DIRECTOR SEMINAR SERIES

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ROOM C101, BUILDING II

17:30

Business Angels: 30 years of business angel research

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ABSTRACT Business angels – wealthy private individuals who invest directly in young entrepreneurial companies – have been the focus for research for just 30 years. Moreover, although they finance significantly more businesses than venture capitalists do, business angels have attracted significantly less research. This can be attributed, in part, to the invisibility of business angels who imposes significant challenges for researchers. However, the financial crisis has resulted in a contraction in venture capital investing and banks have cut back their lending to SMEs, leaving business angels as the only significant source of funding. Indeed, David Cameron, the UK Prime Minister, recently told a gathering if business angels that ‘your country needs you’ and to encourage further angel investment activity the UK government has introduced a Seed Capital Enterprise Investment Scheme which offers even greater tax incentives than the existing Enterprise Investment Scheme.

18:30 Networking drinks