

ENTREPRENEURIAL AGENCY, NETWORKS AND THE EVOLUTION OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS: A RELATIONAL APPROACH

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Introdução

Entrepreneurial ecosystems (EEs) are shaped by complex, dynamic interactions. While the configurational approach highlights key EE elements, it overlooks micro-level mechanisms. Adopting a complex adaptive systems lens, this study uses agent-based modeling to explore how entrepreneurs' tie formation decisions affect EE evolution. Findings reveal that tolerance to heterophily drives higher output and distinct network topologies, emphasizing the critical role of micro-level dynamics.

Problema de Pesquisa e Objetivo

This paper addresses how entrepreneurs' tie-formation behaviors—specifically their tolerance for interacting with dissimilar agents—influence the emergence and evolution of EE network structures and aggregate output. The objective is to uncover the role of micro-parameter distributions in shaping systemic EE outcomes within a CAS paradigm.

Fundamentação Teórica

The study integrates insights from entrepreneurial agency, social capital theory, homophily, and matching theory. Entrepreneurial capabilities are operationalized as the ability to form ties. Heterogeneity in tolerance toward dissimilarity (heterophily) is modeled as a key micro-level trait shaping tie formation, resource acquisition, and network structure in EEs.

Discussão

Simulations show that higher tolerance leads to denser, more connected networks and greater aggregate output. Even under lower financial resource availability, tolerant agents outperform their less tolerant counterparts. This supports a view of EEs as dynamic, evolving systems where tie-formation heuristics—not structural components alone—drive long-term outcomes.

Conclusão

The results underscore the importance of micro-level diversity in tie-formation behavior for EE performance and structure. Entrepreneurial ecosystems should be reconceptualized not as static configurations but as evolving networks shaped by agent decisions. These findings challenge existing structuralist models and reinforce the need for microfoundational theory in EE research.

Contribuição / Impacto

The study provides a novel framework linking tie-creation behavior and EE outcomes. It highlights the significance of micro-parameter distributions—like tolerance—in shaping EE evolution. For policy, it suggests a shift from top-down structural fixes to bottom-up strategies focused on enabling diverse, connection-oriented behaviors among entrepreneurs.

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