

Chapter 17

A Fourfold Classification of Female Entrepreneurship Concept



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Abstract Purpose From the analysis of recent literature it emerges a methodological issue about Female entrepreneurship concept which has not been treated. It is not yet clear if Female entrepreneurship is an *individual* or *collective* concept and if it is considered a *social* or *natural* variable. The purpose of present research is to clear up that these alternatives are preparatory to any research about Female entrepreneurship which would measure its features and effects over other economic variables. **Design/methodology/approach** This research starts with an analysis of recent literature about Female entrepreneurship in which arises a lack of reflections about the qualification of Female entrepreneurship concept. The work proceeds by classifying Female entrepreneurship concept in four modes and discussing their characterisations. **Originality/value** Since *Entrepreneurship* is considered an economic variable pertaining to individuals in different measure, *Female entrepreneurship* is a concept that has to be classified before it can be measured and before its contribution to economic value can be measured. Originality of this work consists in its fourfold classification of Female entrepreneurship concept as a preparatory step to the analysis of its characteristics and measures. **Practical implications** Since we don't clear up the *nature* of Female entrepreneurship concept, we can't measure it and its contribution to value creation. Its evaluation could be inserted in Business financial reporting and National accounting systems as a useful information for customs, supply chain determination and public regulators; but in order to do so, its nature has to be clarified, with regard to its individual or collective, and social or natural characterizations.

Keywords Female entrepreneurship · Entrepreneurship · Economic variable classification

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17.1 Foreword

This work was originally focused on the identification of Female entrepreneurship value creation measurement methods and their classifications. Literature analysis, as detailed in Table 17.1, however, highlights that researches about Female entrepreneurship don't have investigated whether it is an *individual* or *collective* variable, and whether it has *social* or *natural* derivation. Female entrepreneurship qualification is a preparatory research to measurement of economic variables connected to it, because a clear framework of a variable is necessary in order to determine the subject matter of its measurement and connected economic variables measurement as well.

In next paragraph we clarify what has not yet been investigated, according to recent literature; in the following paragraph we set the fourfold classification of Female entrepreneurship concept. In paragraph 4 we outline the four possible Female entrepreneurship classifications and in paragraph 5 we treat some consequences of this classification, regarding Competition concept. Last paragraph is about consequences about aggregate economic variables measurement.

17.2 Research Question and Literature

In order to analyse literature about Female entrepreneurship, we considered the *Analytical framework* and *Taxonomy* outlined in Paoloni and Demartini (2016), focusing on “A2-Female entrepreneurship” category. In particular, attention was focused on the 53 articles described in Table 17.1. Some of these articles analyse Female entrepreneurship characteristics, comparing carried out by male or female entrepreneur enterprises (see Table 17.1, articles: Walsh and Borkowski 2006; Westbrook et al. 2011; Barrett 2011; Mihail 2006). Other articles, directly quantify existing entrepreneurial characteristics in male or female enterprises (see Table 17.1 articles: Singh 2008; Mordi 2010). In total, most of the articles—37 of 53 (68.9%)—are Qualitative; 8 (15% of total) are quantitative, and 10 are case studies, ethnographic articles and literature reviews.

Notwithstanding this array of classification, all of the articles are about Female entrepreneur characteristics identification, or compared with *male* entrepreneur, but Female entrepreneurship concept, with regard to its nature and qualifications, still remains untapped. The importance of the research about this concept has a dual meaning.

Table 17.1 Paper analysis

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2015	Anne Laure Humbert	Challenging the concept of risk in relation to women's entrepreneurship	The paper aims to challenge the myth of risk-averseness among women entrepreneurs and analyses risk in the context of gender	Qualitative
2006	Anne M. Walsh and Susan C. Borkowski	Professional associations in the health industry	The paper examines organizational factors which influenced participation of male and female executives in their professional associations	Quantitative
2005	Barbara Pini	The third sex: women leaders in Australian agriculture	The paper explores the ways in which women actively create a subject position which locates them as both 'agricultural leader' and 'woman'	Qualitative
2014	Beáta Nagy and Lilla Vicssek	Exploring gender culture at a telecommunications company	The paper interprets the expectations, the norms and values related to gender within the concept of organizational culture	Qualitative
2013	Beverley Hawkins	Gendering the eye of the norm: exploring gendered concertive control processes in two self-managing teams	The paper explores the workplace interactions of two self-managed teams of recruitment consultants	Qualitative
2006	Carol Woodhams and Ben Lupton	Does size matter? Gender-based equal opportunity in UK small and medium enterprises	The paper examines the take up of gender-based equal opportunities policies and practices in small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and explores the relationship between size and take up within the SME sector	Qualitative-interview
2010	Caroline Essers, and Hans Doorewaard	Female ethnicity: understanding muslim immigrant businesswomen in The Netherlands	These analyses, we argue, contribute to conceptualizations of entrepreneurship that do justice to complex and contradictory processes of identity constructions	Qualitative

