

Business and People on the Move conference

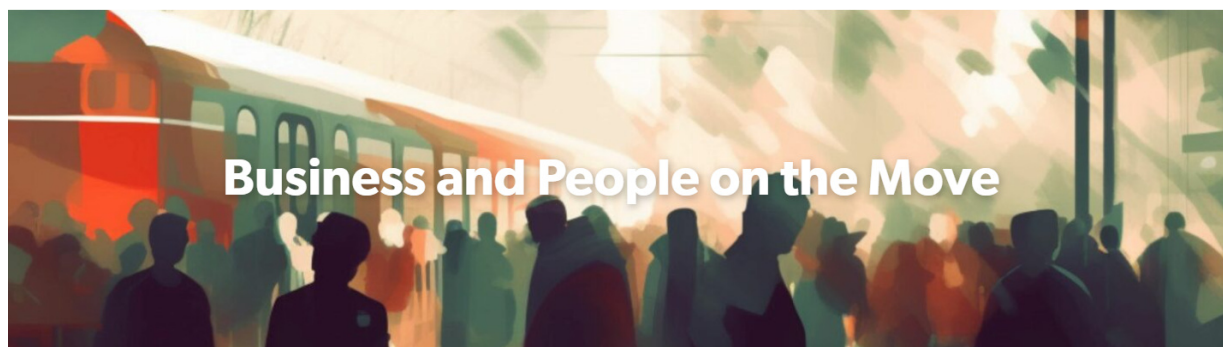
9–10 of October 2025, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland

Theme: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: The Power of Migrant and Refugee Entrepreneurship

Organised by the **Refugee Entrepreneurship Research Group** at Åbo Akademi University

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Business and People on the Move

Program for the conference:

Day 0 – 8th of October 2025		
10:00-16:30 – PhD workshop (general program here: https://blogs2.abo.fi/bpm2025/PhD-workshop/ . For more detailed program and participation please write to the organizers)		
18:00-20:00 – Welcoming reception at ASA Aula (address: Vänrikinkatu 3, see the map on last page) Welcoming words from the Dean of the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences at ÅA – Malin Brännback		
Day 1 – 9th of October 2025		
8:30- Registration (open whole day)		
9:00 – 10:30	<p>Session 1.1 <i>Special track: Digitalization in refugee-led business ventures</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Mariana Rosca</p> <p>Anurag Hazarika, Samikshya Madkullya and Anwesha Hazarika: <i>Digitalization in business initiatives run by refugees: Closing the digital gap</i></p>	<p>Session 2.1. <i>Migrant and refugee entrepreneurship in the Nordics and beyond</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Maria Ivanova-Gongne and Stefan Lång</p> <p>Moses Osofero, Sara Abbas Abdallah Mohammed, April Spivack and Quang Evansluong: <i>Exploring the causes and impacts of migrant entrepreneurial engagement in Nordic's informal economy: Finland and Sweden as case study</i></p>

	<p>Toli Amare: <i>Becoming in the margins: How virtual incubation shapes entrepreneurial identity formation among urban refugee women in Kenya</i></p> <p>Mariana Rosca: <i>Digital regression in displacement: The downward digital divide among refugees</i></p>	<p>Muntaser AlHamad and Pushpa Rani: <i>Resilience strategies for business survival in Finland: How do refugee entrepreneurs adapt identity in rural area</i></p> <p>Natalia Vershinina & Ulla Hytti: <i>Beyond Survival: A Critical Reappraisal of Immigrant Entrepreneurship</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break		
11:00-12:30	<p>Session 1.2: <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Alexandra David & Judith Terstriep</p> <p>Aziza Al Ghafri: <i>The Challenges and Coping Strategies of Women Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Sweden</i></p> <p>Lukas Zaghow: <i>Death by A Thousand Needles – How Germany Rejects the World’s Best and Brightest (Migrant Entrepreneurs)</i></p> <p>Jagat Kunwar: <i>Entrepreneurship as Survival, Adaptation, and Symbolic Authorship: An Arendtian Meta-Synthesis of Immigrant Narratives in Finland</i></p>	<p>Session 2.2. <i>Special track: Migration and Displacement due to Conflicts</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Natalia Vershinina</p> <p>Tapuwa Mwedzi: <i>Forms of precarity experienced by forced migrant entrepreneurs (FMEs) and implications in host countries: Preliminary findings</i></p> <p>Geoffrey Bwireh: <i>Work and entrepreneurship among Congolese refugees in the Global South: A grounded theory approach</i></p> <p>Muhammad Mudassar Hussain: <i>Barriers faced by refugee women entrepreneur’s well-being while creating new ventures with exploring the role of entrepreneurial ecosystems and social value creation: Empirical evidence from kingdom of Spain</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30 – Lunch		
13:30 – 13:45 Welcome words from Refugee Entrepreneurship Research Group Room: ASA Stora Auditoriet A120 (NOTE: different building, address: Vänrikinkatu 3)		
13:45-15:00 Opening Panel by Prof. Leo-Paul Dana, Maria Elo, Saara Pellander, & Muntaser AlHamad Room: ASA Stora Auditoriet A120 (NOTE: different building, address: Vänrikinkatu 3)		
15:00 – 15:30 – Coffee break		

