

Entrepreneurial (and Innovation) Ecosystems and Digitalisation: What Is Going on, and What Can (and Should) We Learn?

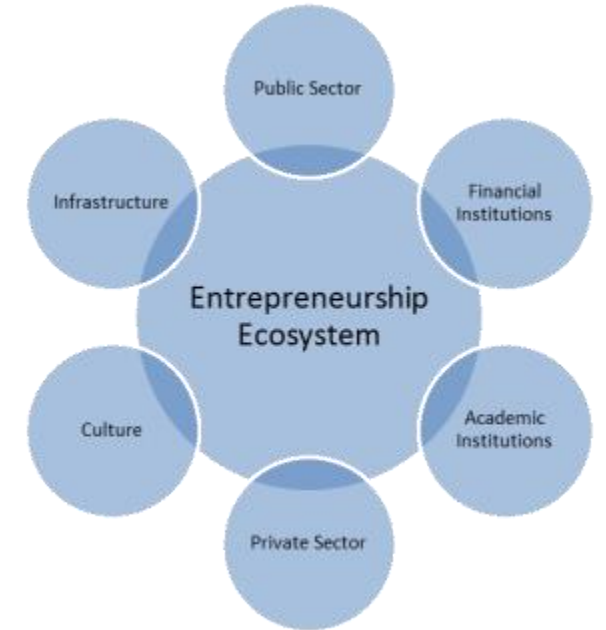
Questions

What is distinctive about entrepreneurial ecosystems?

How does digitalisation drive both entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystems, and how do they overlap?

Why do accelerators work the way they do?

What are the implications for policy and practice?



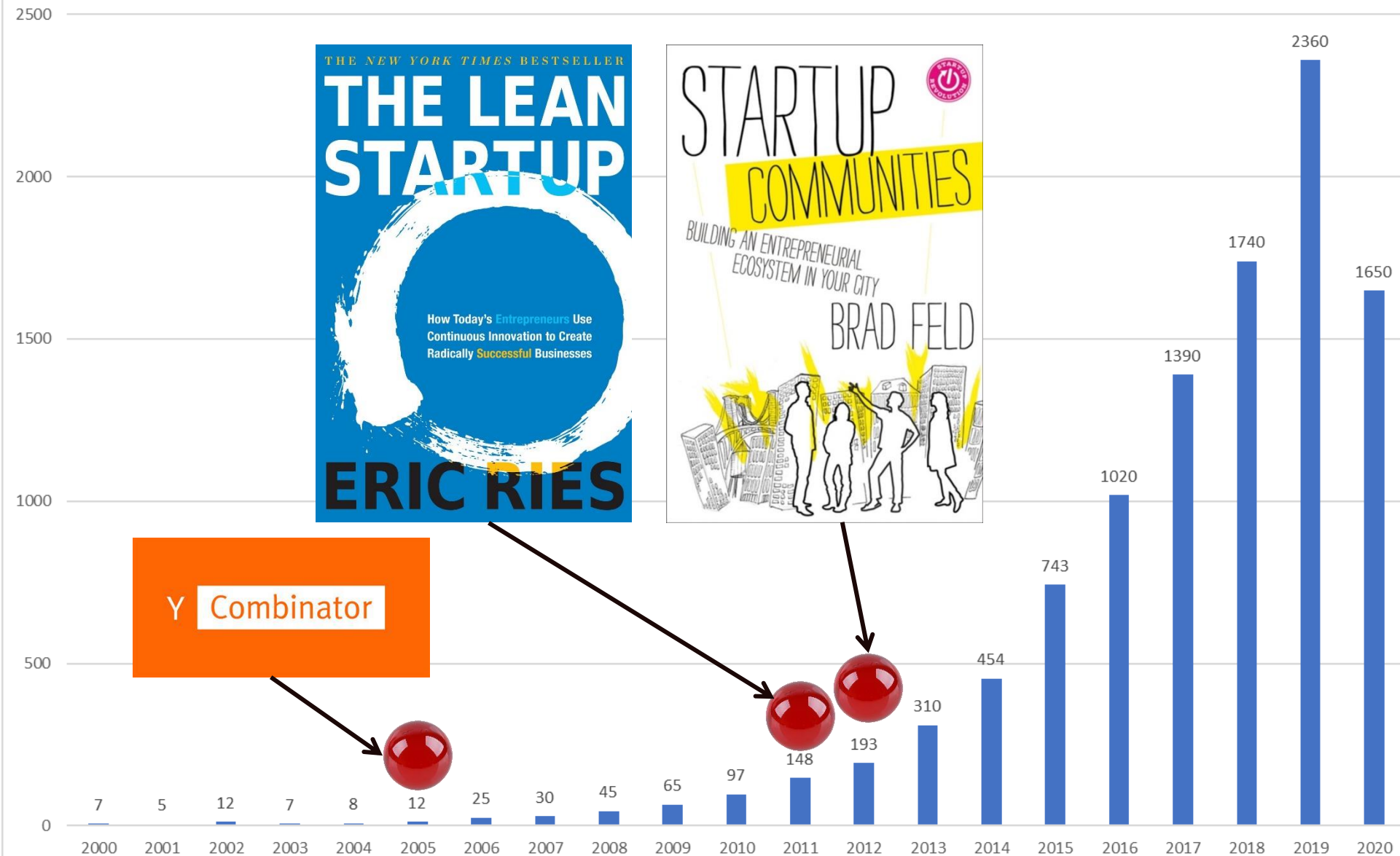
Our Take (Thomas & Autio, 2020)

