

# A Systematic Literature Review on Entrepreneurial Intention: PRISMA method

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**Abstract.** Several studies use Entrepreneurial Intention as a theoretical framework. Thus, it requires a more extension of Entrepreneurial Intention research to be investigated. The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) is one of the methods to find the research gaps. However, none of the researchers comprehensively conducted a Systematic Literature Review on Entrepreneurial Intention. Therefore, this study aims to review the main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of analysis, field of study analysis, and underpinning theory of previous studies on Entrepreneurial Intention. A total of 152 articles addressing Entrepreneurial Intention published between 2000 and 2021 have been analyzed. The present study identifies Self-Efficacy as the most often used by authors as an antecedent of Entrepreneurial Intention. Most of the Entrepreneurial Intention research was conducted in a quantitative method specified in the survey method and most of the researchers used Structural Equation Modelling and Multiple Regression for data analysis. Most study has been done in multi-country, dominated by students as a unit of analysis and management, education, business, and economics are the fields of study that frequently use Entrepreneurial Intention as the topic of research. Almost half of the Entrepreneurial Intention research uses the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) as the underpinning theory of the research.

Keywords: Entrepreneurial Intention, Systematic Literature Review, Prisma Method

## 1 Introduction

Several studies use Entrepreneurial Intention as a theoretical framework (Liñán & Fayolle 2015). Since the late 1980s, a considerable body of literature has addressed the concept of entrepreneurial intentions (Kautonen et al., 2015). The study of Entrepreneurial Intention opens new arenas for theory-based research (Bird 1988). Research in the sub-field of Entrepreneurial Intention which is an established construct (Liñán & Fayolle 2015) requires an in-depth study so that can be determined the research gaps that contribute to the theory, methodology, and context.

The systematic literature review (SLR) is one of the methods to find the research gap. The systematic literature review (SLR) is fit to deliver comprehensive literature regarding reviewing this issue (Ghani et al. 2021). Examining the relevant literature would establish the research's depth and breadth and identify gaps (Xiao & Watson 2019). SLR helps to identify not only the main themes in the literature but also the existing gaps and new relevant lines of research (Liñán & Fayolle 2015). The literature review is an important research product that helps to advance science incrementally, by building on previous results (Lame 2019).

A systematic literature review on Entrepreneurial Intention was conducted by Liñán & Fayolle (2015). They reviewed the research using citation analysis to categorize the main areas of specialization and thematic analysis to identify the specific themes being researched within each category. They concluded that Entrepreneurial Intention is a consolidated area of research within the field of entrepreneurship, however, as new knowledge emerges, more questions arise that need addressing. It implies that further research is necessary for the advancement of understanding in this area. In addition, none of the researchers conducted a systematic literature review on Entrepreneurial Intention that analyzes comprehensively a variety of aspects such as main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of analysis, field of study analysis, and underpinning theory.

As a consequence, this research aims to review the main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of analysis, field of study analysis, and underpinning theory on Entrepreneurial Intention research using the PRISMA method.

## 2 Method

Several criteria have been set as a guideline and filtering in the search for article journals in databases, including field, journal indexing, keywords, publication year, document type, categories, and index type. According to Busch (2019), most academic research, including social sciences, uses systematic analysis of their relevant fields.

#### 2.1 Source of Database

Sources of the database of the reviewed article in this study were limited to high-quality articles that were published in the first quartile (Q1) and second quartile (Q2) in the Web of Science (WOS) indexed and only in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) type. The dates of publication were from the year 2000 until 2021. Web of Science (WOS) was the only source for the assessment of scientific output worldwide because of its multi-disciplinary and international coverage (Chadegani et al. 2013; Vieira & Gomes 2009). WOS database has approximately more than 11,400 journals in over 45 different languages across the fields of science, social science, and the arts and humanities containing the most relevant high-quality research (Aziz et al. 2020).

# 2.2 The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA)

The most commonly used reporting guideline for systematic reviews, which covers the literature search component, is called the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement (Page et al. 2021; Rethlefsen et al. 2021). The flow of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) statement is useful for the study to explore and come out with systematic searching (Ghani et al. 2021; Moher et al. 2009). PRISMA method has been used in several articles and published in high-index journals in Web of Science for instance by Lee et al. (2017), Nawijn et al. (2019), Parums (2021), and Wang et al. (2019).

