Welcome to Accelerate Cambridge

Simon Stockley
Senior Teaching Faculty in Entrepreneurship
Recommended reading
Entrepreneurial Behaviour

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The elements of entrepreneurship

Opportunity  Resources

Entrepreneur
Current thinking

Entrepreneurship:

‘The pursuit of opportunity beyond the resources you currently control’

Start up:

‘An organisation in search of a viable business model’
The ‘rules of the game’?

- Entrepreneurs are *always* with us
- Defined as people who are creative in the maximisation of their utility (wealth, power, prestige, etc.)
- The allocation of entrepreneurial effort is determined by ‘the rules of the game’
- The rules define the *structure of payoffs* in a society - The rewards accruing to different types of behaviour vary dramatically
- The rules are a reflection of a society’s *underlying value system*
- Entrepreneurial activity can be productive, unproductive or destructive!
What are ‘the rules of the game’?

What do people want?

What gets very well rewarded?

Nature of entrepreneurial activity – how do people seek to maximise their utility?

- UK
- USA
- Denmark
- Russia
Why are you doing this?

- Security?
- Make the world a better place?
- Get rich – “have you seen what post-docs earn”?
- Challenge?
- Fun?
- Patriotic duty…?

If you don’t control your own life, someone else will control it for you..!
Entrepreneurial tendency test

If you answered yes to any of these, you may have what it takes to be your own boss. If not, it may be time to consider a change in your career path.

Entrepreneurial Aptitude

Can You Be a Successful Entrepreneur?

Do I have what it takes?

Have you got it? What it takes.

Can you get what you want? Do you look at a ship and see if you can see it from the other side? Rate yourself on the sheet to find out if you have what it takes to be your own boss.
The demographic approach

On average, entrepreneurs are:

- Well educated
- First born
- The product of self-employed parents
- Male
- 30-40 years old
- Beard wearers (!)

Useless theory alert...
The traits approach

- High need for achievement
- Goal seeking
- Decisive
- Objective
- Internal locus of control
- Need for autonomy
- Tolerate ambiguity
- Deviant/outcast/maverick

- Judgmental
- Action oriented
- Positive mental attitude
- Confident
- Extrovert
- Charismatic
- Tough minded/resilient…

Second useless theory alert…
Desirable attitudes & characteristics

- Opportunity obsession
- Creativity and innovativeness
- Commitment and determination
- Flexibility
- Self reliance
- Ability to listen

- Energy, health and emotional stability
- Leadership qualities
- Raw intelligence
- Passion and a capacity to inspire
- Sound ethical values
- Not being an “A…hole”!

These can be shaped and developed
The myth of ‘the entrepreneurial personality’

Introvert (I)  Extrovert (E)
Sensing (S)    Intuiting (N)
Thinking (T)  Feeling (F)
Judging (J)    Perceiving (P)

“If you are not an ESTJ you are not an entrepreneurial type….Best stick to your day job”
Personality – The Reality

- Personality affects your choice of functional role
- Personality affects your choice of industry domain
- Entrepreneurship is a ‘team sport’ – all personality types have a role!

There is no single ‘entrepreneurial personality’
Traditional vs. Entrepreneurial Management

Slow
Heavy
Unguided (dumb)
Static targets
Inflexible
High fixed costs

Quick
Light
Guided (smart)
Moving targets
Flexible
Low fixed costs
Life in a start up

‘Big Business’                      | Entrepreneurial start-up
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Titles, hierarchy and status       | Ability and contribution is all
Procedures for everything          | Minimal - Learn as you go
Precedents and heuristics           | None – Learn as you go
Planning and budgets               | Yes, but constantly changing
Politics and culture               | None – You shape the culture
Salary guaranteed                  | Only paid if results warrant
Well defined job descriptions       | Notional, but if the toilet needs cleaning!
Support functions                  | No safety net – may outsource
Understanding human behaviour...
Behaviour = $f(S,A,P)$ moderated by Context

- Belief system
- Self concept
- Instrumentality
- Intrinsic Motivation
- Approval of others
- Self-efficacy
- Fear

- ‘Psychological State’
- Ability
- Personality

High context environment = strong influence on behaviour

Aptitude
Intelligence
Education
Training
Experience
The Milgram Experiment

“more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have been committed in the name of rebellion” (C.P. Snow)
### Social-cognitive precursors of entrepreneurial behaviour

- **Self concept** – ‘I see myself as an entrepreneurial person’
- **Belief system** – Entrepreneurship is a ‘good thing’
- **Perceived societal norms** – People within my environment approve of entrepreneurial behaviour.
- **Perceived instrumentality** – Displaying entrepreneurial behaviour will help me to achieve my life’s purpose
- **Self efficacy** – I believe that I can succeed as an entrepreneur
- **Intrinsic motivation** – Interest and enjoyment (pull) and/or need (push)

**The totality of learned beliefs, attitudes and opinions that each person holds to be true about their personal existence**

We act in ways that are congruent with our self concept

Shaped by:
- Upbringing and exposure to environmental influences
- Somatic and emotional states
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Belief that the behaviours associated with entrepreneurship are desirable and legitimate

Your personal attitudes towards:

- wealth
- competition
- risk
- failure

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**Perceived societal attitudes towards:**
- Entrepreneurial behaviour
- Accumulation of wealth
- Competition
- Risk
- Failure

**Permission given** to act in certain ways

Attitudes and norms exist at numerous levels:
- National
- Religious
- Professional
- Industry
- Firm
- Friends
- Family
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The belief that a particular course of action or behaviour is instrumental in achieving desirable outcomes

Aided by clarity about your life’s purpose and attendant goals

Depends crucially on self-awareness

Shaped by:

- Prior evidence of instrumentality
- Vicarious experience
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‘A context specific assessment of confidence to perform a range of tasks in a given domain’ (Bandura, 1977)

Shaped by:

- **Perceptions** of prior successes and failures (mastery experience)
- Observing the behaviour in those we admire and ‘model’
- Social persuasion
- Somatic and emotional states
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Depends heavily on the perceived opportunity and specific life circumstances.

Shaped by:
- Self efficacy (means)
- Perceptions of pleasure and fun
- Desire for ends
- Economic or psychological necessity
How to become more entrepreneurial…

• Locate yourself in suitable environments
• Get an entrepreneurial mentor
• Become obsessed with opportunity
• Take action – JFDI
• Take many small steps
• Learn by failing fast and often (but make sure the losses are small)
• Develop your social capital
• Do stuff you love…repeatedly

Get in the game and start playing..