



Call for research papers, case studies and panel discussions

International Applied Business Conference on the

Evolution of Small and Medium Enterprises in the 21st Century and beyond

May 6th – 7th, 2021

VIRTUAL @ University of Guelph Humber, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Submission of Abstracts Deadline **March 29, 2021**

Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline **April 20, 2021**

Website: <https://www.guelphhumber.ca/Business-Conference2021>

Email: shamimf@guelphhumber.ca

As Charles Darwin once said, “It is not the strongest species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change”. While businesses constantly need to undergo regular transformations, there are some periods and incidents, such as the digital age and COVID-19, when businesses face an existential threat and need to drastically transform and evolve for their ultimate survival. Although the ability to successfully modernize an organization in our fast-paced, rapidly changing world is essential, most small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which make up over 98% of total businesses across the world and are a large contribution to value added and employment, are lacking any will and/or capacity to evolve, with most of them still following old business styles. Additionally, minorities, such as immigrants, women, BIPOC and LGBTQ2+ communities, etc., face relatively more barriers while exploring business opportunities.

In this backdrop, University of Guelph Humber is pleased to host an international applied business conference on the evolution of small and medium enterprises. The conference will be held virtually on May 6-7, 2021 EST.

This conference aims at bringing together academic scholars, researchers, entrepreneurs, policy makers and students from around the globe for an opportunity to present case studies and discuss applied research papers, as well as to foster research collaborations. It will be an international gathering where participants will explore possible ways for businesses to succeed in this continuously evolving and fast paced environment, while learning from successful case studies from various parts of the world and contributing to open innovation. Acknowledging the invaluable contributions of minority entrepreneurs to their communities, participants will also discuss the contribution and challenges of black communities, people of color and women in business.

Proposals for applied research papers, case studies and panel discussions in all fields of business are welcomed, especially, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Impact of COVID-19 on SMEs
- Transformation and survival of SMEs during the Pandemic
- Role of government policies and financial sector in SMEs' survival and growth
- Challenges of international businesses
- Digital era: rise of some and fall of others
- Immigrants and small businesses
- Entrepreneurship education
- Entrepreneurship by Diverse Groups (e.g., women, immigrants, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disability, youth and seniors)
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship in low income or emerging markets
- International and transnational entrepreneurship
- Technological innovation to bridge rural-urban divides
- Entrepreneurship and economic development
- Incubators and accelerators
- University based new ventures and student engagement
- Sustainable entrepreneurship and innovation
- Artificial Intelligence and other technology-based venturing

Please note:

We welcome work in progress and unpublished working papers.

Students are encouraged to submit their research papers or case studies to present in the students' symposium.

Keynote Speakers:

- Prof. Wim Vanhaverbeke, Professor of Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Surrey, UK
- Dr. Nobuyoshi Yamori, Professor, Research Institute for Economics & Business Administration, Kobe University, Kobe, Japan
- Dr. Wendy Cukier, Professor & Director, Diversity Institute, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
- Nadine Spencer, President, Black Business and Professional Association, Canada
- Mr. Rocco Rossi, President & CEO, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Toronto, Canada

Awards: The best papers will be awarded in each of the following categories:

- 1) Applied research
- 2) Case study
- 3) Student work

Publication Opportunities:

- Selected papers will be reviewed for a possible publication in a SCOPUS indexed journal of Transnational Corporations Review, Taylor and Francis.
- Papers can be submitted for a possible publication to the book 'Disadvantaged Minorities in Business Entrepreneurship for Everyone' published by Springer.
- Best papers and case studies will be considered for a possible publication in an edited book titled "Impact of the Pandemic on Small and Medium Enterprises: International Case Studies", published by Routledge.
- Full paper/abstract proceedings will be published in a digital format on the conference website.

Workshops:

- *Case Writing*, The Ivey Publishing Team, Ivey Business School, Ivey Business School Foundation, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, Canada
- *Best Practice of Publishing in an Entrepreneurship Journal*, Professor Paul Jones, Editor in Chief: International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research

Conference Dates: May 6 & 7, 2021 (Eastern Standard Time)

Organizer: University of Guelph Humber

Venue: Virtual

Website: <https://www.guelphhumber.ca/Business-Conference2021>

Email: businessconference@guelphhumber.ca

Important Dates:

Submission of Abstracts Deadline March 29, 2021
(Submit on the conference website)

Acceptance Notice Deadline April 10, 2021

Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline April 20, 2021
(Register on the conference website)

Registration Fee:

Early Bird Registration (by April 20, 2021): Free

Regular Registration (after April 20): \$100(Canadian Dollars)

Submission Website: Please visit the conference website to submit the abstract/paper/case study
<https://www.guelphhumber.ca/Business-Conference2021>

Conference Chair:

Dr. George Bragues, Interim Vice Provost, University of Guelph Humber, Toronto, Canada

Steering Committee:

Justin Medak, Acting Program Head of Business, University of Guelph Humber, Toronto, Canada
Farkhanda Shamim, Acting Assistant Program Head of Business, University of Guelph Humber, Toronto, Canada

Scientific Committee:

Chair: Farkhanda Shamim (University of Guelph Humber, Canada)
Alireza Talebi (University of Guelph Humber, Canada)
Azma Batool (Forman Christian University, Pakistan)
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Cheb Hoeurn (Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia)
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Eric Osei-Assibey (University of Ghana, Ghana)
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Rocco Rossi (Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Canada)
Rosylin Mohd Yusof (Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia)
Shahid W. Anjum (Universiti Teknologi Brunei, Brunei)
Seyhah Ven (Cambodia Development Resource Institute, Cambodia)
Sunnti Duangtavanh (Green Community Development Association, Laos)
Tubodenyefa Zibima (Niger Delta University, Nigeria)
Wendy Cukier (Ryerson University, Canada)
Zafar Kayani (Trent University, Canada)

Information Technology:

Jacob Hrajnik
Gene Carney

Website Design & Development:

Akil Annamunthodo
Nick Patch

For further inquiries about the conference, please feel free to contact Dr. Farkhanda Shamim at shamimf@guelphhumber.ca.