## 2.3 A Systematic Review Process

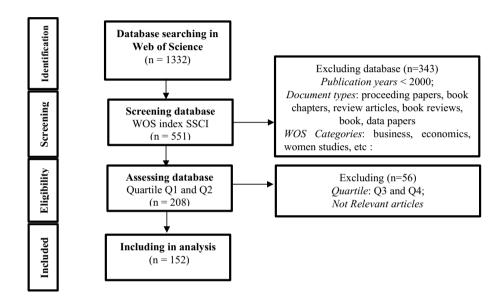
The scope of the research is a systematic literature review on Entrepreneurial Intention research articles that were published in O1-O2 Web of Science Indexed (SSCI) from 2000 to 2021 in the Management area. The search was carried out in Web of Science (WOS) databases. The selected keyword for the aims of this study is "Entrepreneurial Intention". The search term included in the following field is "Title". A total of 1,332 papers were initially identified. Publication dates ranged from 2000 to 2021 excluding 1988 - 1997. Document type is only for "Article" excluding the other types e.g. proceeding, book chapter, review articles, etc. Books, book chapters, reports, and conference papers were excluded due to variability in peer review processes (Jones et al. 2011). Another criterion in the Web of Science category is specified as "Management" excluding the other discipline area. The refining process continued to the Web of Science indexed "SSCI", and a total of 208 articles remained. All 208 article abstracts were read to ensure that the articles related to Entrepreneurial Intention in the management area, at the same time checking the quartiles of the journals. Articles that are not relevant and below Q2 will be eliminated. Two articles that were not relevant, 21 Q3-articles, and 33 Q4-articles were eliminated from the analysis. The remaining 152 publications were analyzed.

The articles that were obtained from filtering the criteria will be analyzed in terms of main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of analysis, field of study analysis, and underpinning theory. The database and flow diagram of the study using the PRISMA method can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 1. All findings will be discussed in the results and discussion section.

Database searching	Database screening	Database eligibility
Keyword:	Publication Years: 2000 – 2021	_
Entrepreneurial	Document Types: Articles	0
Intention	Web of Sciences Categories: Management	Quartiles : Q1 and Q2
Field: Title	Web of Science Index: SSCI	

Table 1. Database searching and criteria

Source: Author (2022)



**Fig. 1.** Flow diagram of study using the PRISMA method Source: Author (2022), adapted from Page, M. J. et al. (2021)

#### 3 Results and Discussion

All articles will be analyzed in terms of main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of analysis, field of study analysis, and underpinning theory.

## 3.1 Main Finding

Analysis of findings is looking at how authors relate one or more constructs or variables with Entrepreneurial Intention as a dependent variable. Constructs or variables act as independent variables, mediating variables, and moderating variables.

Table 2 shows the main finding based on the construct that relates to Entrepreneurial Intention. Self-Efficacy is the construct that is often used by authors as an antecedent of Entrepreneurial Intention, which is as much as 19 percent of the total article (Elnadi & Gheith 2021; Naktiyok et al. 2010; Sahin et al. 2019; Shahab et al. 2019; Zhao et al. 2005), followed by Perceived Behavioral Control (7.9%) (Aragon-Sanchez et al. 2017; Entrialgo & Iglesias 2016; Hueso et al. 2020; Linan et al. 2011), Entrepreneurial Education (7.2%) (Dragan et al. 2021; Passaro et al. 2018; Sun et al. 2017) and Subjective Norm (6.6%) (Santos & Liguori, 2020; Tsai et al., 2016). While other constructs discussed are less than 6 percent of the total articles such as Risk-Taking (Welsh et al. 2021), Personality Traits (Altinay et al. 2021), Social Capital (Mahfud et al. 2020), etc. As many as 30 percent of the articles discuss different and variety of constructs on entrepreneurship such as Entrepreneurial Awareness (Tomy & Pardede 2020), Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (Elnadi & Gheith 2021), and Entrepreneurial Peer Group (Falck et al. 2012).