(continued)

Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2015	Ceyda Maden	A gendered lens on entrepreneurship: women entrepreneurship in Turkey	This study aims to shed light on women's entrepreneurship in Turkey by focusing on the profile of women entrepreneurs, key drivers behind their decision to establish their own business	Qualitative
2010	Chima Mordi, and Ruth Simpson	The role of cultural values in understanding the challenges faced by female entrepreneurs in Nigeria	The paper examines the challenges female entrepreneurs face in the development of their business in the context of Nigeria	Quantitative
2013	Dan Wheatley	Location, vocation, location? Spatial entrapment among women in dual career households	This paper explores spatial entrapment among women. The analysis contributes to the debate concerning the spatial entrapment thesis, advancing research through application of a mixed method empirical approach, and focus on dual career households in the UK	Qualitative
2006	Dimitrios M. Mihail	Women in management: gender stereotypes and students' attitudes in Greece	The paper is about measuring and assessing gender-based attitudes of surveyed students	Quantitative and qualitative
2010	Edeltraud Hanappi-Egger and Alexandra Kauer	Gendered scripts: studying hidden assumptions in business contexts	The paper makes the a priori gender scripts visible in order to discuss their role in decision-making processes in business contexts	Qualitative
2007	Edwina Pio	Ethnic minority migrant women entrepreneurs and the imperial imprimatur	The paper explores the work experiences of ethnic minority migrant Indian women and their reasons for entering entrepreneurship in post-colonial New Zealand	Qualitative
2007	Elin Smith	Gender influence on firm-level entrepreneurship through the power structure of boards	The paper examines the gender composition and structure of the board of directors in not-for-profit organisations and their relation to firm-level entrepreneurship	Qualitative case studies

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2006	Elizabeth A. Larsen	The impact of occupational sex segregation on family businesses: the case of American harness racing	The study focuses on individual family businesses in American harness horse racing, a previously unexamined and highly sex-segregated industry, and provides insights in how vertical and horizontal sex segregation may develop in family businesses	Qualitative
2007	Elizabeth A. Walker; Beverley J. Webster	Gender, age and self-employment: some things change, some stay the same	The paper investigates age and gender differences in initial motivations for starting a business	Qualitative case studies
2009	Eugenia Petridou	E-mentoring women entrepreneurs: discussing participants' reactions	The paper presents an e-mentoring intervention to rural women entrepreneurs in Greece	Quantitative
2014	Fernando Lourenco, Gerard McElwee, Ranis Cheng, David W. Taylor and Anthony G. Taylor	Experience of entrepreneurial training for female farmers to stimulate entrepreneurship in Uganda	The paper reflects upon the experience of Authordelivering training for women farmers and highlights key observations related to women's entrepreneurship in Uganda	Conceptual paper
2014	Fernando Lourenco, Gerard McElwee, Ranis Cheng, David W. Taylor and Anthony G. Taylor	Experience of entrepreneurial training for female farmers to stimulate entrepreneurship in Uganda	The paper reflects upon our experience of delivering training for women farmers and highlights key observations related to women's entrepreneurship in Uganda	Conceptual paper
2012	Golshan Javadian and Robert P. Singh	Examining successful Iranian women entrepreneurs: an exploratory study	The paper discusses the factors impacting successful Iranian women entrepreneurs. The factors include: self-efficacy, risk taking, negative stereotypes, and societal culture and traditions	Qualitative
2008	Gurmeet Singh	Entrepreneurship and SMEs in Ethiopia	The paper attempts to identify the problem areas and developmental issues attached to women's entrepreneurship related to small medium enterprises	Quantitative

(continued)

Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2006	IJ. Hetty van Emmerik; Martin C. Euwema, Myrthe Geschiere and Marieke F.A. G. Schouten	Networking your way through the organization	The paper examines formal and informal networking and their relationship with career satisfaction	Qualitative-interview
2008	Jane Tonge	Barriers to networking for women in a UK professional service	The paper explores the use of personal contact networks in the UK public relations sector, focusing on the barriers to networking identified by practitioners	Qualitative
2010	Javed G. Hussain; Jonathan M. Scott; Richard T. Harrison; Cindy Millman	“Enter the dragoness”: firm growth, finance, guanxi, and gender in China	The paper theorises and examines gender differences in the impact of financial capital on Chinese firms’ growth, and investigates the role of guanxi (connections and networks) in the process of obtaining finance	Qualitative
2009	Jodyanne Kirkwood	Motivational factors in a push-pull theory of entrepreneurship	The paper contributes by applying the existing theory on push and pull factors; and using a gender comparative approach to explore the nature of potential gender differences within entrepreneurial motivations	Qualitative
2011	Jorid Hovden, Elin Kvande and Bente Rasmussen	Gender and the production of elites in the Nordic countries: new directions in research	The paper criticizes current directions in research on women and management. The purpose of the paper is to propose new directions for such research	Conceptual paper
2012	Julie Hodges	The transition of midlife women from organisational into self-employment	The paper explores the transition of midlife women from employment in organizations to self-employment. It examines how midlife women account for their transition from organizations to self-employment; why they	Qualitative

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2014	Katarina Pettersson, Susanna Heldt Cassel	Women tourism entrepreneurs: doing gender on farms in Sweden	opted for self-employment rather than simply changing organizations and their experience of self-employment The paper explores how gender is "done" on farms in Sweden in the context of increased tourism and hospitality activities	Qualitative
2005	Katerina Sari; Anna Trihopoulou	Female entrepreneurs' personal characteristics and motivation: a review of the Greek situation	The paper investigates the issue of women entrepreneurs in Greece by looking into personal characteristics and motivation of female Greek entrepreneurs	Qualitative-interview
2011	Kevin W. Westbrook, C. Steven Arendall and Walton M. Padelford	Gender, competitiveness, and unethical negotiation strategies	The paper examines gender and competitiveness in relation to the likelihood of using unethical negotiation strategies. Additionally, this study seeks to determine if gender serves as a predictor or moderator variable in this relationship	Quantitative
2013	Kristina A. Bourne* and Marta B. Calás	Becoming 'Real' entrepreneurs: women and the gendered normalization of 'work'	The article focuses on the way in which women entrepreneurs legitimate their place in a gendered economy by reifying a divide between 'real work' and 'not-real work'	Qualitative
2006	Leonie V. Still; Elizabeth A. Walker	The self-employed woman owner and her business	The paper develops a profile of the self-employed woman and her business to serve as a benchmark for follow-up research in SMEs	Qualitative-interview
2012	Lionel Wee and Ann Brooks	Negotiating gendered subjectivity in the enterprise culture: metaphor and entrepreneurial discourses	The article presents evidence of metaphor as a strategy for coping with the gendered expectations embodied by life in enterprise culture	Qualitative

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2007	Marjaana Gunkel, Edward J. Lusk, Birgitta Wolff and Fang Li	Gender-specific effects at work: an empirical study of four countries	The paper is about the examination of the effects of gender on the following three work-related dimensions: 1. the importance of work-related goals 2. the preference for performance rewards 3. the preference for management styles	Quantitative
2011	Mary Barrett	Do they speak SNAG?	The article compares male students' perceptions of the strategies to those of female students and female managers	Quantitative
2012	Mary Phillips and Deborah Knowles	Performance and performativity: undoing fictions of women business owners	This article explores the representation of women small business owners in three contemporary novels; <i>Chocolat</i> , <i>The Shipping News</i> and <i>Back When We Were Grownups</i>	Qualitative
2012	Nicola Patterson, Sharon Mavin and Jane Turner	Envisioning female entrepreneur: leaders anew from a gender perspective	The article explores the convergence of female entrepreneurship, women in management and leadership fields from a gender perspective to bring a gender consciousness to the development and construction of the emerging entrepreneurial leadership theory base	Conceptual paper
2012	Nicola Patterson, Sharon Mavin and Jane Turner	Envisioning female entrepreneur: leaders anew from a gender perspective	The paper explores the convergence of female entrepreneurship, women in management and leadership fields from a gender perspective to bring a gender consciousness to the development and construction of the emerging entrepreneurial leadership theory base	Conceptual paper
2013	Olwen Bedford and Shu-Ling Hwang	Building relationships for business in taiwanese hostess clubs: the psychological and social processes of guanxi development	We examines personal ties between individuals in a particular context commonly believed to be important for building business relationships in Taiwan	Qualitative

