Guest editorial: Entrepreneurship and resource-based view: emerging issues, new trends and innovative decision support tools

Editorial introduction

Novel tools for facilitating entrepreneurial endeavors and aiding decision-making emerge on a daily basis, emphasizing the necessity for a fresh perspective on firm resources and capabilities. The resource-based view (RBV) (Barney, 1991) stands as a managerial framework employed to identify the strategic resources and capabilities firms can harness to attain sustainable competitive advantages, thereby bolstering both internal and external strategies. Within this context, problem structuring methods (PSM) and multiple criteria decision-making/analysis (MCDM/A) have garnered increasing attention over the last two decades and hold significant potential. This is evidenced by a marked growth in the number of published applications utilizing a formal approach to problem structuring in tandem with an analytic method for multi-criteria analysis (Marttunen *et al.*, 2017).

PSM encompasses a broad range of general approaches aimed at structuring complex decision-making problems. These methods typically adopt a participative and interactive nature and may address problem situations where traditional decision-making approaches exhibit limited applicability (Rosenhead, 1996; Belton and Stewart, 2002; Mingers and Rosenhead, 2004). Such situations are frequently encountered in studies of entrepreneurial ecosystems, where problem factors, constraints, and objective functions are not predetermined and agreed upon in advance. Concurrently, MCDM/A has emerged as a prominent area within operations research and management science (OR/MS), striving to develop and implement systematic approaches to decision problems that necessitate the consideration of multiple criteria, objectives, goals and perspectives (Keeney, 1992; Doumpos and Grigoroudis, 2013). MCDM/A can offer a systemic approach to incorporate stakeholders' preferences and facilitate their decision-making process. By accounting for the conflicting nature of criteria or stakeholders' preferences in the study of entrepreneurial ecosystems, MCDM/A methods can provide valuable insights. Whether applied individually or in conjunction with other methodologies, PSM and MCDM/A techniques serve as invaluable tools for structuring and evaluating complex decision scenarios, enabling more informed, transparent and consistent decision-making processes (Carayannis *et al.*, 2016, 2018a, b).

Given the exponential growth of MCDM/A approaches in recent decades, resulting in a paradigm shift in decision-making practices, this special issue constitutes a comprehensive exploration of the intersection between entrepreneurship, RBV and PSM-MCDM/A approaches. It offers profound insights into contemporary challenges, evolving trends and cutting-edge methodologies within this dynamic field.

Ferreira and Ferreira (2025) undertake a systematic literature review to map the intellectual landscape of RBV research, employing bibliometric analysis to identify influential studies, thematic clusters and future research directions, providing a holistic overview of the field's evolution. Lacaze *et al.* (2025) present an innovative approach to refine the VRIO framework by integrating it with the DEMATEL method, offering a transparent and empirically robust evaluation model that addresses limitations of subjective resource assessment and provides practical insights for strategic management. Ferreira and Dinis (2025) offer a comprehensive overview of the literature on national culture and entrepreneurship, utilizing bibliographic coupling and co-citation analysis to identify

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thematic clusters and suggest new research avenues, emphasizing the relationship between cultural factors and entrepreneurial behavior. Agrawal *et al.* (2025) examine barriers encountered by entrepreneurs in achieving sustainability and innovation, utilizing grey-causal modeling to underscore the significance of dynamic capabilities and resource management in overcoming barriers and fostering entrepreneurial success. Seker (2025) evaluates agile attributes for managing low-cost carriers' operations, utilizing MCDM methods to identify strategic priorities and select the best-performing airline company, offering practical insights for sustainable development in the aviation industry. Popovic *et al.* (2025) rank countries based on entrepreneurial performance, offering tailored policy recommendations for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation. Yamsa-ard *et al.* (2025) introduce decision support tools for optimizing perishable food supply chains, employing mathematical modeling and optimization techniques to enhance supply chain efficiency, reduce waste and improve environmental hygiene, providing practical insights for the perishable food industry. Ragazou *et al.* (2025) apply the entropy and TOPSIS model to assess eco-efficiency in European financial institutions, revealing discrepancies between ESG ratings and eco-efficiency, underscoring the need for sustainable practices and policy alignment in the financial sector. Karray *et al.* (2025) conduct a bibliometric analysis to explore innovation determinants in the context of entrepreneurship and RBV, identifying research hotspots, emerging trends and collaboration patterns, offering insights into the intellectual foundation and future prospects of the field.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all the authors for their invaluable contributions to this special issue. We firmly believe that the diverse perspectives and innovative methodologies presented in these papers will inspire further research, collaboration and advancement in the fields of entrepreneurship, RBV and PSM-MCDM/A. The successful completion of this project would not have been feasible without the editorial support of Brandon Randolph-Seng. We are profoundly grateful for his unwavering belief in the significance of this endeavor and the opportunity to bring it to fruition.

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