

**REntEd**  
research in  
enterprise  
education

 Enterprise  
Educators  
UK



# Research into Enterprise Education and Practice

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and Dr Breda O'Dwyer (*Munster Technological University*)

# REntEd SIG

- Launched with Enterprise Educators UK, the Research in Enterprise Education SIG is intended to explicitly link together the research and practice arms of the Enterprise Education discipline.
- Builds on the long term positive relationship between ISBE and EEUK- formalizing the researcher-practitioner discussion space
- Focus on '*education*'
- Co-Chairs Dr Emily Beaumont and Dr Breda O Dwyer

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# REntEd SIG

This SIG has the following aims:

- to encourage and support educational practitioners to produce research output;
- to facilitate the development of potential research projects and partnerships between researchers and practitioners;
- to host activities where researchers and practitioners exchange expert knowledge;
- to act as an expert group to inform policy responses and calls for evidence.

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# REntEd SIG

## *What do we do...*

- To promote research informed education practice
- To give early career researchers and educators the opportunity to shape and drive ISBE and EEUK joint interests in this space
- Learn from the mentorship and governance on the ISBE and EEUK trustees and directors
- To build on the collective reputations of EEUK and ISBE as key players in the national dissemination and development of ENTed research and practice
- To support the next generation of EntEd leaders!

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# Rent Ed SIG

## Workshops

- Research into Enterprise Education: Getting your work ‘out there’ (17<sup>th</sup> April 2019, Coventry University)
- Entrepreneurship Education Assessment & Impact: Putting HEInnovate into practice (29<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Dundalk, Ireland)
- Progressing through and reaching beyond boundaries in entrepreneurship education (27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019, De Montfort University)
- Research in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education: An International Perspective (14<sup>th</sup> April 2021, Online)

## Projects

- Research into Enterprise Education, taking stock and looking to the future (ongoing) (Dr Emily Beaumont, Dr Kelly Smith and Dr Breda O’Dwyer)
- Extra-curricular Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Activity (Dr Sarah Preedy, Dr Emily Beaumont, Dr Kelly Smith)

## Conference Tracks

- Education Track at ISBE conference
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Teaching and Research Track at IEEC

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# REnt Ed SIG

Looking to the future

## Workshops

- The future of research in enterprise and entrepreneurship education (TBC)

## Projects

- International extension to project Research into Enterprise Education, taking stock and looking to the future (Dr Emily Beaumont, Dr Kelly Smith and Dr Breda O'Dwyer)

## Conference Tracks

- Education Track at ISBE conference
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Teaching and Research Track at IEEC

And more to come...

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# Join the Rent Ed SIG

The screenshot shows the ISBE website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Log in' and 'Register' links. Below this is the ISBE logo and the text 'institute for small business and entrepreneurship'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for HOME, NEWS, MEMBERSHIP, EVENTS, CONFERENCES, SIGS, PARTNERS, and RESOURCES. A breadcrumb trail indicates 'YOU ARE AT: Home » » Research in Enterprise Education (REntEd)'. The main content area features a heading 'RESEARCH IN ENTERPRISE EDUCATION (RENTED)' and a large graphic with the 'REntEd' logo, 'research in enterprise education' text, and logos for Enterprise Educators UK and ISBE. The text reads: 'Research in Enterprise Education (REntEd), in partnership with ISBE & EEUK'. Below this, it lists 'SIG Chairs: Dr Emily Beaumont & Breda O'Dwyer'. A paragraph explains how to join the SIG: 'To join the SIG, click here and add your details. You can then choose your preferences, ticking the relevant SIG box. If the system finds that you are already subscribed to the ISBE mailing list, you will then see a link to update your preferences where you can also click the relevant SIG tickbox. If you require any assistance, please contact us at info@isbe.org.uk'. Another paragraph states: 'Launched with Enterprise Educators UK, the Research in Enterprise Education SIG is intended to explicitly link together the research and practice arms of the EntEd discipline.' The final line says: 'The SIG has the following aims:'. On the right side of the page, there is a search bar and a 'LATEST TWEETS' section featuring a tweet from ISBE (@\_ISBE) welcoming Antur Cymru as a new member.

<https://isbe.org.uk/special-interest-group/rented/>



# The Background

Ratten and Usmanij (2020) Entrepreneurship education: Time for a change in research direction? *The International Journal of Management Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijme.2020.100367>

- Many research opportunities still yet to be discovered
- EntEd researchers need to continue to find innovative teaching methods and develop critical thinking skills
- Future research areas are subjective and determined largely by the attitudes of the researcher toward the topic
- A shared agreement with students on specific outcomes is needed
- Few studies predict future learning scenarios for entrepreneurship education and how to improve learning effectiveness
- Particularly excited about potential new teaching methods in EntEd and how critical thinking improves learning outcomes.



# What we did...

- Driven by Ratten and Usmanij (2020) to explore and articulate what the current status of research in enterprise education is in the UK.
- Engaged with 15 EntEd 'Thought Leaders' (TLs) representing policy, practice and research)
- Used a 'Delphi-like' method:
  - Each participant asked to read Ratten and Usmanji (2020) and comment (around 400 words)
  - TLs put into groups of 3 or 4
  - First TL in group given all responses (anonymised) and asked to comment further
  - Completed document sent to second TL and so on
  - Initial analysis conducted and presented at a SIG event with international contributors

## Initial Finding 1

# Purpose of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education

Initial results show that there are still questions over the purpose/purposes of EntEd and whilst we recognise its complexities, it has been ‘parked’ as an issue and not addressed with any depth. This may be due to...

- Multiple purposes dependent on education, economic and social context
- The purpose is constantly evolving and it is not fixed nor static

There is a recognition that this needs to be understood to create a strong base to enable future research and work on and in EntEd to be more impactful and grounded.

## Initial Finding 2

# The distinctiveness of Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education

Initial results show that whilst we recognise EntEd as a ‘distinct subject’, there is a struggle to articulate and encapsulate its distinctiveness. For a long time EntEd has been assumed to be within the the Business and Management disciplines and there is current concern that EntEd is, and only is viewed as Venture Creation. Whilst those in EntEd know that this is not the case, our external identity and therefore struggle, continues to be a consequence. The results show that this is having an impact of the EntEd discipline area and the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Educators within.

## Initial Finding 3

# Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education haunted by dated theories

As a consequence of a lack of purpose and distinctiveness, EntEd can be 'haunted' by dated theories, concepts and mental models which continue to feature in our discussions on EntEd. Although it is recognised that some still apply, the discipline must adapt and evolve. Therefore, if we don't address and resolve these issues, we will limit progress and there is the potential to create a vicious circle of a lack of purpose, little distinctiveness, and subsequently a rehashing of traditional theories, concepts and mental models.

# What are we doing now?

- ▶ Coming to the end of a more rigorous analysis of the data
- ▶ Drafting a working paper to present at the ISBE conference
- ▶ Submitting to present at other international conferences (USASBE 2022)
- ▶ Feedback will be used to improve the draft paper for submission to an academic journal
- ▶ Will use the findings to help support the EntEd policy, practitioner and research communities through future SIG events