

## **Abstract**

This dissertation investigates how entrepreneurial agency operates under the contemporary challenges of environment constraints. To understand this phenomenon, this dissertation conducts an integrated three-study design that examines how entrepreneurial identity interacts with two key environmental dimensions: resource dependence and uncertainty to shape entrepreneurial processes and outcomes.

First, a systematic review of 48 studies on platform-dependent entrepreneurship reveals that the extant literature is fragmented and constrained by a simplistic binary logic that views platforms as either empowering or constraining, thereby overlooking the paradoxical nature of these relationships. Second, responding to this gap, a longitudinal qualitative study of platform entrepreneurs develops a process model of "co-constituted emancipation," demonstrating how entrepreneurial acts of resistance are often strategically co-opted by platforms. This dynamic transforms resistance into a resource for governance, creating a paradoxical cycle where the pursuit of autonomy can inadvertently reinforce the very structures of control it seeks to challenge. Finally, a large-scale quantitative analysis of Chinese A-share listed firms from 2000 to 2023 challenges conventional wisdom on gender and risk. It finds that under conditions of high economic policy uncertainty, firms led by male CEOs exhibit significantly greater risk aversion than their female counterparts, highlighting the critical role of the external environment in moderating the influence of leadership characteristics on corporate strategy. By moving from theoretical synthesis to process exploration to large-scale testing, this dissertation provides compelling, multi-level evidence that entrepreneurial responses to uncertainty are not predetermined but are continuously negotiated and redefined through the dynamic interplay between individuals, organizations, and their environments.