Threshold Concepts in Entrepreneurship Education and their Implications for Teaching and Learning

Abstract
Given the continuing growth and importance of entrepreneurship education within the educational landscape, there remains a significant demand for theoretical and practical approaches. In particular, there is a demand for approaches that shed light on the interplay between course design and individual learning. In this presentation, we draw on the threshold concept approach, which is becoming an increasingly important perspective in educational research. While this approach has been usefully applied to develop the pedagogy of various disciplines, it has received little attention in the context of entrepreneurship education. The idea of threshold concepts addresses the question of how learners can practise an exploratory, reflexive approach to discipline and subject-area-specific ways of thinking and practising. In this session, we discuss how the threshold concept approach offers a new perspective for theory and practice in entrepreneurship education through its focus on bridging a disciplinary way of thinking and practising, on the one hand, and a subjective view of entrepreneurial phenomena, on the other hand. We also discuss the candidate entrepreneurial threshold concepts to characterize them as a potential starting point for a promising field of research.

Bio-notes
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Dr. Lucy Hatt is a Reader in Entrepreneurial Education at Newcastle University Business School. Her research and teaching focus on entrepreneurship education, threshold concepts, and developing entrepreneurial ways of thinking. Dr. Hatt collaborates with higher education institutions to explore innovative approaches to the 3E agenda using the threshold concept framework. Prior to moving into academia she worked in practice for seventeen years in production management and management consultancy.