

移民起業活動研究の体系的レビュー

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Recent trends in the immigrant entrepreneurship research

— Based on the systematic review approach —

移民起業活動研究の体系的レビュー

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【Abstract】

本研究は、世界の移民起業活動に関する文献の体系的レビューを行うものである。この体系的レビューでは、様々な地域に関する 77 論文を選び出し、それらの研究目的、理論的枠組み、方法論を分析した。また、先行の体系的レビューとの比較により、過去 10 年間に移民起業活動研究がどのように発展してきたかを示す。本論文の構成は、第 2 節で体系的レビューの方法論を述べ、第 3 節で掲載ジャーナルと対象地域の予備的知見を紹介し、対象地域ごとに研究目的、枠組み、方法をマッピングしている。最後に、結論として、提起されたりサーチクエスチョンに関する重要な発見を要約している。

本研究は、既存研究が主としてヨーロッパ、オセアニア、北米で行われているという証拠を提供するが、この発見は、先行の体系的レビューの結果と同様である。しかし、研究対象地域はアジアやアフリカの新しい地域へと広がり、より多くの発展途上国を含んでいる。興味深いのは、地域によって目的の性格が異なることである。研究の枠組みについては、文献レビューよりも理論の手法が多く用いられていることがわかる。研究者は、文脈や目的に応じて、定量的手法と定性的手法を同程度の割合で用いている。

【Keywords】 immigrant entrepreneurship, systematic review, objectives, theoretical frameworks, methodologies

1. Introduction

Immigrant entrepreneurship is a result of the growing migration. The global migration increased from 221 million in 2010 to 281 million people living outside their home

country in 2020. So, international migrants represent 3.6 percent of the world's population (*International Migration Highlights*, 2020). However, for a long time, immigrant entrepreneurship was considered simply “an ethnocultural phenomenon existing within an economic and institutional vacuum” until its significance in business and management studies was acknowledged (Rath & Kloosterman, 2000).

There is a variety of definitions of an immigrant entrepreneur. So, one of the broad definitions states that “immigrant entrepreneurs are the people who choose to settle down in a foreign place for a long or short duration to gain better business opportunities and experiences” (Singh, Saurabh, & Bhatt, 2020). For this paper, it was decided to specify the notion of the immigrant entrepreneur. Therefore, an immigrant entrepreneur is a person who stays in a foreign country for mid- or long-term and starts a business there for various reasons. The immigration circumstances are different and may also include refugees or asylum seekers. Although the terminology may vary (“immigrant/migrant entrepreneur”, “ethnic entrepreneur”, “self-employed immigrant”), it is important to comply with the definition.

This research is hugely inspired by the study of Aliaga-Isla and Rialp named “Systematic review of immigrant entrepreneurship literature: previous findings and ways forward” conducted in 2013. The research focuses on 45 dominantly quantitative articles on immigrant entrepreneurship dated from 1985 until 2010. The findings suggest that the topic of immigrant entrepreneurs has been significant in developed regions of the United States of America, Europe, and Oceania (Aliaga-Isla & Rialp, 2013).

The current paper replicates the study design of the previous research by Aliaga-Isla and Rialp and presents insights on some new research trends in terms of objectives/ topics, methods, and theoretical frameworks. The goal of this study is to provide a systematic review of the recent immigrant entrepreneurship literature.

The research questions are set as follows:

1. What are the region-specific research objectives, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies?
2. How has immigrant entrepreneurship research evolved over the last decade?

In general, the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 describes the methodology of the study, Section 3 is aimed to introduce preliminary findings on journals and authors, and map research objectives, framework, and methodology for each region. Finally, discussions and conclusion are presented in Section 4.

2. Methodology

The current study is presented in the form of a systematic review because it is designed for understanding large bodies of information. A systematic review is “a method of mapping out areas of uncertainty and identifying where little or no relevant research has been done, but where new studies are needed” (Petticrew & Roberts, 2008). The current systematic review is concerned with the selection of relevant articles regarding the phenomenon of immigrant entrepreneurship.

The first step of the selection process is to identify research criteria. For the purpose of this study, the research scope is limited to English language articles published from 2010 until 2021 in journals with impact factors. The keywords include “immigrant entrepreneurship” or “ethnic entrepreneurship” constrained by the definition discussed in the introduction. Based on these criteria, the search has been conducted using the Web of Science database. The second step includes the initial selection of articles that fit the set criteria and exclusion of unavailable online articles. The third step focuses on exclusion, addition, and reexamination of the selected articles. This process has been repeated several times. The result presents 77 articles that are believed to be the most representative in given conditions. The data retrieved from the selected studies are organized in an Excel workbook after labeling and categorizing the articles.

