

Publications 2008: This year has seen an increase in the number and quality of outputs by staff.

Books

Blackburn R and Brush C (2008) (eds) *Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Major Work 5 Volumes*, Sage Publications: London, NY

Chell E, (2008) *The Entrepreneurial Personality: A Social Construction 2nd ed*, Routledge, London and New York

Landström H, Crijns H, Laveren E and Smallbone D (eds) (2008) 'Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Growth and Performance: Frontiers in European Entrepreneurship Research'. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham

Smallbone D and Welter F (2008) 'Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development in Post-Socialist Economies', Routledge: London and New York

Articles

Blackburn R and Smallbone D (2008) 'Researching Small Firms and Entrepreneurship in the UK: Developments and Distinctiveness', *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 32, 2, 267-288

Chell E, Karatas-Ozkan M and Nicolopoulou K (2007) 'Social Entrepreneurship education: policy, core themes and developmental competences', *International Journal of Entrepreneurship Education*, 5, 143-162

Kitching J (2008) 'Rethinking UK Small Employers' Skills Policies and the Role of Workplace Learning', *International Journal of Training and Development*, 12, 2, 100-120

Welter F and Smallbone D (2008) 'Women's Entrepreneurship from an Institutional Perspective: the Case of Uzbekistan', *International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal* 4, 4, 505-520

Smallbone D, Xiao Jianzhong and Xu Lei (2008) 'Developing the Small Business Market for Business Development Services in Chengdu: Policy Issues and Priorities', *Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development* 15, 4, 656-674

Xheneti M and Smallbone D (2008) 'The Role of Public Policy in Entrepreneurship Development in Post-Socialist Countries', *Estonian Business Review*, 24 (1), 23-36

Book chapters

Blackburn R and Smallbone D (2008) 'Small firms' strategic stickiness and the impact of state interventions' in Barrett R and Mayson S (eds) *International Handbook of Entrepreneurship and HRM*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham

Blackburn R (2008) 'Group Interviews and Focus Groups' in Thorpe R and Holt R (eds) *The Sage Dictionary of Qualitative Management Research*, Sage Publications, London, California and New Dehli

Blackburn R, Edwards P, Storey DJ, Saradakis G and Sen-Gupta, S (2008) 'The Analysis of SMEs and Some Methodological Challenges' in Whitfield K and Huxley K (Eds) *Innovations in the 2004 Workplace Employment Relations Survey*, Cardiff University, ESRC and National Institute of Economic and Social Research, UK.

Chell E (2008) 'The nascent entrepreneur; business development and the role of human resources', in Barrett, R & Mayson, S (Eds) *International Handbook of Entrepreneurship and HRM*, Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar, chapter 2.

Ekanem I and Smallbone D (2008) 'The Investment Decision Making Process in Small Manufacturing Firms: a Learning Approach', in Harrison R and Leitch C (eds) 'Entrepreneurial Learning: Conceptual Frameworks and Applications', Routledge: London and New York

Smallbone D, Slonimski A and Pobol A (2008) 'Struggling to Survive: the Case of a New Technology Based Enterprise in Belarus', in Aidis R and Welter F (eds), *Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Successful Start-ups/Businesses in Emerging Economies*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham 29-47, July

Smallbone D and Welter F (2008) 'Entrepreneurial Behaviour in Transition Environments', in Galindo M-A, Guzman J and Ribeiro D (eds) 'Entrepreneurship and Business in Regional Economics', Springer

Smallbone D (2008) 'Foreign Direct Investment and SME Development: some Policy Issues for Transition and Developing Countries', in Todorov K and Smallbone D 'Entrepreneurship in a United Europe-Challenges and Opportunities', *Bulgarian Association for Management Development and Entrepreneurship*, Sofia, pp 96-115

Welter F, Smallbone D, Slonimski A & Slonimska M (2008) 'Internationalisation of SMEs in Belarus', in Dana L, Han M, Ratten V and Welpel I 'A Theory of Internationalisation for European Entrepreneurship', Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar, 57-76

Research reports

Blackburn, R, Kitching, J, Hart, M, Brush, C and Ceru, D (2008) 'Growth Challenges for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises: A UK-US Comparative Study' Report for HM Treasury and BERR. Online at: www.berr.gov.uk/files/file49983.doc

Blackburn RA, Hyde R, Kitching J and Smallbone D (2007) *Supporting Inclusion in Enterprise Development: Final Report*, Small Business Research Centre, December. Online at: <http://www.equal-works.com/resources/contentfiles/5634.pdf>

Chell E, Athayde R and Greenman A (2008) 'The Identification and Measurement of Innovative Characteristics in Young People.' Interim Report to NESTA, May

Hart M, Driffield N, Roper S and Mole K (2008) 'Evaluation of Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) and Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) Schemes in England, 2000-2006', BERR Occasional Paper No. 2, 144pp

Hart M, Anyadike-Danes M, Athayde R, Blackburn R, Kitching J, Smallbone D and Wilson N (2008) 'The Impact of Regulation on Small Business Performance', SBRC Report for the Enterprise Directorate of the BERR, January