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2006	Patricia Lewis	The quest for invisibility: female entrepreneurs and the masculine norm of entrepreneurship	The article explores the differences and divisions between women business owners who are silent about gender issues and those who are not	Qualitative
2013	Patricia Lewis	The search for an authentic entrepreneurial identity: difference and professionalism among women business owners	The article focuses on those women who self-consciously adopt a feminized entrepreneurial identity as a means of being 'who I really am' in a business context	Qualitative
2013	Patricia Pryce and Ruth Sealy	Promoting women to MD in investment banking: multi-level influences	The paper seeks to examine macro, micro, and meso-level influences, and the interplay between them, as explanations for why more progress is not being made	Quantitative
2007	Philip Hancock	Un/doing gender and the aesthetics of organizational performance	The article argues that performativity is achieved, in part, through the power of symbolism and aesthetics, as well as the capacity to bring oneself into being in an environment in which successful management of the aesthetic	Qualitative
2015	Rabia Naguib	Female entrepreneurship in the UAE: a multi-level integrative lens	The authors use this framework to provide insights into multi-level factors enabling and constraining the experience of female entrepreneurship in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and advance knowledge of female entrepreneurship in a particular Middle Eastern context as well as cross-nationally	Qualitative

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2014	Robert Smith	Images, forms and presence outside and beyond the pink ghetto	The paper considers entrepreneurial imagery that sheds light on differing and emerging patterns of female entrepreneurial identity which illustrate shifts in the locus of power that challenge masculine hegemony and power structures	Qualitative
2008	Rod Farr-Wharton	Female entrepreneurs as managers	The paper highlight that female entrepreneurs used a relational approach to manage their employees which social capital theory (SCT)	Qualitative
2007	Rod Farr-Wharton Yvonne Brunetto	Women entrepreneurs, opportunity recognition and government-sponsored business networks	The paper examines how the relational dimension of business networks affects the networking activities of female entrepreneurs	Qualitative case studies
2010	Roni Strier	Women, poverty, and the microenterprise: context and discourse	The article discusses the claims of success of microenterprise development programmes (MDPs) in poverty reduction and gender equality	Qualitative
2010	Saija Katila	Negotiating moral orders in chinese business families in Finland: constructing family, gender and ethnicity in a research situation	This article explores how Chinese business families in the Chinese catering sector in the Helsinki metropolitan Area (Finland) articulate gendered and ethnicized moral orders in the relationship that ensues between the researcher and the research participants	Qualitative
2015	Sarah Wall	Dimensions of precariousness in an emerging sector of self-employment: a study of self-employed nurses	The article examines the experiences of self-employed nurses in order to better understand self-employment in professional caring work	Ethnography

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Table 17.1 (continued)

Year	Authors	Title	Focus of the article	Research method
2015	Talia Pfefferman	The gendered state of business: gender, enterprises and state in Israeli Society	The paper identifies three manifestations of the gendering state through which it moulds business opportunities of men and women entrepreneurs	Qualitative
2010	Ulla Hytti	Contextualizing entrepreneurship in the boundaryless career	The article analyses how the transition into entrepreneurship is constructed in the context of the boundary/less career	Qualitative
2014	Wendy Ming Yen Teoh, Stong Choy Chong	Towards strengthening the development of women entrepreneurship in Malaysia	The paper identifies developmental issues associated with women entrepreneurship, with the Malaysian small and medium enterprises	Literature review

- (1) Since in literature *Entrepreneurship* is defined as a variable pertaining to *individuals*,¹ the name *Female* entrepreneurship suggests a Gender—that is collective—qualification for this variable. The point is that in recent literature about Female entrepreneurship its *collective* character is not problematized.
- (2) In recent literature about Female entrepreneurship, gender entrepreneurs differences are not investigated with regard to their *social* or *natural* origins. That is: it's not investigated whether female and male entrepreneurship gender diversities are due to historical constructions or natural differences between the two sexes—if we can refer to the traditional two sexes, as called to mind by the term *female*.

These two points indicates why the literature review has stimulated us a methodological issue, that is preparatory to any recognition and classification of female entrepreneurship characteristics, since a research about female entrepreneurship characteristics can only rely on Female entrepreneurship qualification. As we can see in the next paragraph, the two mentioned alternatives brings out *four* different classification modes, only one of which is correspondent with traditional definition of Entrepreneurship: an individual variable which evolves over time.

