



DIANA INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

SYMPOSIUM ANNOUNCEMENT

Belfast, 4th November 2008

Sharing a global research agenda in gender and entrepreneurship

The DIANA International Project is committed to advancing knowledge about the status of women's entrepreneurship around the world. Established in 2003 in partnership with ESBRI (Entrepreneurship and Small Business Research Institute, Sweden), the project involves leading researchers from 16 different countries who collectively aim to provide a platform from which to develop, conduct and share a global research agenda dedicated to answering questions about women entrepreneurs and growth-oriented businesses.

The DIANA International Project team are now inviting researchers from around the globe to contribute to this research agenda at their 2008 International Research Symposium to be held in Belfast on November 4th. Jointly hosted by NICENT - Northern Ireland Centre for Entrepreneurship (at the University of Ulster), and the CER - Centre for Entrepreneurship Research (at Dundalk Institute of Technology), and in association with ISBE (Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship)¹, the symposium represents a major advancement for the Diana International Project as it aims not only to widen the scope of the project, both thematically and geographically, but also to share a number of high level publication opportunities.

In the first instance, it is intended to produce a book – *Women's Entrepreneurship and Growth Influences: An International Perspective*, to be published by *Edward Elgar Publishing*. This book will represent the second international research text from the DIANA International Research Project. In this regard, prospective contributors will be asked to present their draft chapters at the symposium for discussion and feedback. A call for chapters has already been issued and circulated.

¹ ISBE is dedicated to promoting excellence in education, research and practice in small business and entrepreneurship, both nationally and internationally. Prospective delegates may be interested to learn that the DIANA International Research Symposium will take place the day before ISBE's annual research conference, which will also be held in Belfast. Celebrating its 31st year, the ISBE Conference has a well-established women's entrepreneurship research track. Those interested in attending or submitting a paper to the ISBE Conference will need to register separately – details available at www.isbe2008.org.

Similarly, the symposium will also be linked to a special issue of *Entrepreneurship & Regional Development: An International Journal* on the theme of gender and entrepreneurship. A formal call for papers will be issued shortly, with further details posted to the Journal's website. While this will be an open call, it is anticipated that selected papers from the symposium would be considered for possible publication in this special issue. In this regard, participation in the symposium would offer an opportunity for initial feedback on a paper before formally submitting it to the special issue.

Finally, to mark the official launch of the new *International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship (IJGE)*, Emerald Publications are offering a special prize based on papers presented at the symposium, along with the opportunity (subject to review) of being published in the inaugural volume of the journal. Opportunities also exist for suitable papers from the symposium to be considered for publication in subsequent volumes of IJGE.

In all cases, submissions considered for publication will be subject to acceptance of an abstract and a rigorous review process. Early registration for the symposium is highly advisable, as places will be limited. It is also advised that prospective delegates book their accommodation early, as hotels in Belfast will be particularly busy during November.

For a symposium registration form, please contact:

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