

Title: Entrepreneurship in contemporary institutional dynamics

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Abstract

The stake of this paper is to emphasize the part of spontaneity in the contemporary institutional change with the help of an “*extended*” hayekian analytical framework. Firstly, I use some inputs from the New Institutional Economics and the sociology of personal networks. Secondly, I build the concept of “*institutional entrepreneur*” which is relying on Mises’ human action.

My first argument is that institutional entrepreneurs are the boosters of changes such as : the beginning of a small rule from a micro state of nature; the degeneration of a social institution; the crossing from an institution to another one;

Pioneers discover conjectural solutions to interactive local problems. I identify their incentives and the ways by which they transform a conjectural rule into an experienced one – a relational rule. I explain the diffusion of this rule by the existence of interconnected relational networks. Through this decentralised and gradual process, the rule spreads to the macroscopic level, and becomes a social institution. I show the other modalities of institutional change and the different kinds of institutional competition.

My second argument is that the diffusion process is not neutral. On the one hand, imitation and language introduce some marginal mutations. On the other hand, as the institution is spreading abroad different life contexts, it is susceptible to be re-invented by some other entrepreneurs.

I conclude with the idea that institutional entrepreneurship is important and frequent in our Great Society- even if it is only visible by Austrian eyes. The model strengthens the spontaneity perspective since an “organic” social institution is the by-product of multiple entrepreneurs’ incremental innovations.

Key- words: Convention, Entrepreneur, Evolutionism, Institution, Invisible hand, Network.