture capital funding, and dependent variables such as the number of firms spun off from a university in a regional ecosystem. However, there is an emerging body of work that investigates more nuanced, less quantifiable variables such as entrepreneurial capabilities and the influence of innovation processes and policy. In this track, we invite authors to submit new empirical and theoretical submissions that address issues related to the contribution of people, processes, and policy in the development, survival, and success of science-based university spin-offs. We encourage submissions from a variety of industries and contexts, and those that deploy a broad range of empirical and methodological approaches.