3. Findings

3.1. Preliminary findings

Journals

As Figure 1 suggests, the journals with the highest impact factor are Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Journal of Business Venturing, and Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues. The most productive journal in the field of immigrant entrepreneurship is the International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research. Most of the journals are dedicated to the area of business, management, and entrepreneurship, rather than migration or other social fields.

Figure1. List of journals

	Journal	Impact factor ↓	Number of papers
1	Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice	10.8	1
2	Journal of Business Venturing	7.59	2
3	Entrepreneurship and Sustainability Issues	5.47	2

4	Strategic Management Journal	5.46	2
5	Research Policy	5.35	2
6	Small Business Economics	4.8	5
7	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies	3.8	1
8	International Small Business Journal	3.76	1
9	Industrial Marketing Management	3.68	1
10	International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal	3.47	3
11	Journal of Small Business Management	3.46	2
12	International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research	3.21	13
13	Journal of Human Resource Management	3.04	1
14	Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies	2.97	1
15	Entrepreneurship & Regional Development	2.89	4
16	Journal of Enterprising Communities	2.59	6
17	Sustainability	2.58	1
18	Journal of International Entrepreneurship	2.36	4
19	Social Responsibility Journal	2.05	1
20	Journal of Small Business and Enterprise Development	2.01	2
21	Thunderbird International Business Review	1.89	4
22	Journal of Business Economics and Management	1.64	1
23	International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship	1.44	3
24	International Migration	1.27	2
25	Journal of Refugee Studies	1.14	1
26	International Journal of Emerging Markets	1.02	1
27	Asian and Pacific Migration Journal	1	1
28	International Journal of Manpower	0.95	1
29	Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review	0.87	2
30	Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship	0.81	1
31	Development Southern Africa	0.65	1
32	South African Journal of Business Management	0.44	1
33	Iberoamerican Journal of Development Studies	0.32	1
34	Problemy Zarządzania (Management Issues)	0.01	2

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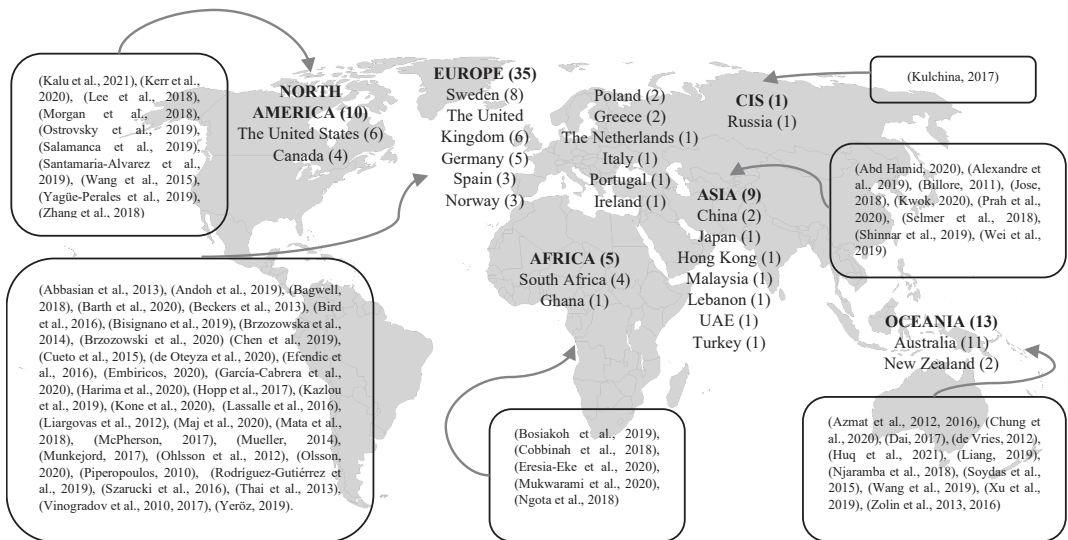
Regions

One of the initial steps in the analysis process is a categorization of the selected articles by region (Figure 2). Due to various country categorization methods, specifically Lebanon, Turkey, and the UAE, it has been decided to define regions based on the more generalized United Nations classification (*World Economic Situation Prospects*, 2020).

