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

Short Summary
- Final thesis (Master’s only!) exploring signs of abusive leadership within start-ups
- Possible start date: right away – applications are open!
- Methodology: qualitative, interviews
- Candidates are required to be highly reliable and thoroughly working

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 interviewing start-up employees on their overall experiences with leadership in the new ventures.

Goals
- Conduct large-scale data collection, at least 15 interviews
- Analyze the data retrieved with qualitative content analysis (e. g. Mayring)
- Assess the extent to which signs of abusive leadership come up in your research

Your profile
- Fluent in English or German (spoken and written)
- High analytical skills
- Great self-organization skills + willingness to work independently and reliably
- Highly motivated to contribute to a larger research project and hence work very thoroughly
- 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. For this thesis specifically, I am supervising quite closely as your work will need to hold up to the standards of professional academic work in terms of its methodology.