

Master/Bachelor Thesis

“Entrepreneurship and E-Mobility: Outcomes and Impacts”

Background

E-mobility is a growing trend globally. While much of the focus has been on adopting electric vehicles (EVs) in the Global North, opportunities and challenges of e-mobility in the Global South need to be addressed and have only been poorly investigated so far. At the same time, a vibrant e-mobility ecosystem has emerged in the urban areas of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), in particular in Kenya, Uganda, or Rwanda. It includes companies such as ARC Ride, Kiri EV, eWaka, or Ampersand. Only a few startups have started their e-mobility business in the rural areas. This study aims to evaluate the outcomes and planned and desired impact of e-mobility in these two different settings and to compare them subsequently. *Impact* refers to the changes perceived in people’s thinking and acting. There are different mechanisms and approaches to analyze the outcome and social impacts of sustainable ventures. (Rawhouser et al. 2019)

Introductory Readings

- Allee, A., Schroeder, J., Sherwood, J. (2022). Powering Small Format Electric Vehicles with Minigrids. Assessing the Viability of Two- and Three-Wheeled EVs for Rural Mobility. RMI. <http://www.rmi.org/insight/minigrid-ev>
- Rawhouser, H., Cummings, M., & Newbert, S. L. (2019). Social Impact Measurement: Current Approaches and Future Directions for Social Entrepreneurship Research. *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 43(1), 82–115.
- Argiolas, A., Rawhouser, H., Sydow, A. (2023) Social Entrepreneurs Concerned about Impact Drift. Evidence from Context of Persistent and Pervasive Need. *Journal of Business Venturing*, 39(1), 106342.

Tasks and Goals

This thesis is closely related to the current research of the chair, part of the TUM SEED Center, and you will conduct your data collection and analysis in close collaboration with our doctoral students. The thesis will be based on a literature review regarding social impact measurement and qualitative research with a focus on 1-2 private e-mobility companies in SSA. You will review the relevant scientific literature on e-mobility in the Global South and social impact. You will collect and analyze data on e-mobility companies in Kenya or Uganda.

Requirements

- Excellent English skills and interest in entrepreneurship, development, and sustainable energies.
- Independent, reliable, and diligent working style with the ability to work in multi-cultural settings.
- Eagerness to travel to Kenya or Uganda to collect data in challenging urban and rural environments.
- Advanced Seminar *Sustainable Entrepreneurship* with a minimum grade of 2.0 (for Master Thesis)
- Course *Corporate Sustainability* with a minimum grade of 2.0 (for Bachelor Thesis)

Details

- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz and Katharina Eichinger, M.A.
- Start: Flexible / As of now.
- Working time: 6 months, with 3-4 weeks of fully-funded research stay in Kenya or Uganda.

Contact

If you are interested in writing your thesis at our chair or have questions about this topic, please contact Katharina Eichinger (katharina.ke.eichinger@tum.de). To apply, send an email including your CV, and the current transcript of records (as one PDF file). We are looking forward to working together with you!