

## **Abstract**

Social enterprises represent a way to leverage existing institutions and markets to address social needs not adequately covered by the private sector or the state. The social issues they aim to address, the institutional frameworks they work within, and the markets where they operate are all unique within their national or even regional context. This creates issues with scaling and transplanting successful models into new communities. This paper defines these institutional contexts using a theoretical framework derived from varieties of capitalism literature through comparing indicators of economic coordination and government intervention across different countries. Using Ordinary Least Squares regression techniques on a cross sectional dataset of 49 countries, the following three research questions were addressed. First, does the variant of capitalism impact the social enterprise sector? Second, do targeted efforts aimed at promoting entrepreneurship have spillover effects that benefit social enterprise? Third, do post-materialistic values prevalent in society foster an environment more conducive to social enterprise development? The results of this analysis find that while commercial entrepreneurial activity is positively related to economic coordination and negatively related to government intervention, there is no evidence that a similar relationship exists for social entrepreneurial activity. Additionally, these findings suggest that entrepreneurial training, entrepreneurial culture, and norms do not have spillover effects that positively impact social entrepreneurial activity. Finally, post-materialistic values have been found to have a strong positive relationship with social entrepreneurial activity. Together these findings reinforce the notion that social enterprises do not benefit from the existing pure variants of capitalism and need specific policies aimed only at social enterprises to help them grow.