The regions identified for this study are Europe (35 articles), Oceania (13 articles), North America (10 articles), Asia (9 articles), Africa (5 articles), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (1 article). The current study also includes cross-regional research (4 articles). Also, it should be noted that the distribution of the articles by region might be subject to selection bias.

The focus is on the developed nations as they historically attract more immigrants, but there is a portion of the research about developing and transitional countries.

Figure2. Regions, countries, and authors



Note: the current study also includes four cross-regional articles not reflected in Figure 2 (Cruz, de QueirozFalcão, & Mancebo, 2019; Li, Isidor, Dau, & Kabst, 2018; Turkina & Thai, 2013; von Bloh, Mandakovic, Apablaza, Amorós, & Sternberg, 2020).

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3.2. Research objectives

This part of the research introduces the findings on research objectives presented in descending order of articles starting from Europe.

Overall, in Europe, the objectives are diverse due to the analysis of several countries within the European Union. Also, the objectives are concerned with “traditional” topics including refugee entrepreneurship, female immigrant entrepreneurship, transnational ties, institutional distance, mixed embeddedness, motivation, and identity. In Oceania, the

objectives are at a narrower scope (perceptions of entrepreneurial experiences, self-reliance ideology, capabilities, etc.) and a strategic level (CSR, break-out strategies, business networking, etc.). The objectives regarding North America focus on highly skilled immigrant entrepreneurs such as Stanford graduates and Silicon Valley startup founders. The theme of transnational entrepreneurial activity is also one of the central in the region. In Asia, the researchers introduced specific objectives regarding expat-preneurs from developed countries, the use of social media, the language proficiency in China, and the resilience of African entrepreneurs amid the spread of COVID-19. The study about Africa is concerned with existing issues such as motivation to engage in dirty work, informal sectors, and xenophobia. Here, immigrant entrepreneurship occurs primarily within the African region. In CIS, the only study is concerned with defining owner-manager issues of immigrant entrepreneurs in Russia.

Besides specific regions, the research also reveals some articles about several countries from different regions. Turkina & Thai (2013) investigate the macro-level impact of social capital on immigrant entrepreneurship in 34 OECD countries. Another research determines the relationship between immigrant share and entrepreneurial activities using data for 32 countries from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (Li et al., 2018). A slightly different approach is used by Cruz, et al. (2018) in a study that discusses the market orientation of Brazilian entrepreneurs in the USA, Israel, and Japan. Moreover, the researchers also conduct studies on transnational entrepreneurship in two different national and institutional contexts: Chile and Germany (von Bloh et al., 2020).

Europe

The literature is dominated by Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Two articles discuss immigrant entrepreneurship in several countries. So, García-Cabrera, et al. (2020) examine how institutional distance, social context, and individual psycho-behavioral factors determine the motivation of immigrant entrepreneurs in 31 European countries. Another research focuses on entrepreneurial opportunities for refugees in Germany, France, and Ireland exploiting multiple embeddedness framework (Harima, Periac, Murphy, & Picard, 2020).

In Sweden, the objectives are concerned with women entrepreneurs, immigrant entrepreneurship regulation, a performance comparison between native and immigrant CEOs, and challenges associated with the liability of newness and exit from entrepreneurship. The topic of female entrepreneurship is central and observed from various angles. So, the impact of ethnicity and other variables on external acquisition at start-up is studied by Abbasian and Yazdanfar (2013). Olsson and Bernhard (2020) explore digitalization and social media use. The

other significant topic describes Turkish female entrepreneurs' cultural capital development through the lenses of class relations (Yeröz, 2019).

The research objectives of articles dedicated to the United Kingdom are diverse. One of the objectives is about mixed embeddedness: its relevance is discussed in the frame of transnational businesses of Vietnamese entrepreneurs (Bagwell, 2018), as well as in the context of informal migrant entrepreneurs (Bisignano & El-Anis, 2019). Another study determines how educational Chinese immigrants adapt to entrepreneurship in the UK (Chen, Tajeddini, Ratten, & Tabari, 2019). McPherson (2017) raises the question of self-identification among first- and second-generation Sikh and Pakistani male entrepreneurs. Also, one study focuses on the opportunity structure of Polish entrepreneurs in Scotland (Lassalle & McElwee, 2016).

The objectives are concerned with the characteristics of various immigrant groups in Germany. One of the papers discusses the motivations and contributions of Ghanaian entrepreneurs to the socio-economic development of Germany and Ghana (Andoh, Berrones-Flemmig, & Dornberger, 2019). Similarly, Szarucki et al. (2016) attempt to understand the determinants of self-employment propensity of Polish and Romanian immigrants. The other study about South-East European entrepreneurs in Germany discusses the difference between their companies in knowledge-intensive industries and companies of native business owners (Mueller, 2014). Moreover, researchers emphasize the importance of studying the challenges of refugee entrepreneurs and possible refugee support programs (Embiricos, 2020).

