**Call for Papers**

**Beyond 140 Characters:**

**The Role of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Economic Growth**

**January 10‐11, 2020**

Since the path-breaking work of Joseph Schumpeter, economists have posited a relationship between innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity growth and economic output. In the United States today, innovation and entrepreneurship are ubiquitous, particularly in places like Silicon Valley, Boston, and the Research Triangle Park. However, the relatively weak performance of advanced economies in recent years has prompted debate about the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in driving productivity and economic growth. Some argue that a declining level of business dynamism is one of the root causes of modest growth in both productivity and per capita income. Others point to potentially transformative emerging technologies being commercialized by corporate innovators and entrepreneurs in areas such as artificial intelligence, advanced genetic engineering, financial technology, and clean energy to argue that the economic and social impact of recent advances have not yet been fully realized. This lack of clarity is problematic because both private and public resources are increasingly targeting programs and policies that seek to leverage innovation and entrepreneurship as a source of economic growth.  
  
On January 10-11, 2020, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a leading non-profit, non-partisan research organization, will convene a symposium in the San Francisco Bay Area to synthesize existing evidence and initiate new research on the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in economic growth. This symposium, which is made possible by the generous support of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, will be organized by Aaron Chatterji of Duke University and NBER, Josh Lerner of Harvard Business School and NBER, and Scott Stern of MIT Sloan and NBER.  
  
The symposium will be organized around a set of research studies that explore the relationship between innovation, entrepreneurship, and growth in particular sectors of the economy. By considering the evidence in industries such as healthcare, energy, finance, retail, and manufacturing, as well as in less studied sectors such as education and agriculture, the symposium will develop a comprehensive and nuanced view of the role of the economic effects of innovation and entrepreneurship. The industry studies should identify specific examples of productivity improvements that have been enabled by innovation and entrepreneurship, and should also identify the route to those improvements, such as new production technologies, increased competition, and new organizational forms. A key objective is assessing whether the contributions of innovation and entrepreneurship are likely to be concentrated in a few sectors, or are more widespread.  
  
Leading practitioners and policymakers with expertise on particular industries will participate in the symposium, provide their perspectives on the core issues, and comment on the sector studies that are selected for presentation. The sector studies will subsequently be edited in light of the commentary, and published in an NBER volume. By bringing together academics, industry leaders, and policymakers at a location near a global innovation hub, the symposium will generate new insights on whether the relationships between innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic growth has changed over time. It will also facilitate discussion of which policy interventions can exert the greatest impact on innovative activity, and also permit analysis of whether innovation and entrepreneurship are having broader and deeper effects on the economy that transcend measured productivity and economic growth statistics.  
  
The organizers seek manuscripts that are broader than typical research papers that are prepared for academic journals, but that still supply rigorous econometric evidence on the relationship between innovation, entrepreneurship, productivity, and growth. Priority topics that could be covered in the sector studies that are prepared for the symposium include, but are not limited to: • What is the impact of entrepreneurship (i.e., start-ups) as a driver of productivity and employment growth in the sector? • What is the impact of innovation (i.e., new technologies, organizational processes, or business models) as a driver of productivity and employment growth? • What broad factors are important in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship as drivers of productivity and growth? • What are key barriers, such as policy roadblocks or infrastructure needs, that might hinder the potential for innovation and entrepreneurship to impact productivity growth? Proposals for sector studies must be submitted by December 16th, 2018, via the following web link:  
  
http://papers.nber.org/confsubmit/backend/cfp?id=IEEGs20  
  
Submissions from authors with and without NBER affiliations are welcome and submissions from early career scholars, and from researchers from under-represented groups are especially encouraged. Authors of proposed studies will be notified about whether their project will be included in the symposium by early February, 2019.  
  
Proposals should be no more than two pages long (single spaced) and should identify which sector will be studied, what research questions will be addressed, and how data sources and methods will be leveraged to address them. A template that provides a suggested outline for sector studies is available here.

At least one author from each sector study team must attend a pre-conference meeting that will take place at the 2019 NBER Summer Institute in Cambridge during the third week of July. The NBER will provide an honorarium to the authors of each sector study, and cover the travel and lodging cost for all co-authors to attend the 2020 research symposium.  
  
Please direct questions about this project to the NBER Department (confer@nber.org).