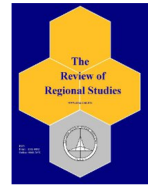




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BOOK REVIEWS

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Motoyamam Yasuyuki (2019) *From Innovation to Entrepreneurship Connectivity-based Regional Development*. Edward Elgar Publishing, US. ISBN: 9781789901979, 192 pp., \$127.00 (hardback).

Reviewed by *Baojing Deng*, Johns Hopkins University

1. INTRODUCTION

From Innovation to Entrepreneurship by Yasuyuki Motoyama is an insightful contribution to the field of regional economics. The book aims to disentangle the relationship between innovation and entrepreneurship by examining their distinct requirements, exploring their overlaps, and shedding light on the critical role of individuals within entrepreneurship ecosystems. This professional academic book review will assess the book's key arguments, methodologies, and contributions while evaluating its strengths and areas for further development.

2. SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS

Motoyama's work begins by distinguishing innovation and entrepreneurship, emphasizing their unique characteristics and roles in economic development. The author demonstrates that innovation is the bedrock of entrepreneurship, providing the necessary ideas, technologies, and opportunities for entrepreneurial activities. By unpacking theoretical frameworks and presenting empirical evidence, Motoyama highlights the synergies and differences between these two concepts, enabling readers to grasp their interdependencies effectively. The book's central thesis underscores the significance of entrepreneurship for economic growth. Motoyama argues that fostering entrepreneurship ecosystems, with individuals at their core, is vital for economic development. Through comprehensive case studies and data analysis, the author elucidates the multifaceted nature of entrepreneurship ecosystems and emphasizes the role of various stakeholders, such as policymakers, educators, and support organizations, in nurturing entrepreneurial activities within a region.

3. CRITICAL EVALUATION

Motoyama's work is commendable for its rigorous analysis and scholarly approach. The book effectively integrates theoretical perspectives from innovation and entrepreneurship literature, comprehensively understanding the subject matter. The author's use of empirical evidence and case studies further strengthens the arguments, lending credibility to the book's claims.

One of the book's notable strengths is its ability to elucidate the interplay between innovation and entrepreneurship. By highlighting their distinct requirements, Motoyama helps readers appreciate the nuances of transforming innovative ideas into viable entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the emphasis on individuals as key actors in entrepreneurship ecosystems provides valuable insights into the role of human capital, social networks, and entrepreneurial support systems.

Moreover, the book succeeds in its aim to underline the significance of entrepreneurship for economic development. By examining real-world examples and drawing upon diverse regional contexts, Motoyama demonstrates the practical implications of fostering entrepreneurship ecosystems. Policymakers and researchers in regional economics will find this analysis particularly insightful and applicable.

While the book offers a comprehensive exploration of the topic, there are a few areas where further development would enhance its impact. Firstly, a more detailed discussion of entrepreneurs' challenges and barriers within different regional contexts would add depth to the analysis. Additionally, incorporating comparative analyses of entrepreneurship ecosystems across regions would provide a broader perspective.

4. CONCLUSION

From Innovation to Entrepreneurship by Yasuyuki Motoyama is a valuable contribution to the field of regional economics. Through its meticulous examination of the relationship between innovation and entrepreneurship, the book offers theoretical clarity, empirical insights, and practical implications for policymakers and researchers. By emphasizing the pivotal role of individuals within entrepreneurship ecosystems, the author presents a compelling case for the crucial importance of fostering entrepreneurial activities in driving economic growth. Despite some areas for further development, this book is an invaluable resource for those interested in understanding the intricate dynamics of innovation and entrepreneurship within regional economies.

Calder, K.E. (2021) *Global Political Cities: Actors and Arenas of Influence in International Affairs* Brookings Institution Press" Washington, DC. ISBN: 9780815739074, 287 pp., \$39.99 (hardback).