In other countries, common objectives are determinants of immigrant entrepreneurship in different contexts, motivations, transnational ties, and differences between generations. One of the relatively new topics is the use of place embeddedness to discuss the rural and gender gaps in the immigrant entrepreneurship literature with a focus on female business owners in Norway (Munkejord, 2017). Furthermore, Rodríguez-Gutiérrez et al. (2019) discuss the determinants of the risk-taking propensity and impact of social capital "guanxi" of Chinese entrepreneurs in Spain. Despite a low impact factor, the authors provide useful insights into the strategies of immigrant businesswomen in Madrid (de Oteyza, Coutado, & Sosa, 2020). The other rather rare research objective is about the process of business network development in Ireland (Thai, Turkina, & Stephens, 2013). Among comparative studies, the research conducted by Vinogradov and Gabelko (2010) offers an interesting perspective on analyzing the self-employment among Russian entrepreneurs in Norway and their stay-at-home counterparts.

Oceania

The studies in Australia and New Zealand present multiple perspectives. Although most of the research is ethnicity- or group-specific, few articles focus on a broader analysis. For example, Zolin and Schlosser (2013) examine the involvement of immigrant entrepreneurs in international new ventures by analyzing 561 companies in Australia.

Many studies in Australia are dedicated to Chinese entrepreneurs. The objectives include the examination of a network marketing business participation model (Dai, Teo, & Wang, 2017), the analysis of institutional constraints facing new immigrant entrepreneurs (Liang, 2019), the study of the factors enabling the break-out strategy (Wang & Warn, 2019), the investigation of the cross-cultural capabilities for international business (Xu, Drennan, & Mathews, 2019), and the explanation of the business growth on micro-and mesolevels (Zolin, Chang, Yang, & Ho, 2016).

Another important group of entrepreneurs in Australia is female immigrants. So, the perceptions of Indian migrant women entrepreneurs and their partners about their experiences from a family embeddedness perspective are studied by Azmat & Fujimoto (2016). On the other hand, Njaramba, et al. (2018) discusses the topic of entrepreneurial experiences of African women entrepreneurs in tourism. Moreover, researchers present the complex issue of women refugees in Australia by re-examining the self-reliance ideology based on a neoliberal perspective to make policies for refugee women's (self-)employment and integration (Huq & Venugopal, 2021).

Furthermore, two articles discuss less presented ethnic groups of Sri Lankan and Turkish entrepreneurs in Australia. Azmat & Zutshi (2012) examine the understanding of the term "corporate social responsibility" (CSR) by Sri Lankan entrepreneurs. Another study focuses on analyzing motivations amongst first- and second-generation Turkish entrepreneurs (Soydas & Aleti, 2015).

In New Zealand, researchers discuss the impact of social networks on the relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and innovation based on the example of 167 Asian immigrant firms (Chung, Yen, & Wang, 2020). Another study pays attention to the patterns of entrepreneurial behavior among Indian entrepreneurs, and their difference from Indian communities in other countries (de Vries, 2012).

North America

The literature in this region is represented by the USA and Canada. The studies about North America reveal topics like the comparison of immigrant and native businesses, high-skilled entrepreneurship, and transnational activities of immigrant-owned businesses in the

USA, as well as immigrant ownership's impact on export intensity, support for new immigrant women, financing, and entrepreneurial identity formation in Canada.

The objectives regarding high-skilled and transnational immigrant entrepreneurship are specific to the region. For instance, Lee and Eesley (2018) discuss the persistence and differences in innovative entrepreneurship among Stanford's alumni by ethnicity and nationality. The paper addresses the subject of entrepreneurship in the frame of university education. Another article studies the determinants of the high-skilled migration of Mexican entrepreneurs to the USA via a mixed embeddedness approach (Salamanca P & Alcaraz, 2019).

Transnational immigrant entrepreneurship is discussed through the prism of the characteristics of Colombian migrants' transnational businesses in Colombia and the USA (Santamaria-Alvarez, Sarmiento-González, & Arango-Vieira, 2019). Another big research observes the transnational activities of immigrant-owned businesses in three aspects: exporting, outsourcing, and the presence of overseas establishments (Wang & Liu, 2015).

