



‘Gazelles and Regional Development: Growth Trajectories, Determinants and Spatial Implications’

This is a call for Papers from the Scottish Branch of Regional Studies Association for an important conference to be held on the theme of high growth firms and regional economic development. The conference will be held in central Scotland on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st of April 2010. Although the exact location of the conference has yet to be confirmed the conference will run from lunch-time on 20th to mid-afternoon on the 21st. A social event will be organised for the evening of the 20th. It is our intention to produce a Special Volume of a refereed journal comprising a selection of the best papers presented at the conference.

There has been a recent upsurge of academic and public policy interest in the role of high growth firms across advanced industrial economies. There seems to be an emerging consensus that high growth firms account for the vast majority of new employment and output growth within advanced industrial economies. Also known as gazelles, these firms are often able to continue growing during recessions. These positive growth traits and characteristics clearly make such firms extremely desirable from a public policy perspective.

Much of the recent work on high growth firms has been based on the analysis of aggregate datasets. The conference would like to attract papers using a variety of data sources, including aggregated data sources, surveys, qualitative data and case studies. Previous analysis of high growth firms has also tended to be conducted mainly from a management and entrepreneurship perspective, largely ignoring the spatial dimension of firm-level growth. This conference aims to explore high growth firms from a multi-disciplinary perspective in order to fully explore the multi-faceted nature of their growth trajectories, growth determinants and spatial manifestations. The conference organisers warmly welcome papers of a theoretical, conceptual, empirical or policy-oriented nature.

In particular, we would welcome papers on the following thematic issues:

- Classifications of corporate growth and growth discontinuities
- Key characteristics of high growth firms (entry modes, founder background, corporate strategy, skills utilisation, capital structure and so on)

- The spatial distribution of high growth firms
- Growth differences between firms by mode of entry (university spin-offs, corporate spin-outs, corporate venture, new start-up and so on)
- High growth firms and exit – failure and acquisition
- The role of innovation in shaping high growth firms
- The financing of high growth firms
- High growth firms and clusters
- The role of high growth firms in regional development
- The role of public policy in developing and promoting high growth firms
- International comparisons of high growth firms

If you wish your paper to be considered for the conference please submit an abstract to **Ross Brown** at the email address below by Friday **27th of November**. Abstracts should be submitted in Word and should not exceed 250 words.

If anyone wishes to discuss the suitability of their research for the conference or any other matters in relation to the event please contact one of the conference organisers below:

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