Hart M, Driffield N, Roper S and Mole K (2008) 'Evaluation of Regional Selective Assistance (RSA) in Scotland, 2000-2004

Hart M, Harding R, Levie J and Jones-Evans D (2008) *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) – UK Report 2007*

Kitching J and Smallbone D (2008) 'Defining and Estimating the Size of the UK Freelance Workforce', Report for Professional Contractors Group. Online at: http://www.pcg.org.uk/cms/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=450&Itemid=99999999

Smallbone D, Kitching J, Athayde R and Xheneti M (2008) 'Procurement and supplier diversity in the 2012 Olympics, Equality and Human Rights Commission, online at: http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publicationsandresources/Documents/Equalities/Procurement_in_2012_Olympics.pdf

Conference papers

SBRC staff presented paper at a variety of national (eg ISBE, ESRC seminar series) and international conferences (eg RENT, ICSB, GEM, Rencontre St Gallen, SEANNZ) during 2008. These included events in Switzerland, Estonia, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Canada and Australia.

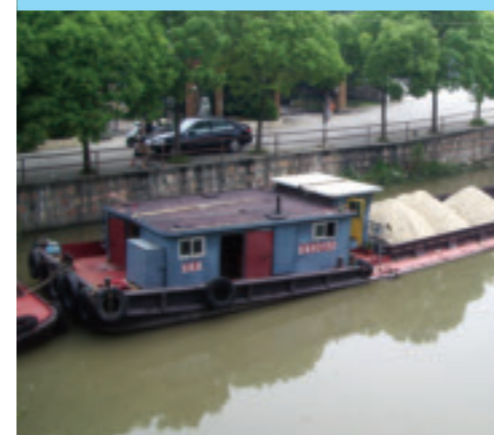
Further details can be found at our website.

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Faculty of Business and Law

Small Business Research Centre Report 2008



2008 marked the Small Business Research Centre's (SBRC) 21st year, making it one of the longest established research centres in the UK, dedicated to research in the field of small business and entrepreneurship. The results of RAE 2008 identified the activities of the SBRC as 'world class' and this contributed significantly to the Business School's excellent research profile.

"I am delighted to be able to present an Annual Report that shows another very successful year for all our stakeholders, staff and students."

Professor Robert Blackburn, Director SBRC

Report 2008

2008 has been another very active year for SBRC staff with a number of large-scale projects being completed, publications output maintained and high levels of participation in national and international conferences. SBRC staff have also been active externally in accepting invitations to give seminars to academic, practitioner and government groups in the UK and overseas; examining PhDs; contributing to national and international professional organisations; and undertaking evaluations of research proposals for both domestic and foreign research councils.



Robert Blackburn presenting at a conference at the University of Valencia, with Diana Hechavarría and David Audretsch, July

International links

The SBRC continues to be highly internationalised. In 2008 this included the co-ordination of, and involvement in, international research projects; participation in international organisations and networks; and contributions to international conferences in St Gallen (Switzerland), Valencia (Spain), Wellington (NZ), Sydney (Australia), Covilha (Portugal), Halifax (Canada), Tallinn (Estonia), Prague (Czech Republic), Budapest (Hungary), Moscow (Russian Federation), Anaheim (USA) and Jena (Germany). In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Moscow Higher School of Economics for co-operation in the field of entrepreneurship and small business research. A significant collaborative international publication included a five-volume *Major Work on Small Business and Entrepreneurship* by Robert Blackburn and Candida Brush (Babson College), which includes 101 chapters.

2008 has also seen a stream of international visitors. This has included four researchers from the Academy of Management in Lodz (Poland) and Professor Jose Lopez Garcia from the University of Valencia (Spain), who completed a two-month period of study. SBRC staff have also accepted invitations to foreign universities, with David Smallbone spending three months in New Zealand, as an Erskine Fellow at the University of Canterbury.

Research developments and highlights

Research highlights of 2008 include:

- A study of procurement and supplier diversity in the 2012 Olympics, commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). Public procurement is one of the current policy-related research interests of SBRC staff. The study for EHRC assessed the extent to which current procurement policies and practices being used by the Olympic Delivery Authority are benefiting businesses in the five host boroughs of the London 2012 Olympic Games and, in particular, those owned by members of ethnic minorities, women and/or those of different faiths.
- Two innovation-related projects, funded under the UK government's high-profile NESTA programme. Both were led by Elizabeth Chell. The first project has been developing a measure of the innovative characteristics of young people aged 15-19 years of age. Empirical investigation includes a range of types of schools located in greater London and Hampshire, selected across the range of student performance. The second project is a Schools Innovation Survey.
- A study of growth challenges facing SMEs: a UK-US comparison. Led by Robert Blackburn and John Kitching, and commissioned by HM Treasury and BERR, this study was undertaken in collaboration with Candida Brush at Babson College, Boston. It focused on the factors that affect SME performance in the UK and US, drawing upon original primary data collection through face-to-face interviews.