Reviewed by *Bryan Khoo*, West Virginia University

This book examines cities' role in influencing global political-economic affairs. The author points out that city research has traditionally focused on its economic and functional roles

(p. 2). This book, however, focuses on the more political aspects of cities. This book primarily argues that cities are more effective political actors than national governments due to lower political constraints. Their effectiveness stems from urban proximity to various interest groups and human networks that develop policy outside of government, which the authors call “penumbras of power” (p. 15). By acting as a generator and channel, for public policies, the authors argue that effective cities contain four traits, which are: 1) extensive penumbras of power, cosmopolitan political forums, proactive civic leaders, and insistent grassroots movements” (Calder, 2021, p. 15)

To understand cities’ rise to prominence globally, the author first examines how they developed throughout history. Beginning at the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, the authors argue that the foundations of a city’s strength are drawn from facilitating trade and its geographic importance to trade (p. 28). Geographic importance is particularly highlighted by the author in “the power of proximity” using the examples of cities in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. At the same time, geo-political affairs and conflicts led to subjugation of cities under nation-states that suppressed their potential growth and advantage (p. 39). This begs the question: how did cities rise to power given their subjugation? The author identifies technological and financial forces as the driving force for their renewal.

The same advantages that helped cities to rise in early history are the same forces that have led to their revival. The author argues that the synergy between technology and finance amplified cities’ role in public policy by the nature of the financial profession. Due to bankers and lawyers requiring broad global information and personal connections, policy and idea institutions have risen to fill the need. These institutions serve to broaden cities’ strength and development, as shown in the case of London, Paris, Tokyo, and New York (pp. 64 - 85)

The second part of the book covers four hypotheses, as shown in Calder (2021, p. 20). In summary, these hypotheses examine the role of autonomous and activist local leaders, grassroots communities, cosmopolitan forums, and penumbras of power in enhancing a city’s global influence. The authors test these hypotheses using systematic triadic case studies that examine different groups that contain varying degrees of the variable of interest.

This book is a wonderful guide on how cities have developed their political influence over time and how they revived and maintained it. The book’s arguments are concisely threaded together. A good example is in chapter 8, which examines the global activism of civic leaders and their incentives for playing a larger role on the world stage (p. 166).

Its use of case studies provides comprehensive evidence using prominent examples to demonstrate their arguments, for example, in looking at Beijing and its origin and distinctive penumbra of power (p. 105). While using case studies effectively presents a thorough argument, as shown by the author, it does not provide an effective generalized argument for all cities due to their specificity. A related critique of using case studies related to the author’s use of Singapore and Hong Kong (pp. 177 - 181).

Singapore and Hong Kong, due to their size and history, act as both a singular city and a nation. Despite earlier arguments that nation-states are less effective than cities, the author does not distinguish between the two. How does the author reconcile a city that is fundamentally a nation then? I highlight this critique as it may overestimate the political

influence cities have given that there is a Singapore Embassy in Washington, DC. Still, there is no Washington, DC, city embassy in Singapore. Similarly, Hong Kong may have a Consulate General in Tokyo, but there is no Tokyo city Consulate General in Hong Kong.

Furthermore, Hong Kong, being a special administrative region, requires further justification for use as a case study due to its functionally acting as a city but wielding mixed political influence caught between domestic and international constraints. These two cities potentially display more political influence due to tighter integration between the city and political institutions than San Francisco or Los Angeles.

In conclusion, the author provided an extensive overview of the role and rise of cities' political influence. The use of case studies has some limitations, but the author's particular use of systematic triadic case studies allows for drawing comparative differences to support effectively the author's argument. This book has certainly sparked a new interest in cities' role on the global stage. The role and influence cities play has always been in the foreground, but I never thought to question or examine why. This interest is only enhanced by the author's clear writing style and well-connected points.

