

***Economic innovation in the provision of services by immigrant entrepreneurs:
Limitations and opportunities in Brescia, Italy as the case of analysis***

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This article explains the opportunities and limitation of immigrant entrepreneurs to introduce new services in Brescia, Italy. Using the framework of the models of *mixed-embeddedness* and *diffusion of innovations*, I focus on immigrants' services and products operating in that local economy. I start with a description of the contextual framework that immigrant entrepreneurs face. Then, the opportunity structure of Brescia is presented in terms of social and economic conditions to operate a company. After, the analysis is completed with three aspects facing that context. Those three aspects refer to a) the human capital as the level of education and work experience; b) the social capital related to the relations within their businesses as well as with other actors of the city; and, c) the financial capital expressed in the funding schemes available. Illustrating with the data collected from 70 interviews, the role of immigrant entrepreneurs is shown to take over niches of the market that offer opportunities. Immigrant entrepreneurs in the service sector of Brescia were asked about their company characteristics, types of innovation and their migratory trajectory. The main findings suggest that education and previous experience are used as a source for innovative ideas, that funding sources change with the nature of the service they provide, and that social connections have a double function to inhibit and promote innovation.