Asia

The research objectives can be divided into three categories: motivations and challenges of immigrant entrepreneurs, female immigrant entrepreneurs, and various angles of immigrant entrepreneurship in China.

The first group includes the research on Syrian refugee entrepreneurs in Lebanon (Alexandre, Salloum, & Alalam, 2019), and the study about motivations for entrepreneurship among immigrants in the emerging economy of Turkey (Shinnar & Zamantılı Nayır, 2019). The second group covers objectives regarding the status of Indian women entrepreneurs in Japan (Billore, 2011), the strategic use of social media among female entrepreneurs in the UAE (Jose, 2018), and moral norms and social integration of Asian women entrepreneurs in Hong Kong (Kwok, 2020). The third group of objectives is about the social challenges and resilience of African migrant entrepreneurs in China under COVID-19 (Prah & Sibiri, 2020), and the link between language proficiency and immigrant entrepreneurship (Wei, Jiao, & Growe, 2019). Also, one study about the comparison of personal characteristics of expat-preneurs against company-employed self-initiated expatriates focuses on China, Hong Kong, and Singapore (Selmer, McNulty, Lauring, & Vance, 2018).

Although the impact factor is low, the research about challenges related to institutions, society, and competition in Malaysia has been included in this review (Abd Hamid, 2020).

Africa

Based on the analysis of the research about Africa, articles about African immigrant

entrepreneurs in South Africa are dominant. The objectives involve managerial skills and education as the business coping abilities (Eresia-Eke & Okerue, 2020), motivation for engaging in the informal sector (Cobbinah & Chinyamurindi, 2018), CSR as a possible antidote to xenophobia (Mukwarami, Tengeh, & Mukwarami, 2020), and factors inhibiting immigrant entrepreneurs' growth (Ngota, Mang'unyi, & Rajkaran, 2018).

In addition to South Africa, there is also one research about the motivations and informality embeddedness of Nigerian immigrant businesswomen in Ghana (Bosiakoh & Tetteh, 2019).

CIS

The analysis revealed one study, which focuses on strategies of entrepreneurial ventures in Russia. The objective of this article is to understand how foreign entrepreneurs affect firm performance when they choose to manage their ventures personally as opposed to hiring a local manager (Kulchina, 2017).

3.3. Research framework

The motivation behind introducing a research framework as a component of the systematic analysis is to understand theories supporting the study of immigrant entrepreneurship. Therefore, the articles were analyzed based on their structure and conditionally categorized into those that have used literature review and those that have used theoretical frameworks. A literature review is a critical evaluation of the existing literature on various aspects of immigrant entrepreneurship. Theoretical frameworks provide a rationale for the study and explain different theories and concepts about the research problem.

Figure 3 illustrates topics discussed by using the literature review approach, theoretical concepts of the current research listed in descending order, as well as theories from the previous systematic review presented as they appear in the original paper.

The analysis revealed that theoretical frameworks are used about twice more often as the literature review: 54 articles and 23 articles respectively. This can be explained by the fact that the area of immigrant entrepreneurship has established a sufficient base of theories compared to the previous years (Figure 3). The most pervasive theories are mixed embeddedness theory, human and social capital theory, motivation theory, opportunity structure theory, cultural theory, disadvantage theory, and self-employment propensity thesis.

The previous systematic research found that theoretical frameworks in the field of immigrant entrepreneurship are from sociology (Aliaga-Isla & Rialp, 2013). The current review shows that although most of the theories are interdisciplinary (sociology, psychology, migration,

economics, feminism studies, etc.), there are more connections to management theoretical frameworks than before. Moreover, the only theories remaining from the previous research are mixed embeddedness theory, human and social capital theory, blocked mobility theory, and cultural theory (Figure 3). Interestingly, the theoretical frameworks have been constantly evolving as researchers develop more conceptual structures within the immigrant entrepreneurship area. For example, the mixed embeddedness approach discovers more and more aspects like embeddedness in informality (Bosiakoh & Tetteh, 2019), virtual embeddedness (Barth & Zalkat, 2020), family embeddedness and the rural context (Munkejord, 2017), etc.

A literature review approach clarifies a specific topic in a condition of a particular region and time. For example, Billore (2011) explores the phenomenon of female immigrant entrepreneurs of Indian origin in Japan and elaborates on characteristics of Indian migration in Japan, the role of women in the Indian family system, and their entrepreneurial opportunities and motivations.