15:30-17:00	<p>Session 1.3 – <i>Special track: Belongingness in Migrant Entrepreneurship</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Alexandra David & Judith Terstriep</p> <p>Satu Aaltonen, Tommi Pukkinen, Anna Elkina & Ulla Hytti: <i>Navigating the entrepreneurial journey: immigrant entrepreneurs' experience\$ and future aspirations across life and business trajectories</i></p> <p>Dan Ha Le, Madalin M. Deliu & Anna Elkina: <i>What does it mean to belong? Reconceptualizing belongingness across different life domains</i></p> <p>Inna Melnykowska: <i>From Civic Belonging to Entrepreneurial Embeddedness: Dual Agency of Ukrainian Forced Migrants in Trans-National Ecosystems</i></p>	<p>Session 2.3 – <i>Identity and intersectionality</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Wilhelm Barner-Rasmussen</p> <p>Sahizer Samuk and Lina Daouk-Öyry: <i>Reconciliation of Identity Tensions Through Agentic Adaptations among Highly Skilled Migrant Spouses</i></p> <p>Devendra Kumaria, Rajeev Kamineni and Wendy Lindsay: <i>Entrepreneurial Entry by Skilled Migrants: A mechanism for Eudaimonic Identity functioning and Well-being.</i></p> <p>Nasim Aryannejad: <i>The intersection of religion and gender among immigrant women entrepreneurs</i></p>
18:30 – 21:30 – Conference dinner at restaurant Oobu, Läntinen Rantakatu 9		
Day 2 -10th of October		
9-10:30	<p>Session 1.4 – <i>Special track: Sectoral perspectives on migration</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Maria Elo</p> <p>Thiri Lynn: <i>Turning Barriers into Opportunities: Sectoral Journeys of Highly Educated Immigrant Entrepreneurs in Finland</i></p> <p>Maria Elo: <i>From displacement to inclusion : Exploring the role of refugees and vulnerable displaced people in the automotive after market sector</i></p> <p>Samu Kempinm and Rodrigo Mello: <i>Invisible Abroad: How Remote Work and Social Support Shape Expatriates' Internal Marketability and Engagement</i></p> <p>Ruhi Lal, Zakia Tasmin Rahman & Ravinder Rena: <i>A Study on Migrant Entrepreneurs' Contribution to the Economic Development: Special Reference to of Indian Origin Migrant Entrepreneurs in USA</i></p>	<p>Session 2.4 – <i>Ecosystems and migrant entrepreneurship</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Malin Brännback</p> <p>Ritva Hyttinen: <i>Cognitive Information Barriers and the Inclusion of Migrant Entrepreneurs in Green Transition</i></p> <p>Sharon Hofisi: <i>Using Startup-driven initiatives as enablers of collaborative refugee entrepreneurship and integration in Finland</i></p> <p>Richard Owusu, Marcellinus Dike and Perpetual Crentsil: <i>Integrating Diaspora Entrepreneurs into the Nordic Business Ecosystems: A Study of Finland and Sweden</i></p>
10:30 – 11:00 – Coffee break		

