Are Start-up Leaders Crossing a Line? Signs of Abusive Leadership in Start-ups

Short Summary
- Final thesis (B. Sc. / M. Sc.) exploring the mentioning of abusive leadership within start-ups in the media (newspapers, magazines, online platforms, podcasts, etc.)
- Possible start date: right away – applications are open!
- Methodology: qualitative

Background
Recently, the dark side of leadership has been a research area quickly gaining recognition. However, there is not yet a large body of literature examining this dynamic for entrepreneurial ventures – in fact, scholars are still unsure about the extent to which this behavior is present in the start-up domain. Therefore, this final thesis seeks to address signs of abusive leadership in start-ups by examining media coverage from newspapers, online platforms, and podcasts. By studying these sources, the thesis aims to uncover any indications of abusive behavior exhibited by start-up leaders and explore the respecting narratives and repercussions portrayed in the media.

Goals
- Determine the most relevant sample of platforms and formats
- Conduct large-scale data collection
- Analyze the data retrieved with qualitative content analysis (e.g. Mayring)
- Assess the extent to which abusive leadership behaviors are reported within the media

Your profile
- Fluent in English or German (spoken and written)
- High analytical skills
- Great self-organization skills + willingness to work independently and reliably
- Requirements listed on the ERI website are met

How to apply
If you are interested, please contact me by submitting the following documents:
- Short letter of motivation
- CV
- Current transcript of records
Send your application through to me: milena.barg@tum.de – I am looking forward to hearing from you! 😊

Who am I? How do I supervise?
My name is Milena. I am a PhD student at the Institute of Entrepreneurship, working with Prof. Dr. Nicola Breugst and colleagues. My research interest lies within leadership and team collaboration in the start-up domain. You can find my CV and more info here. Once your application has been accepted, we will set up a kick-off meeting to get to know each other and discuss the topic. After your thesis has been registered, we will organize further meetings upon demand.