17.3 Female Entrepreneurship Classifications

Our research hypothesis, as specified above, was originally focused on value creation differences between male and female entrepreneurs, with the implicit assumption that Female entrepreneurship definition was clearly established in literature.

However, recent literature analysis has revealed the necessity of a preparatory qualification of Female entrepreneurship, since economic literature considers Entrepreneurship as a set of characteristics pertaining to individuals, and owned by each individual in different amount. Therefore, since economic literature, at least from the last decades of the Nineteenth century, qualifies Entrepreneurship from an individual, rather that collective, point of view,² a reflection is needed in order to classify its nature as individual or collective. At the same time, it's necessary to clarify whether Female entrepreneurship has a social or natural character. This is because, whether it is individual or collective, its qualification may be the result of

¹Screpanti and Zamagni (2005: 181–2) say that in modern Economics model “the economy is made up of a plurality of agents who are present on the market either as consumers or as suppliers of productive services or as entrepreneurs [...] Clearly, there is no place in this model for the notion of social class. On the contrary, there are just two groups of individuals: the consumers and the entrepreneurs, distinguished solely by the different decisions they are called upon to take.”

²Schumpeter (1991: 855) writes that, according to Economics, dominating since that period “all social phenomena resolve themselves into decisions and actions of individuals that need not or cannot be further analyzed in terms of superindividual factors.”

Table 17.2 Female entrepreneurship (FE) classification

	Individual	Collective
Social	FE is the same concept of Entrepreneurship	FE substitutes individual concept and its characteristics can be owned by male entrepreneur
Natural	FE is an nomothetic concept with respect to Entrepreneurship	FE substitutes individual concept and its characteristics can't be owned by male entrepreneur

social evolution, creating female entrepreneurship features, or the result of natural sex differences. According to the *social* evolution hypothesis, entrepreneurship characteristics can be owned by male and female entrepreneur and the labelling as male or female entrepreneurship depends on the quantity above which these characteristics determines the qualification as male or female entrepreneurship. This means that social evolution would determine variations in these characteristics and their owned quantities, since male or female entrepreneurship classification wouldn't be connected with sex assigned at birth. On the other hand, according to *natural* character hypothesis of male or female entrepreneurship, *male* entrepreneur can't own classified Female entrepreneurship characteristics because of their *naturally* different origin. In this perspective, birth would have determined male and female possibilities and characterizations.³

In order to depict prior classification importance, we can refer to the classical problem of linking an economic variable with the consequences of its use. Only after the decision about classification of Female entrepreneurship, it will be possible to establish typical male and female owned by entrepreneurs characteristics; and only after having established it, it will be possible to understand the kind of linkage between characteristics and value creation; i.e. correlation—pure or spurious—or causation. For example: only after having established Female entrepreneurship as a collective variable, it will be possible to exclude that differences between male and female entrepreneur value creation are due to individual differences, instead of gender. In the following paragraph we discuss some reflections about female entrepreneurship as individual or collective variable, and introduce some differences about its social or natural derivation. In Table 17.2 there is the fourfold classification of Female entrepreneurship concept.

³Table 17.2 at the end of this paragraph points out the four cases.

17.4 Entrepreneur or Gender

Economic literature⁴ maintains that Entrepreneur combines productive factors and obtains profit because of her/his particular⁵—not general—abilities, since she/he is not the owner of a particular productive factor; and she/he is not an individual representing any social group. In this way, a multitude of independent agents acts in every economic system, every agent trying to assert her/his capacity to profitably combine productive factors. According to economic literature, value creation and capital enhancing depend on *individual* qualities instead of *gender* qualities.

Where instead value creation is studied in relation to Female entrepreneurship, entrepreneur's profit is implicitly considered the result of Gender qualities and differences—not individuals—; and this is even hypothesizing individual differences depending on different quantities owned by each entrepreneur, because this can't invalidate original common matrix of gender differences. This hypothesis underlies research about gender issues in business and economics. In this case, Female entrepreneurship qualification as a *social* or *natural* variable arises, since in economic literature there is no consensus about this. Barker and Kuiper (2003: 1), for example, indicate that Feminist economics is “reconceptualizing what economics is”. This is because feminist point of view implies a different vision of economic categories and gender difference takes on a different and *natural* meaning if a gender vision is not recognized as filtered through particular lenses. In this way we think it can be read the following quotation: “we intend to participate in moving feminist economics out of the margin and into the center: to become economics, unmodified” (*Ibidem*). In this viewpoint, the feminist vision does not stand alongside a male-dominated vision and believes that it is moving from a universal point of view. Therefore, when Female entrepreneurship concept changes, it changes due to the affirmation of a more general point of view and gender differences are considered natural differences.