11:00 – 12:15 – Keynote by Juliane Marie Neiiendam Room: Arken A102 Armfelt		
12:15– 13:15 – Lunch		
13:15:13:45	Meet the editors	
13:45-15:15	<p>Session 1.5 – <i>Immigrant entrepreneurs in the Arctic context</i> Room: Arken Atlas G105 (address: Tehtaankatu 2) Chair: Nafisa Yeasmin</p> <p>Nafisa Yeasmin, Matti Muhos & Martti Saarela: <i>Immigrant Entrepreneurial Resilience in the Circumpolar North: A critical overview</i></p> <p>Mahmoud Khalik, Jose Godinez, Luis Javier Sanchez-Barrios, Shital Jayantilal, Lynda Achkouty, Sara Lopez-Gomez, Aicha Oumessaoud & Rene Diaz-Pichardo: <i>A Tale of Two Contexts: Challenges and Opportunities for Latina Migrant Entrepreneurs in the U.S. and Colombia</i></p> <p>Tabish Zaman, Rani Shahwan & Muntaser AlHamad: <i>Paths to Purpose: Institutional Support Pushing the Boundaries of Entrepreneurship</i></p>	<p>Session 2.5 – <i>Migrant entrepreneurship across contexts</i> Room: Arken Kosmos G106 (address: Tehtaankatu 2)</p> <p>Chair: Leo-Paul Dana</p> <p>Liang-Chih Chen, Ho-Don Yan and Cheng Lang Yang: <i>Analyzing Immigrant Entrepreneurship in Taiwan</i></p> <p>Zining Wang & Pengyu Zhu: <i>Does Residential Segregation Foster Entrepreneurial Success? Contemporary Perspectives on China</i></p> <p>Lusanda Paul & Ravinder Rena: <i>Breaking Barriers: How Refugee and Migrant Filmmakers Are Transforming Media Narratives and Entrepreneurial Spaces</i></p>
15:15 – 15:30 – wrap up and farewell		

Map of Arken, 1st floor

Address: Tehtaankatu 2

The main rooms for the conference on this floor are **G107 (Aura)** and **G106 (Kosmos)**. The session on 10.10 from 11:00 till 12:15 will be held in **A102 (Armfelt)**. Note that the panel discussion on 9.10 will be held in another building. See map on next page
Lunch will be served in **Café Arken** which is marked on the map with N.



Armfelt	A102
Atlas	G105
Aura	G107
Eisenstein	M120
Goethe	L104
Humboldt	L103
Kosmos	G106
Nikander	D101
Radiatorn	E101
Saussure	M128
Simone Weil	M134
Westermarck	C101
Voltaire	M127

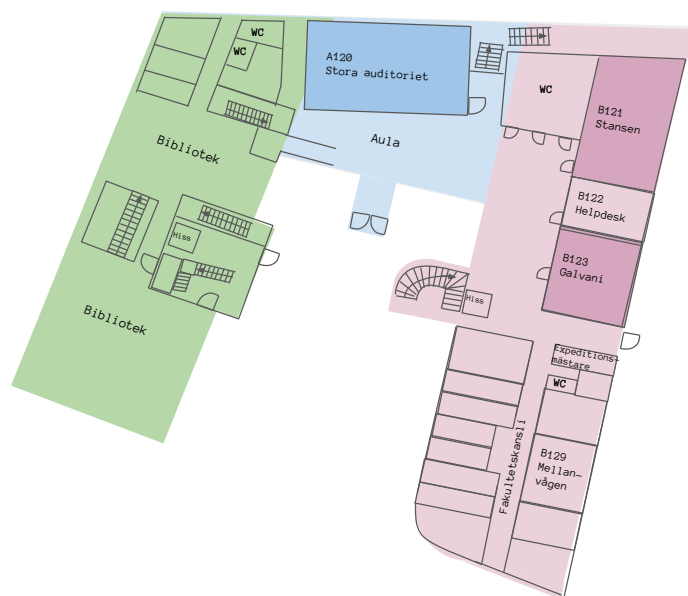
Café Arken N
Arkens bibliotek K
Datorsal F

Map of ASA 1st floor

Adress: Vänrikinkatu 3

The room for the conference on the second floor is **A120 (Stora auditoriet)** where the session on 9.10 from 13:30 till 15:00 will be held.

VÅNING 1 - FLOOR 1



A
A120 Stora auditoriet

B
B121 Stansen
B122 Helpdesk
B123 Galvani
B129 Mellanvågen

C
C122 Lilla auditoriet