Table 2. Main Findings of Variable

Variable / construct	%	
Self-Efficacy	19.1%	
Perceived Behavioral Control	7.9%	
Entrepreneurial Education	7.2%	
Subjective Norm	6.6%	
Risk Taking	5.9%	
Personality Traits	3.9%	
Social Capital	3.9%	
Creativity	3.3%	
Personal Attitude	3.3%	
Social Norm	3.3%	
Entrepreneurial Orientation	2.0%	
Older Entrepreneurship	2.0%	
Entrepreneurial Knowledge	1.3%	
Others	30.3%	

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

From the main finding, it can be concluded that more than 60 percent of articles discussed the relationship between popular constructs or variables such as Self-Efficacy, Perceived Behavioral Control, Entrepreneurship Education, Subjective Norm, Risk Taking, Personality Trait, Social Capital, Creativity, Personal Attitude, Social Norm, Entrepreneurial Orientation, Older entrepreneurship, and Entrepreneurial Knowledge with Entrepreneurial Intention as the dependent variable, in terms of the direct effect, mediating and moderating the relationship. It opens the opportunities for

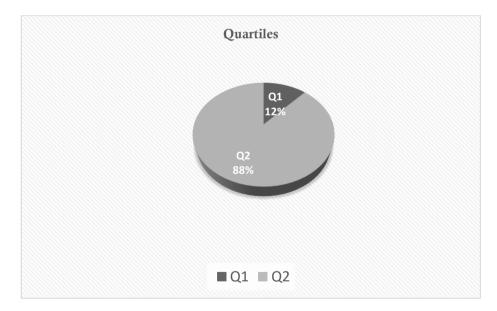
other authors to discuss the unpopular or uncommon construct to contribute to the body of knowledge in sub-field Entrepreneurial Intention.

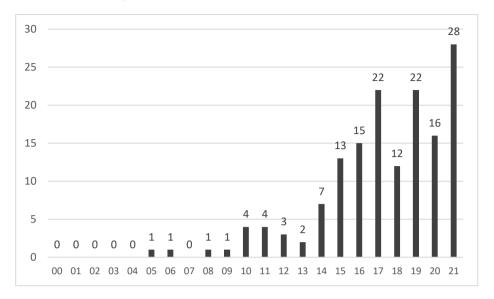
#### 3.2 Database

The reviewed articles were limited to high-quality articles that were published in Q1-Q2 Web of Science (WOS) indexed and only in the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) type. A total of 152 articles addressing Entrepreneurial Intention and published between 2000 and 2021.

Figure 2 indicates that 12 percent of articles were published in quartile 1 (Q1) journals and 88 percent in quartile 2 (Q2) journals. They represent high-quality articles published in journals indexed by the Web of Science SSCI. WOS database is a more scholarly source database because of more indexing (Fingerman 2006). WOS claims it has the most depth and the most quality (Chadegani et al. 2013; Fingerman 2006).

There was only 1 article per year published about Entrepreneurial Intention that was indexed by WOS-SSCI (Q1-Q2) in 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2009, and no article from 2000 to 2004 and 2005. In recent years, there has been a significantly increasing number of publications from 2014 to 2021. Nevertheless, there was a slight decrease and fluctuation between 2018 and 2021.





**Fig. 2.** Database (quartile and number of publications per year) Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

Therefore, on average, there were 7,2 articles per year within 21 years, regarding Entrepreneurial Intention, published in WOS-SSCI (Q1-Q2) indexed journals, although the predominantly publications were issued in the last 7 years. In summary, the number of published articles regarding Entrepreneurial Intention is increasing from year to year. It is indicated that Entrepreneurial Intention is regarded as an interesting and important construct to be discussed further.

#### 3.3 Number of Citation

A citation is deemed as a potential parameter to determine the linkage between research articles (Nazir et al. 2020). Citation is the mechanism by which one makes references to other entities (Borgman 2012). Citation by other authors is important in the dissemination of published study findings. Citation counts can be regarded as one method of obtaining a quantitative expression of the utilization and contribution of a particular published paper (Nieminen et al. 2006).