Figure3. Use of theoretical frameworks

Literature review	Theoretical framework (Current research) ↓	Theoretical framework (Previous research)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Characteristics of certain immigrant groups ○ Women entrepreneurship ○ External financing ○ Status of female immigrant entrepreneurs in Japan ○ Impacts of international students on the local economy in China ○ International entrepreneurship ○ Ethnic enclaves ○ Market orientation of ethnic firms ○ Refugee entrepreneurship ○ Barriers, uncertainties, and areas of personal struggle ○ Marketing communication ○ Immigrant entrepreneurship in high-tech vs. low-tech industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mixed embeddedness theory ○ Human and social capital theory, and networking Motivation theory ○ Opportunity structure theory ○ Cultural theory ○ Disadvantage theory ○ Self-employment propensity ○ Social cognitive theory and theory of planned behavior ○ Owner-managers perspective ○ Knowledge spillover theory ○ Blocked mobility theory ○ Liability of foreignness and institutional context ○ Feminist standpoint theory ○ Entrepreneurship career theory ○ Bourdieu's practice theory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Middleman theory ○ Cultural theory ○ Enclave thesis ○ Blocked mobility theory ○ Social cognitive theory ○ Intersectionality theories ○ Immigrant entrepreneurship theories ○ Human capital theory ○ Social capital theory ○ Transitional types of immigrants ○ Evolutionary psychology ○ Inclusive fitness theory ○ Mixed embeddedness ○ Weberian approach ○ Cultural theory ○ Social capital theory ○ Resource base view ○ Transaction cost economics

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moral economy in connection to societal, ethnic, familial roles of immigrant women entrepreneurs ○ Transition to entrepreneurship ○ The contribution of immigrants to the innovative performance of the host country ○ Digitalization and use of social media ○ Entrepreneurial adventurism and resilience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transnational immigrant entrepreneurship ○ CSR, stakeholder theory, legitimacy theory ○ Break out strategy ○ Language, social identity, and trust ○ Startup performance indicators ○ Entrepreneurial identities 	
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3.4. Methodologies

This review focuses entirely on empirical studies on immigrant entrepreneurship around the globe. The proportion of quantitative (39) and qualitative (36) papers is almost equal. Researchers also have used the combination of both to investigate the contributions of Germany based Ghanaian entrepreneurs to the socio-economics of Germany and Ghana (Andoh et al., 2019), and to examine the demand and supply dynamics of entrepreneurship support services for new immigrant women in Canada (Kalu & Okafor, 2021).

Data collection

Regarding the data collection sources in the quantitative research, 24 out of 39 studies rely on the datasets from institutional organizations. For example, in Europe data come from Swedish Small Business Forum (Abbasian & Yazdanfar, 2013), Statistics Netherlands (Beckers & Blumberg, 2013), Labour Force Survey (Cueto & Álvarez, 2015; Kone, Ruiz, & Vargas-Silva, 2020), Statistics Sweden (Bird & Wennberg, 2016; Efendic, Andersson, & Wennberg, 2016; Kazlou & Klinthall, 2019; Ohlsson, Broomé, & Bevelander, 2012), European Working Conditions Survey (García-Cabrera, Lucía-Casademunt, & Padilla-Angulo, 2020), German Socio-Economic Panel (Hopp & Martin, 2017; Szarucki, Brzozowski, & Stankevičienė, 2016), Quadros de Pessoal (Mata & Alves, 2018), Germany's largest credit rating agency ZEW (Mueller, 2014). In the North American region, researchers retrieve data from the Survey of Business Owners (Kerr & Kerr, 2020; Wang & Liu, 2015), the Stanford University Innovation Survey (Lee &

Eesley, 2018), Statistics Canada (Morgan, Sui, & Baum, 2018), and the Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises (Ostrovsky, Picot, & Leung, 2019). In Oceania, the Comprehensive Australian Study of Entrepreneurial Emergence (Zolin & Schlosser, 2013) is the only database used. In Asia, it is the Migrant Dynamics Monitoring Survey of China (Wei et al., 2019). In CIS, the data come from the Ruslana database (Kulchina, 2017). For the study of several regions or countries, researchers use the data from the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor's Adult Population Survey (Li et al., 2018; von Bloh et al., 2020), and OECD Migration Outlook (Turkina & Thai, 2013).