We can on the contrary place on another level the book edited by Bettio and Verashchagina (2008). According to these Authors, gender questions have social nature, that is, they depend on historical factors that created them. Pat Hudson writes: “Gender is a social rather than a biological construction, and it has a history” (Bettio and Verashchagina 2008: 21). As a social construction, Female entrepreneurship is a variable whose characteristics can also be owned by male entrepreneur, even if to such an extent that they do not determine their qualification as female entrepreneurs. As a gender variable, however, it is still a super-individual variable, but its collective nature has a definite historical connotation.

⁴According to Swedberg (2000: 7) it's worth important to remind that “most people who are not economists probably expect the economics literature to be full of analyses of entrepreneurship, since economics after all is the social science that deals most directly with contemporary economic reality. This, however, is not the case”.

⁵Leòn Walras maintains that Entrepreneur is the “fourth character” (2006: p. 319) who combines productive factors.

17.5 Some Implications for *Competition* Concept

The importance of Female entrepreneurship concept qualification in one of the four proposed classifications (see: Table 17.2) is also closely linked to the consequences it has on the classification of linked economic variables and concepts.

From a preliminary assessment of the nature of Female entrepreneurship, we can infer that if it is considered a collective quality, then Competition concept, which now includes the economic situation characterized by the presence of a set of small businesses, each of which it is not able to influence fundamental economic magnitudes, can't be scientifically defined as the limit towards which the economic system tends. This is because every economic system, according to this point of view, is not characterized by the presence of *independent* entrepreneurs, as they have autonomous characteristics, and who compete on the markets because of their different aims. Economic system, on the contrary, is characterized by the presence of classifiable in *standard* types entrepreneurs; therefore, market would be populated by subjects who behave according to standard qualities that cancel the individual essence characterizing ideal entrepreneur, described as independent from other entrepreneurs, owners of inputs and consumers. Standard qualities and gender differences, instead of particular, limit *individual* differences characterizing a competitive market.

The essence of the entrepreneur, in this way, would no longer be individual even considering that each entrepreneur have the same characteristics as others, but held in different quantities. This is because the essence of Gender is what remains once neglected individual particularities, which is neglected precisely because entrepreneurship is defined as a gender variable. It is necessary to carefully understand this alternative: if female entrepreneurship is considered an individual quality, you can't trace and measure it within a gender-based research; whereas it is considered a gender and standardized quality, you can't explain economic system qualities and dynamics by means of individual entrepreneurs. This alternative requires also a step backwards with respect to Competition concept assumptions. For example: is *profit maximization* an individual purpose? Is *price determination* a merely subjective matter?

17.6 An Open Wide Conclusion

Female entrepreneurship, because of the term *female*, can be intended as a gender-based research: a research about standardized qualities and functions of standardized human beings, instead of a research about a particular function characterizing individuals. This qualitative difference, moreover, distinguishes the eventually subsequent quantitative research, because it is preparatory to the possibility of measuring the research object; but the research has a wider significance.

The two alternative determinations of Female entrepreneurship as economic variable (individual or gender), in fact, pose a theoretical problem also at *aggregate* level, not just at company level. As we have already noted in two our recent works,⁶ National accounting systems can't measure entrepreneurship contribution to value creation, because of price variations accounting rules and theory. This is because we can't actually establish if a price variation of a commodity stands, at aggregate level, for a relative prices variation or an increase in wealth inserted in an economic system; and in the case of Female entrepreneurship it emerges a preceding identification problem, i.e., the previous qualification of *what* should be, but can't actually be, measured. Female entrepreneurship field of research, therefore, indicates a path to follow for a more general and methodological reflection on the nature of Entrepreneurship in general. This is because Female entrepreneurship expression itself indicates an implied research attention towards a super-individual level of economic variable analysis, that directly involves all economic research, not just Gender issues.

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⁶In Serafini (2014: 3090) we found that at “corporate level, a decrease in sales prices results in a decrease of the value created. On the contrary, in comparisons in constant prices, this decrease is not measured at macroeconomic level”. In Serafini (2017: 957) we found that “even if Female entrepreneurship is considered a variable that creates value, its contribution can't be measured at an aggregate level since we won't be able to adequately separate a change in price from a change in wealth”.