		Research Emphasis		
		Community Dynamics	Output Co-creation	Interdependence Management
Ecosystem Output	<p>←-----</p> <p>Business Ecosystem</p> <p><i>(Moore, 1996; Iansiti & Levien, 2004)</i></p>	<p>Innovation Ecosystem</p> <p>Modular Ecosystem</p> <p><i>(Adner & Kapoor, 2010; Adner, 2017)</i></p>	<p>-----→</p> <p>Platform Ecosystem</p> <p><i>(Wareham et al 2014; Gawer & Cusumano, 2014)</i></p>	
	<p>Business model innovation instantiated in new start-up ventures</p> <p><i>(Autio et al, 2018)</i></p>	<p>Entrepreneurial Ecosystem</p> <p><i>(Klofsten et al, 2018)</i></p>	<p><i>(von Briel et al 2017)</i></p>	
	<p>New research-based knowledge</p> <p><i>(Järvi et al 2018; van der Borgh et al 2012)</i></p>	<p>Knowledge Ecosystem</p> <p><i>(Clarysse et al, 2014)</i></p>	<p><i>(Leten et al 2013; Dougherty & Dunne, 2011)</i></p>	

Our Definitions (as of May 2020)

Term	Definition
Ecosystem	A community of hierarchically independent, yet interdependent heterogeneous participants who collectively generate an ecosystem output.
Innovation Ecosystem	A community of hierarchically independent, yet interdependent heterogeneous participants who collectively generate an ecosystem output and related value offering targeted at a defined audience.
Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	A regional community of hierarchically independent, yet interdependent heterogeneous participants who facilitate the start-up and scale-up of entrepreneurial new ventures who compete with innovative business models.
Knowledge Ecosystem	A regional community of hierarchically independent, yet interdependent heterogeneous participants who advance the translation of advances in research knowledge into products and services.
Ecosystem Output	An system-level output that has been collectively generated by heterogeneous ecosystem participants.
Ecosystem Value Offering	An ecosystem output that is targeted at a defined audience whose needs it helps address.

GS yearly citations of "entrepreneurial ecosystem"



GS yearly citations of "innovation ecosystem"