Donahue, Wesley E(2023) *Learning to Lead People Effectively in Global Business Situations: A Competency-Based Approach Integrating External Awareness and Industry-Wide Product*. Independent Publishing ISBN: 9798373188463, 92 pp., \$17.50 (paperback).

Reviewed by *Stephanie Bilderback*, Austin Peay State University

Learning to Lead People Effectively in Global Business Situations authored by Dr. Wesley E. Donahue, is an invaluable resource for professionals seeking to refine their leadership skills within the dynamic landscape of global business. With a robust foundation in competency-based learning, this workbook directly addresses the multifaceted challenges leaders encounter in cross-cultural corporate environments, equipping them with the practical tools necessary to excel.

The book's comprehensive framework is constructed upon Donahue's meticulously researched Competency Model. This model, influenced by the U.S. Department of Labor and other industry leaders, defines competency as a blend of skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors that are both observable and measurable. This approach, which highlights the practical application of the presented concepts, solidifies the workbook as a highly reliable tool for professional development, providing a sense of security in its effectiveness.

The book comprises 35 competency dimensions crucial for leadership and professional roles. These competencies are then classified into five pivotal domains: Resource Management, Professional Competence, Supervisory Management, Organizational Leadership, and Technical Acumen. Each domain is exhaustively explained, giving readers a well-defined path to augment their capabilities.

A standout feature of the book is its emphasis on three core competencies: External Awareness, Industry-Wide Technical Competencies, and Managing a Diverse Workforce. Donahue provides comprehensive strategies for honing communication skills, enhancing cultural awareness, and developing industrial expertise. These competencies, critical for leaders

who must navigate the complexities of global business environments, underline the urgency and importance of mastering them. For instance, the workbook includes practical advice on improving communication skills to engage with diverse teams effectively. It highlights the importance of recognizing and embracing cultural differences to mitigate misunderstandings and foster a collaborative environment. By addressing these critical areas, Donahue equips leaders with the skills to manage cross-cultural teams effectively and drive organizational success.

The book's design encourages active engagement through its hands-on approach. Each section begins with an overview of the relevant concepts, followed by actionable steps, key takeaways, and links to additional resources. This structured format ensures readers can immediately apply the lessons learned to their professional roles. In addition to its educational content, the book includes a 20-question Knowledge Review Test. This feature allows readers to assess their understanding and provides an opportunity to earn development hours to maintain professional credentials. This practical aspect enhances the book's value as a learning tool and a means of ongoing professional development.

Dr. Donahue's extensive background as a business owner, engineer, manager, and educator enriches the content with real-world insights and practical knowledge. His experience at Penn State University and as president of Centrestar, Inc., a firm specializing in leadership assessment and development, informs the approach and ensures its relevance to today's business leaders.

The book's comprehensive content is organized into ten key concepts, each addressing a critical area of global business leadership. Topics range from appreciating the benefits of diversity in the workplace to understanding influence and political savvy and from adopting a partner mindset to leading cross-functional teams. This breadth of coverage ensures that readers are well-equipped to handle the diverse challenges they may encounter in their leadership roles. The workbook offers a summary and a recap checklist to reinforce learning. This feature helps readers consolidate their knowledge and ensures they can apply the concepts effectively in their professional practice. Additionally, including competency action planning and knowledge review, appendices provide further opportunities for self-assessment and growth.

Overall, *Learning to Lead People Effectively in Global Business Situations* is a valuable resource for leaders seeking to enhance their competencies globally. Dr. Wesley E. Donahue's systematic and practical approach makes this workbook an essential tool for professional development. It offers a clear, actionable framework for developing the skills and behaviors necessary for effective leadership in today's interconnected world. This workbook is a comprehensive guide for developing the competencies essential for success in global business environments. Its structured approach, focus on measurable behaviors, and practical applications make it an indispensable tool for professionals committed to excellence in leadership. Dr. Donahue's work significantly contributes to leadership development literature, providing a clear roadmap for leaders to achieve and sustain high performance in their roles.