In Figure 3, the graph elaborates on the number of citations in 5 different categories. Most of the articles are in the first category which is 0-50 citations as many as 73 percent and 14 percent of articles are in the category 51-100 citations. Only 2 percent of total articles have more than 300 citations and 2 percent of articles also have 201-300 citations. Zhao et al., (2005)' article entitled "The mediating role of Self-efficacy in the development of entrepreneurial intentions" has the highest citation (1,121 citations) and followed by "A systematic literature review on entrepreneurial intentions: citation, thematic analysis, and research agenda" by Liñán & Fayolle (2015) that has 404 citations on the second rank of the citation number. Another article by Fayolle & Gailly

(2015) entitled "The Impact of Entrepreneurship Education on Entrepreneurial Attitudes and Intention: Hysteresis and Persistence" with 339 citations on the third rank, followed by "Factors affecting entrepreneurial intention levels: a role for education" by Linan et al. (2011) which has 282 citations and "Burst Bubbles or Build Steam? Entrepreneurship Education, Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy, and Entrepreneurial Intentions" by Piperopoulos & Dimov (2015) is the fifth rank with 208 citations.

From the number of citation analyses, it can be summed up that articles containing "self-efficacy" and "entrepreneurial education" are often cited by other authors who discuss Entrepreneurial Intention. Francisco Linan and Alain Fayolle are known as the leading scholars in the Entrepreneurial Intention sub-field due to the number of citations of their works (Fayolle & Gailly 2015; Linan et al. 2011; Linan & Fayolle 2015).

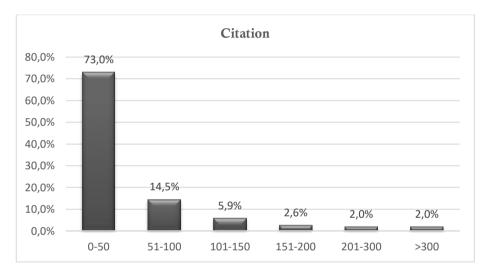


Fig. 3. Number of Citation

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

## 3.4 Study Setting

The research setting can be seen as the location in which the researcher is performing the study (Ghani et al. 2021). The number of studies based on the country is shown in Table 3. According to this study, the most Entrepreneurial Intention study has been done in multi-country with 36 studies, followed by in the USA (17) and in Spain (14). Multi-country means that the study is conducted in more than one country. For instance, García-Rodríguez et al., (2020) compared Entrepreneurial Intention in Cuba and Spain. In this case, Spain is not counted as Spain but as multi-country.

Research by Giacomin et al., (2011) investigated motivation and barriers to student entrepreneurial intention in three different regions, America, Asia, and Europe. Garcia-Rodriguez et al., (2015) compared Entrepreneurial Intention in a cross-cultural study between Senegal and Spain. A comparative analysis of Entrepreneurial Intention

among post-graduate management students was conducted by Trivedi (2017) in India, Singapore, and Malaysia. Thus, for the study in more than one country, the authors attempted to compare the effect of the same construct on Entrepreneurial Intention in a different context.

For study in a single country, USA and Spain are the most places where the research is conducted, followed by China, Italy, Germany, and Finland. There are seven works of literature regarded as "undefined" study settings due to unclear locations or literature reviews. For instance, Marshall & Gigliotti's (2020) literature reviews and Linan & Fayolle's (2015) systematic literature reviews are unknown study settings.

Based on the data in Table 3, it has a wide range of options to conduct research in many nations, particularly developing and underdeveloped countries, as it has previously focused on developed countries.

Country	Number of studies	Country	Number of studies
Multi-country	36	UAE	2
USA	17	Australia	1
Spain	14	Austria	1
China	7	Belgium	1
Italy	7	Brazil	1
Undefined	7	Croatia	1
Germany	6	Denmark	1
Finland	4	Hong Kong	1
Netherland	4	India	1
South Africa	4	Indonesia	1
UK	4	Kenya	1
France	3	Malaysia	1
Iran	3	Mauritius	1
Pakistan	3	Romania	1
Colombia	2	Saudi Arabia	1
Greece	2	Scotland	1
Jordan	2	Slovenia	1
Portugal	2	Swiss	1
Sweden	2	Taiwan	1
Turkey	2	Ukraine	1

Table 3. Study setting

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

## 3.5 Methodology of Study

The methodology selected depends on the objective of the study. The rule of thumb for quantitative is to test or confirm the hypothesis or theory (Bougie & Sekaran 2019). In contrast, a qualitative study is to understand in-depth concepts or experiences (Ghani et al. 2021). Results obtained that only six articles (3.9 percent) are qualitative studies and 146 articles (96.1 percent) are quantitative studies.