The remaining 14 quantitative studies use data entirely from the self-administered surveys (Alexandre et al., 2019; Dai et al., 2017; Eresia-Eke & Okerue, 2020; Liargovas & Skandalis, 2012; Mukwarami et al., 2020; Ngota et al., 2018; Piperopoulos, 2010; Rodríguez-Gutiérrez, Romero, & Yu, 2019; Selmer et al., 2018; Vinogradov & Jørgensen, 2017; Yagüe-Perales, Perez-Ledo, & March-Chordà, 2019), or combined with the surveys based on data from institutional organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and Bureau van Dijk (Brzozowski & Cucculelli, 2020), the Kompass database of New Zealand (Chung et al., 2020), Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (Vinogradov & Gabelko, 2010) or Yellow Pages database (Chung et al., 2020; Zolin et al., 2016). The most common data collection techniques in the self-administered study include surveys, questionnaire-based interviews, and focus groups. Interestingly, researchers mostly utilize the five- and seven-point Likert scale to avoid binary judgment.

Regarding qualitative research, the most used data collection method is an in-depth semi-structured interview. Sometimes interviews are backed up by ethnographic fieldwork (Cruz et al., 2019; Kwok, 2020), participant observations (de Oteyza et al., 2020; Embiricos, 2020), and secondary data (Barth & Zalkat, 2020; Santamaria-Alvarez et al., 2019; Xu et al., 2019).

In some cases, researchers gather information about potential respondents from the official datasets. Azmat and Zutshi (2012) used the Sri Lankan Study Centre for the Advancement of Technology and Social Welfare database, and Harima et al. (2020) collected data as a part of an anonymous EU project that aimed to build a digital support system for refugee entrepreneurs. Moreover, NGOs and associations supporting immigrants are useful for collecting data (Huq & Venugopal, 2021; Kwok, 2020; Salamanca P & Alcaraz, 2019). In general, referrals and snowballing are the most common sampling techniques.

Data analysis

The researchers have used a diverse selection of data analysis methods. For the quan-

titative research, the frequently exploited techniques include descriptive statistical analysis, multinomial logistic regression, binary logistic regression, hierarchical regression, logit regression, structural equations modeling, random-effects regression, competing risk regression, partial least square modeling, quantile regression, multiple regression analysis, ordinary least squares regression, two-stage least squares, Blinder-Oaxaca regression decomposition technique, complementary log-log model, Tobit model, Cox regression, Poisson regression, and factor analysis.

Quantitative studies usually use the dependent, independent, and control variables (Figure 4). “Self-employment” is the most frequently analyzed variable; it is followed by “exit from entrepreneurship”, and “performance”.

Figure4. Variables in the quantitative studies

Dependent	Independent	Control
Self-employment	Ethnicity, gender, self-	<i>Personal</i> (age, education, status,
Exit from entrepreneurship	employment experience, human	region of birth, number of
Performance	capital, financial capital, native	children, experience)
Earnings	spouse, home country	<i>Migration</i> (immigration
Total Entrepreneurship Activity	development, business ties,	duration, immigrant
Funding acquisition	entrepreneurial orientation,	concentration)
Appetite for entrepreneurship	native/ immigrant CEO,	<i>Firm</i> (location, industry, capital,
Transnational ties	entrepreneurial attitude,	number of employees, assets,
Innovation	membership of associations,	rivalry, export orientation)
Business coping ability	linguistic distance, institutional	<i>Politico-administrative</i>
Motivation	distance, university	(governance and ease of doing
Export	entrepreneurship program,	business, intellectual property
Risk-taking	intergenerational persistence,	rights, EU nationality)
Entrepreneurial intentions	immigrant share, attitude toward	<i>Economic</i> (GDP, trade, FDI,
Opportunity identification	immigrants, community size,	economic freedom, inflation)
International New Venture	Guanxi, proactiveness, cultural	<i>Technology</i> (technological
Business growth	factors, self-reported confidence	readiness index, technological
		turbulence)
		<i>Cultural</i> (cultural distance, role
		of family, Han ethnicity,
		language)
		Stanford cohort effects,
		university departments

Source:Created by author

Regarding the qualitative data analysis methods, authors have used grounded theory, content analysis, discourse analysis, category analysis, as well as case studies, life stories, narratives, and progressive focusing for the theory elaboration.

The categories analyzed in the qualitative articles are the following: motivation, challenges posed by the liability of newness, mixed embeddedness, CSR, cultural dimensions, ethnic communities, business strategies, role of civil society, human and cultural capital, self-reconstruction, resilience, social media use, moral duties as a woman, institutional forces, identity, impacts of COVID-19, business networks, and emotion management.

4. Discussion and conclusion

Two main conclusions were drawn from this systematic review. They are presented as answers to the research questions.