Towards a theory of ecosystems



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Google play

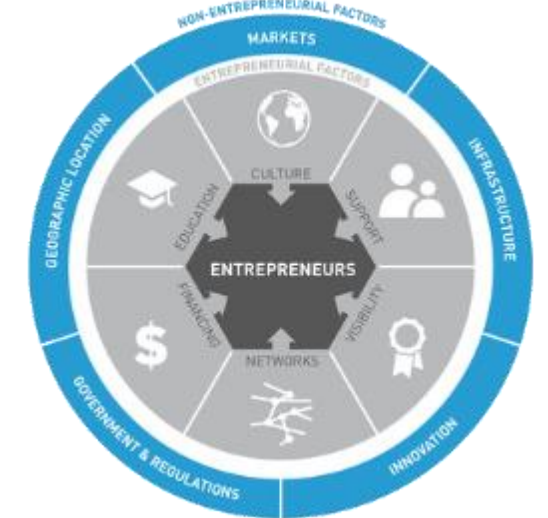
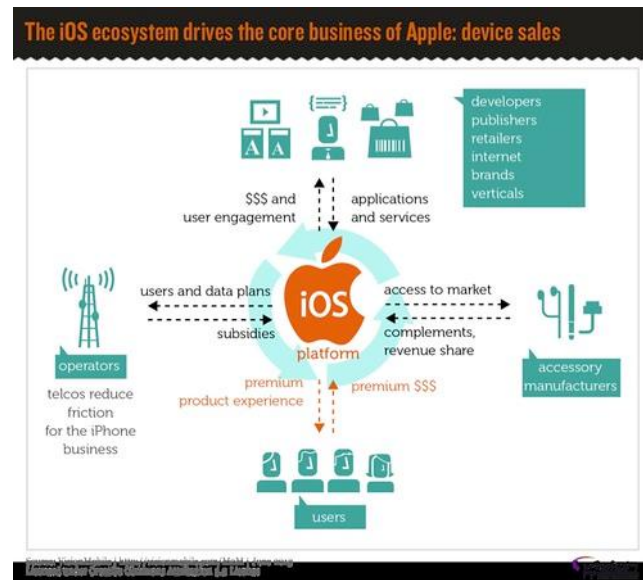
E&I Ecosystems: My Thoughts

Innovation ecosystems are structures for the co-production of value to a defined audience

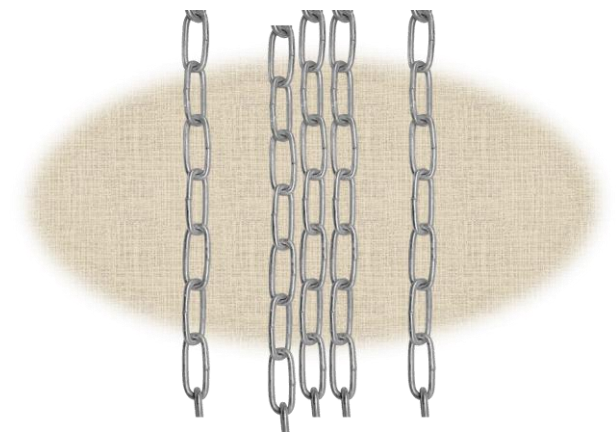
They compare against supply chains, networks, and markets

Entrepreneurial ecosystems are regional communities that facilitate entrepreneurial start-up and scale-up

They compare against industrial districts, (knowledge) clusters, and regional systems of innovation



Clusters vs Entrepreneurial Ecosystems



Cluster

Competition within the cluster

Horizontal competition, vertical collaboration

Entrepreneurial opportunities intrinsic to the cluster

Technical knowledge base (e.g., furniture)

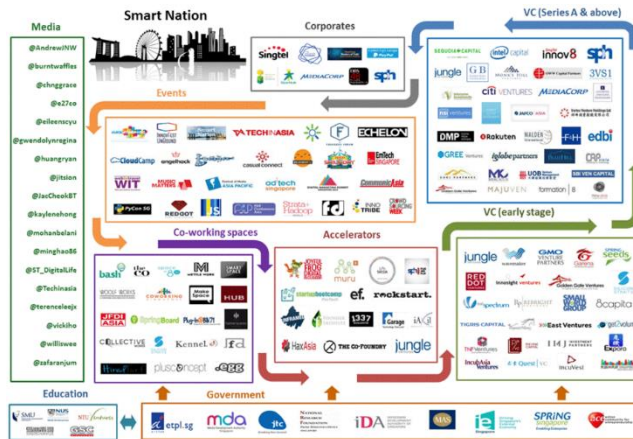
Entrep Ecosystem

Competition outside the EE

Horizontal collaboration, vertical competition

Entrepreneurial opportunities opened by digitalisation

Managerial knowledge base ('what works' in digital business model innovation)