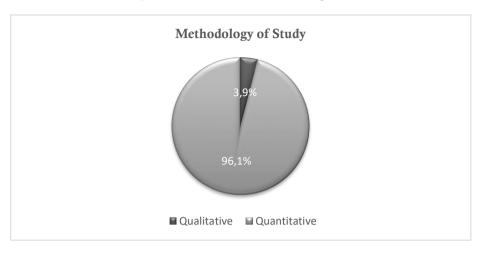


Fig. 4. Methodology of study

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

Table 4 configures the number of quantitative studies consisting of 131 studies by survey, six experimental designs, two longitudinal studies, and seven studies using secondary data. Qualitative studies were conducted by three studies of literature review, one study of systematic literature review, one study applying a semi-structured interview, and one study by in-depth interview. It can be concluded that most of the researchers conducted the study of Entrepreneurial Intention in a quantitative method specified in the survey method. It implies that other authors have opportunities to explore Entrepreneurial Intentions qualitatively such as through case studies and exploratory research.

Table 4. Methodology of Study

Quantit	ative Study			Qualitativ	e Study		
Survey	Experimental design	Longitudinal Study	Secondary Data	Literature Review	Systematic Literature review	Semi- structured Interview	In-depth Interview
131	6	2	7	3	1	1	1

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

From SLR, it was obtained 49.3 percent of researchers used Structural Equation Modeling for data analysis, 23.2 percent used Multiple Regression, and 9.9 percent used Hierarchical Regression Analysis. The detailed number of analysis methods can be seen

in Figure 5. In conclusion, most researchers used Structural Equation Modeling and Multiple Regression for data analysis in Entrepreneurial Intention research.

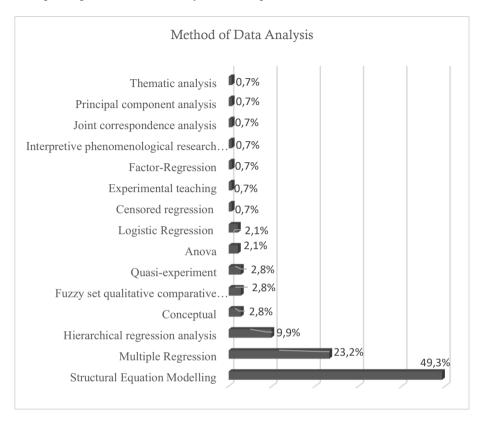


Fig. 5. Method of Data Analysis

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

## 3.6 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis is the basic element of the research project. In other words, it is the "who" or "what" in the study that wants to be understood and described (Bougie & Sekaran 2019). The unit of analysis was the individuals or organizations who responded to the survey (Hair et al. 2019).

From Table 5, it can be concluded that the most unit analysis in Entrepreneurial Intention studies is the student (84 studies), general (24 studies), academic (10 studies), and employee (10 studies). The term "General" means people regardless of their job, gender, and other specific characteristics. Sedeh et al., (2021)' research is an example of this category. The researchers asked adults (18–64 years old) whether they intended to start a business. The respondents have no special characteristics except their age. The

same case to the research by Tsai et al. (2016) which collected data by surveying people who were interested in attending an entrepreneurial awareness course.

This is one of the methods to find the context gaps. By knowing this result, other researchers may apply similar research to different contexts.

Table 5. Unit of Analysis

Unit of Analysis	Number of studies
Student	84
General	24
Academic	10
Employee	10
Researcher	4
Academic	2
Entrepreneur	2
Laid-Off Worker	2
Refugees	2
Senior People	2
Country	1
Family Business Off-Springs	1
Female Academic	1
Financial Employees	1
Homebrewer	1
Household	1
Public Sector Employee	1
Student And Academic	1
Women Entrepreneur	1
Youth	1

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

#### 3.7 Field of Study Analysis

Entrepreneurial Intention research not only can be conducted in the Management area but also can be applied in other fields of study. This SLR (see Table 6) found that besides the Management field, the Education field frequently used Entrepreneurial Intention as the topic of research (25.6%). Business field (16.7%), Economics (8.8%), and Psychology (4.4%) are the other areas that used Entrepreneurial Intention as a variable of research as well. Gender studies and Sociology are also related to Entrepreneurial Intention because this construct is closely related to human behavior.