Research question 1: *What are the region-specific research objectives, theoretical frameworks, and methodologies?*

The character of objectives differs depending on the region. In Europe, research is quite advanced and observes phenomena like transnational ties, motivations, institutional distance, mixed embeddedness, identity in the context of refugees, women, and comparison of different groups. Also, researchers discuss immigrants as a homogeneous group more often than specific ethnicities and their determinants. In Oceania, the objectives are more individual level: perceptions of entrepreneurial experiences, self-reliance ideology, capabilities, as well as strategy. In North America, objectives focus on high-skilled immigrant entrepreneurship and transnational entrepreneurship. One of the interesting findings suggests that in Asia researchers introduce new objectives compared to other regions. The topics include expatpreneurs from developed countries, social media use, link to language proficiency, and resilience of entrepreneurs under COVID-19. The objectives about Africa are concerned with the existing issues related to informal sectors and xenophobia.

Regarding the research frameworks, the study identified two approaches: literature review and theories. Theories have been used twice more often as a literature review. As the field of immigrant entrepreneurship is comparatively new, researchers are in the process of introducing more topics by using literature reviews and building advanced theoretical frameworks based on the identified patterns.

Based on the current analysis, the research exploits both quantitative and qualitative methods to the full extent, in some rare cases by combining both. The variety of dependent

variables in the quantitative research is surprising and illustrates more angles to the study. Moreover, qualitative methods like case studies, life stories and narratives allow a deeper understanding of an individual entrepreneur.

Research question 2: *How has immigrant entrepreneurship research evolved over the last decade?*

To answer this question, the current research was compared to the first systematic review by Aliaga-Isla and Rialp (2013). Immigrant entrepreneurship research has expanded enormously over the last 10 years (Figure 5). Based on the journal analysis, it can be said that the perception of immigrant entrepreneurship shifted from migration studies to a separate area within business and entrepreneurship.

Moreover, previously, immigrant entrepreneurship was specific to developed countries due to the global migration characteristics, but recently the topic is gradually becoming applicable to the developing economies. The possible reasoning behind this phenomenon is due to the expansion of immigrant entrepreneurship from less developed regions due to economic, social, political, and environmental factors. For example, most of the host countries including China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates are comparatively more advanced than the home countries of immigrant entrepreneurs. Also, the researchers deliberately focus on immigrant entrepreneurship in developing countries to fill

Figure5. Profile of two systematic reviews

	Previous study	Current study
Type	Descriptive and empirical	Empirical
Research period	1985, 1997, 1998, 2000-2010	2010-2021
Main journals	Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, International Migration Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies	International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior & Research, Journal of Enterprising Communities, Small Business Economics
Regions	USA, Europe, Oceania	Europe, Oceania, North America, Asia, Africa, CIS
Countries	Developed	Developed, developing, in transition
Theoretical framework	Sociological theories	Interdisciplinary and management theories

Source:Created by author

in the gap identified in the first systematic review. Interestingly, the objectives focusing on developing regions are believed to bring novelty to the research field (e.g., the digital promotion strategies among female immigrant entrepreneurs in UAE, the resilience of African entrepreneurs in China under COVID-19, CSR and xenophobia issues in South Africa, etc.). Furthermore, the increased interest in the emerging economies might be a sign of the establishment of an immigrant entrepreneurship ecosystem, although more thorough research is required regarding this issue.

The research objectives are studied in different contexts, and many researchers have followed the following future research suggestions introduced in the previous review, which proves systematic reviews to be helpful (Aliaga-Isla & Rialp, 2013):

- focus on comparisons of different contexts,
- more research on the policies of a specific country,
- research on the different layers of context in which immigrants are embedded,
- research at the meso- and macro-levels,
- research on the strategies to become an established business,
- more qualitative research and mixed methods; 5- or 7-point Likert scale.

The conclusion is that immigrant entrepreneurship research has progressed over the last decade and expanded in terms of topics, regions, methodologies, and theoretical frameworks. Despite certain limitations related to the research design, paper selection process, and theoretical framework, this systematic study provides valuable insights into the current state of the research field and how it has been evolving.

Researchers might find it useful in grasping research gaps in the region of interest, or in finding inspiration for future studies. Moreover, the results of the systematic review suggest that immigrant entrepreneurship is becoming an independent field within international entrepreneurship. Although it was revealed that many organizations support immigrant entrepreneurs, the current study highlights real issues faced by immigrant entrepreneurs that require more attention from the business community, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

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