

**ABSTRACT:** Establishing the effect of regional clusters on entrepreneurial activity -- Evidence from the UK.

Yasser Ahmad Bhatti DPhil Candidate Said Business School, University of Oxford.

The impact of clusters on entrepreneurship has not been adequately and formally substantiated through empirical analysis. This dissertation looks at the effect of clusters on entrepreneurship at the regional level in the United Kingdom and a comparison is made with a similar study already carried out in Germany. A combination of Global Entrepreneurship Monitor data with Eurostat, European Cluster Observatory, European Innovation Scoreboard, and the UK Office of National Statistics data is used on the UK's 37 NUTS 2 EU structural fund assistance regions to test the hypotheses regarding entrepreneurship, clusters, and innovation. A logistic regression model result reinforced further by a Generalised Linear Latent and Mixed Model, and a random intercept logit model showed that there is a positive impact of clusters on entrepreneurship. Formalizing the relationship between clusters and entrepreneurship can help practitioners and policymakers to make informed choices, conduct better monitoring, and to make better forecast nascent clusters for potential success or failure in terms of propagating entrepreneurship.

**KEYWORDS:** Entrepreneurship, clusters, innovation, United Kingdom, Germany.

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Profile: Yasser Bhatti is a Higher Education Commission doctoral scholar from Pakistan with research emphasis on the interplay of Regional Clusters, Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Before starting his current PhD programme at Said Business School-University of Oxford, he completed the MSc in Management Research also at Said with distinction. His MSc dissertation titled "Establishing the effect of regional clusters on entrepreneurial activity -- Evidence from the UK" was based on data from the UK Global Entrepreneurship Monitor and was awarded the Dan Gowler prize for best MSc dissertation at Said Business School.

Yasser has travelled to and lived in twelve countries for tourism, education, and work. Most early schooling was received in Saudi Arabia and later Bachelors in Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, USA and Masters in Computer Science and Management of Technology from Georgia-Tech, Atlanta. He has worked for over five years at the United Nations organizations (UNDP and UNICEF) in Pakistan and in New York, worked at IBM in North Carolina, and taught entrepreneurship and innovation courses at NUST and FAST-National Universities in Pakistan.

Stints at entrepreneurial start-ups are spread throughout his career which explains his passion to research and propagate a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. In addition to being affiliated with the Oxford Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, he is a research member of the GEM UK National team and is helping to establish GEM Pakistan.

He strives to uphold the ideals of high academic achievement combined with humbleness and community service. His hobbies are mountain trekking, rowing, and cooking for relaxation.