David Smallbone presents at a conference in the European Parliament, February

- The SBRC has led on an EU Framework 6 project on cross-border entrepreneurship and economic development in EU border regions. This was completed in 2008. The topic is an important one for regions that in most cases are economically disadvantaged, because of their peripherality and need for development. Co-ordinated by David Smallbone and Mirela Xheneti, the project involved partner institutions in Germany, Finland, Greece, Poland, Estonia and Bulgaria. A policy workshop was held in Brussels in November 2008, where selected findings from the 12 case study regions were presented to an audience of EU policy makers and other stakeholders. Other publications will follow.

- Another large project completed in 2008 involved research to underpin actions to improve policy support for SMEs in China. Funded by DFID and the National Reform Development Commission of the Chinese government, the project used an evidence-based approach to policy development, with the aim of stimulating the development of a market for business development services in two pilot cities: Chengdu and Lanzhou. Led by David Smallbone, this was a 30-month project that incorporated action-oriented research, training and policy evaluation.

- A study of the role of competence, trust and professional ethics in the supply of external financial advice to SMEs. Sponsored by the ACCA, this project involves Robert Blackburn working with Professors George Tanewski and Peter Carey from Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Interviews with accountants, financial advisers and owner-managers are being undertaken with the aim of examining the role of trust between SMEs and their advisers.
- A project to define and estimate the size of the UK's freelance workforce, commissioned by the Professional Contractors and undertaken by John Kitching and David Smallbone. Freelancers are an important component of the UK labour force. They supply valuable labour services to end-user clients and, on a broad definition, contribute 8 per cent of business turnover. Freelancers are also a diverse group. They are men and women, young and old, operate in a wide range of industries and occupational contexts, and use a variety of organisational forms.
- Nick Wilson, John Kitching and Mark Hart maintained the SBRC tradition of winning awards at the national ISBE Conference, with a Best Paper in Track Award (Track S – Supporting small business development worldwide), for their paper: 'It's the evidence, stupid': Doing and Legitimising Policy-funded Research.

People news

External appointments

The year was another active year for SBRC staff in terms of external appointments. Robert Blackburn had a particularly busy year in fulfilling his duties as a member of the HEFCE Business and Management Panel for the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. He also continued as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Small Business Journal*, which has climbed to an impact rating of 1.25 and a ranking of 36/64 in business journals. Robert is also an active member of the ACCA's Small Business Committee and the Association of Business School's Research Committee. He chaired the ABS research conference held at Nottingham Business School in April.

David Smallbone was appointed as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Small Business Management*; elected Senior Vice President Research and Publications of the International Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and served on the Board of the European Council for Small Business as Immediate Past President.

John Kitching was successful in his promotion to Reader.

New staff appointments

We were pleased to welcome Arthur Seruga, who joined the SBRC in June as a placement student; and Wendy Murphy, who worked part time as our Research Projects Administrator during the period March–August.

Staff leaving the SBRC

We were sorry to say goodbye to Professor Mark Hart who left the SBRC in July to take a position at Aston University, as Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Since joining in 1999, Mark has made a significant contribution to

the development of the SBRC. We wish Mark well in his new post and will continue to collaborate with him on projects.

Dr Li Ying Meng left in June to take up a new position at the University of Essex. Andrew Greenman left to take up a lectureship at Nottingham University. Richard Hyde left to be a policy research at Which?

Postgraduate research

The SBRC has a number of doctoral and DBA students studying various aspects of small business development and entrepreneurship, including Sameera Ali Syed (PhD) and Arie Barendregt (DBA student), who are due to complete in 2009.

New students include Andrew Hughes who has a Faculty Scholarship and joined the ESRC recognised PhD programme in September.



Mirella Xheneti and researchers from Germany, Finland & Greece after a project meeting in Lodz, Poland, March

Congratulations are due to:

Dr Conor Patterson, who was awarded a prize for the best PhD on Local/Regional Development in 2007 by the EU Committee of the Regions. This is a prestigious award for Conor's study: 'The success of local economies – what contribution does social capital make?'

SBRC staff have also been involved in examining PhDs at home and abroad, including Swinburne University of Technology, Australia; University of Canterbury, New Zealand; University of the West Indies; and Manchester Business School and Newcastle University in the UK.

Staff

Professor Robert Blackburn, Director SBRC and HSBC Professor of Small Business Studies
Professor David Smallbone, Associate Director and Professor of Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Professor Elizabeth Chell, Professor of Entrepreneurship
Dr John Kitching, Senior Researcher
Rosemary Athayde, Senior Researcher
Dr Mirela Xheneti, Researcher
Valerie Thorne, Research Administrator
Arthur Seruga, Placement Student

Visiting staff and associate members

Professor Michael Anyadike-Danes, Visiting Professor, Economic Research Institute of Northern Ireland
Professor Friederike Welter, Visiting Professor, University of Jonkoping, Sweden
Professor Anne Kovalainen, Visiting Professor, Turku School of Entrepreneurship
Emeritus Professor James Curran, Kingston University
Sue Lawton, Visiting Fellow
Robert Rutherford, Visiting Fellow
Richard Parkes, Visiting Fellow
Professor Robin Jarvis, Associate
Dr David Stokes, Associate Researcher
Dr Nicholas Wilson, Associate Researcher