Accelerators vs Science Parks



Science Park

Technology push

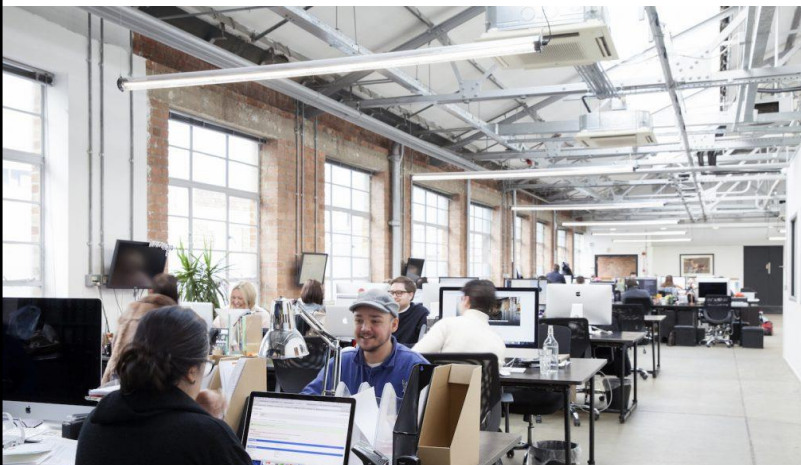
Formal IP

Internal competition possible

Business planning (linear)

Secrecy important

University links emphasised



Accelerator

Digital affordance pull

Business concepts

Internal competition not allowed

Lean entrepreneurship (iterative)

Sharing important

User interactions emphasised

Ok, So What?



Implications for Practice (Entrepreneurs)

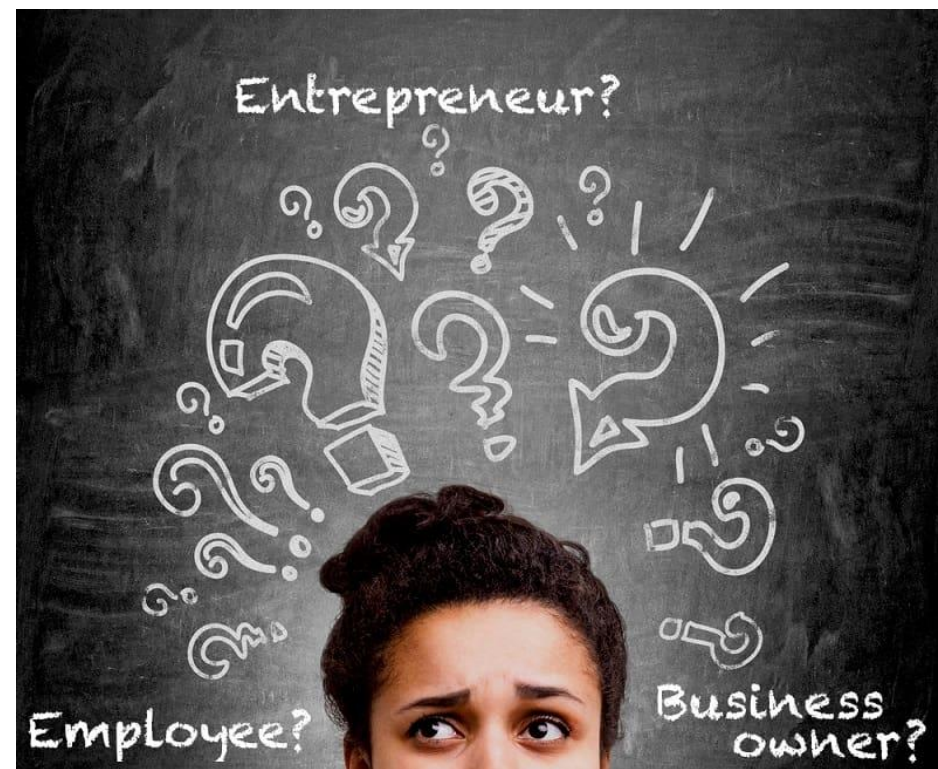
Would I compete with new business models?

Do I need to digitalise my business model?

Do I have strong industry or technology background that I can leverage?

Have I spotted opportunities to disrupt a given industry sector?

Do I know how to develop and validate a business idea?



Implications for Practice (large firms)

How do I engage the start-up community?

How do I manage a corporate accelerator?

How do I practice lean entrepreneurship?

Should I self-disrupt my business or should I wait to be disrupted?



Implications for Policy

How do I transition from SME policy to an ecosystem policy?

How do I harness entrepreneurial ecosystems to advance the Digital Economy and Total Factor Productivity therein?

How do I combine digital policy with ecosystem policy?



