



Lecture Social Entrepreneurship

SPEAKERS' BIOS



PROF IMRAAN VALODIA

Professor Imraan Valodia commenced his duties as Dean of the Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management at the University of Witwatersrand on 01 April 2014. Before this he was based at the School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal. His research interests include employment, the informal economy, gender and economic policy, and industrial development. He is currently co-ordinating an international study, in 10 cities across the globe, of the informal economy using a combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. His most recent book is a co-edited volume that reports on the methodology and research findings of a three-year research project, conducted in 8 countries, on the gender impacts of direct and indirect taxation. He has published widely in leading international journals. Professor Valodia is a National Research Foundation (NRF) B-rated researcher - a rating given to researchers who enjoy considerable international recognition by their peers for the high quality and impact of their recent research outputs.





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MS. CATHERINE TOWNSHEND

Catherine Townshend firmly believes the best way to grow economies and create jobs is to support and develop high-growth businesses. However, having worked with many high-impact entrepreneurs over the past decade, she is acutely aware of the challenges they face during the growth lifecycle of their businesses. This is why joining Endeavor SA in 2012 was such a natural move for her. It would allow her to work with some of the country's most innovative entrepreneurs in assisting them to realise their global growth aspirations, while adding significantly to developing a sustainable emerging middle class in South Africa. Most importantly, Catherine is driven by a determination to create best practice services for optimal entrepreneurial growth.

Catherine's education experience in corporate finance provided her with a perfect foundation for helping to build a local entrepreneurial ecosystem. She has a BSc degree and a post-graduate diploma in Enterprise Development from Rhodes University; and has worked in corporate finance (Chartwell Capital Group and Sasfin, among others) and the financial services sector. Catherine was recently selected to join the international Kauffman Fellowship – a highly competitive two-year programme dedicated to the world of venture capital and the cultivation of new high-tech, high-impact companies around the world. She was the first candidate from South Africa to join the programme.

Catherine's drive and determination is not limited to the entrepreneurial world, however. She has been awarded Federation Colours for mountain biking and represented South Africa at World Championships on numerous occasions, achieving a world ranking of 5 in her age category in 2008 and 2010.





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MR. PASCAL FROHLICHER

Pascal is driven by the creation of sustainable positive social and environmental impact through profitable businesses. With a background in management consulting, his experience includes working for b&m management and PricewaterhouseCoopers in Zurich, where he managed strategic and operational projects for financial services companies. Since 2009 he is based in South Africa and focuses on developing business solutions to developmental challenges at the intersection of large companies, government and growth stage businesses. His areas of expertise include enterprise growth and financing strategies, inclusive supply chain development and business incubation. He is a Partner at Impact Amplifier and is also building a grassroots social enterprise supporting the education of orphans in Lesotho. He holds an MA in Political Science from Lausanne University in Switzerland, and has a Certificate in Corporate Finance from the University of Zurich. He is fluent in German, French and English.



Social Entrepreneurship



MR. DEVANG VUSSONJI

Devang is an Associate Partner in Dalberg's Johannesburg office. He leads Dalberg's Education Practice, through which he works with both private and public sector actors on topics such as early childhood education, primary/secondary education and vocational training. He has also led a number of engagements in the enterprise development and innovative finance sectors. Most recently, he worked on an engagement with JP Morgan Chase Foundation's Catalyst for Growth program, which will help improve the quality of business development services (BDS) available to enterprises in South Africa.

While at Dalberg, Devang has worked with a number of social enterprises in South Africa. He has helped Dalberg develop HUGinsure – the world's first social enterprise offering social impact insurance. HUG will enable non-profit organizations accelerate funding that can be deployed quickly in time-sensitive situations such as natural disasters. It will also enable social enterprises access more working capital and thereby scale their operations at a faster pace. Devang oversaw the development of the concept, writing of the business plan, initial partnership development, and conceptualization of the pilot projects. In addition, Devang has also provided advisory services to a number of social enterprises. He has worked with Harambee, a youth employment accelerator in South Africa, on its scale-up and financial sustainability strategy. He recently led Harambee on a learning trip to India to visit a number of social enterprises in the vocational training sector and identify opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the two continents. He has also provided advisory services to Kommunity Group Projects, a South African relevant-technology innovation company.

Outside of Dalberg, Devang has volunteered as a Due Diligence Committee Member at the Beyond Capital Fund, helping the organization invest in social enterprises in the health, water and sanitation sectors. His responsibilities included advising social enterprises on business strategy and operations. Prior to joining Dalberg, Devang worked on a number of engagements for start-up enterprises. He assisted the Chicago Jesuit Academy – a 'charter'-type school – on scaling its operations. He has also advised the Meritas Family of Schools, a network of private boarding schools, on their performance management framework and helped the organization implement a system to monitor and evaluate school performance. Devang also worked for six years with Mercer Consulting in the United States where he advised Fortune 500 companies on strategic human capital and performance measurement issues. Devang holds an MBA with honors from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and an undergraduate degree in Economics from Claremont McKenna College. He was born and raised in India.





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PROFESSOR BORIS URBAN

Professor Boris Urban was appointed as the first Chair in Entrepreneurship in 2008 at the Graduate School of Business Administration, WBS, University of Witwatersrand. Boris has more than 25 years academic and professional experience in business, where he has practiced, taught and researched strategy, organisational behaviour and entrepreneurship. Boris is a NRF rated researcher and has published more than 70 peer reviewed publications in scholarly journals, including high-impact ISI journals, and is the editor and author of the book series 'Perspectives in Entrepreneurship: a Research Companion' published by Pearson Publishers and Springer Books.



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