Research by Gupta et al., (2008), Camelo-Ordaz et al., (2016), and Sanchez-Escobedo et al., (2014) are examples of Entrepreneurial Intention that may be discussed in the Gender studies area. There are broad opportunities in other fields of study to apply Entrepreneurial Intention as a research variable such as in Communication, Finance, Cultural Studies, Health, and, Socio-Economic.

Table 6. Field of Study

Field of Study	Percentage	
Management	34.8%	
Education	25.6%	
Business	16.7%	
Economic	8.8%	
Psychology	4.4%	
Gender Studies	3.5%	
Sociology	3.5%	
Communication	0.9%	
Finance	0.4%	
Culture Studies	0.4%	
Health	0.4%	
Socio-Economic	0.4%	

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

## 3.8 Underpinning Theory

Underpinning theory is a theory used to capture an understanding of the social meaning in the research (Ghani et al. 2021). Theoretical underpinnings of research projects are particularly important when the research is undertaken as part of an academic thesis or dissertation (Hair et al. 2019). Almost half of the Entrepreneurial Intention research in this study used the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) as the underpinning theory of the research (Al-Jubari et al. 2019; Feola et al. 2019; Munir et al. 2019; Roy et al. 2017; Wang et al. 2021). Social Cognitive Theory (Altinay et al. 2021; Renko et al. 2021), and Entrepreneurial Event (Saeed et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2014) are the other theories that are frequently used as underpinning theories. These three theories are popular in the entrepreneurship field. These theories were frequently used simultaneously in single research (Bacq et al. 2017; Prodan & Drnovsek 2010; F. J. Santos et al. 2016). A combination of these theories with other theories will obtain another perspective of Entrepreneurial Intention and will contribute to the body of knowledge. This is the way to fill the theoretical gaps in Entrepreneurial Intention research.

**Table 7.** Underpinning theory

Underpinning Theory	%
Theory of Planned Behavior	47.1%
Social Cognitive Theory	11.8%
Entrepreneurial Event	8.6%
Institutional Theory	2.1%
Expectancy Theory of Motivation	2.1%

Regulatory Focus Theory	2.1%	
Social Capital	2.1%	
Self-Determination Theory	1.6%	
Others	22.46%	

Source: Data Analyzed (2022)

## 4 Conclusion and suggestions

This systematic literature review attempts to provide the main finding, database, citation, study setting, methodology, unit of the sample, analysis of field study, and underpinning theory on Entrepreneurial Intention research using the PRISMA method. A total of 152 articles addressing Entrepreneurial Intention published in journals between 2000 and 2021 were indexed by WOS-SSCI. Self-efficacy is the often used construct by authors as an antecedent of Entrepreneurial Intention, followed by Perceived Behavioral Control and Entrepreneurial Education. Most of the articles have up to 50 citations and only 2 percent of total articles have more than 300 citations. Most of the Entrepreneurial Intention research was conducted in a quantitative method specified in the survey method and most of the researchers used Structural Equation Modeling and Multiple Regression for data analysis. Most Entrepreneurial Intention study has been done in multi-country, dominated by students as a unit of analysis. The fields of Management, Education, Business, and Economics are the most fields of study that frequently use Entrepreneurial Intention as the topic of research. Almost half of Entrepreneurial Intention research in this study uses the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) as the underpinning theory of the research. Social Cognitive Theory and Entrepreneurial Event are the other theories that are frequently used as underpinning theories.

The findings of this study are useful to any researchers who require to find gaps in Entrepreneurial Intention research. The researchers have opportunities to discuss the unpopular or uncommon construct to contribute to the body of knowledge in sub-field Entrepreneurial Intention. There are broad opportunities in other fields of study to apply Entrepreneurial Intention as a research variable such as Communication, Finance, Cultural Studies, Health, and, Socio-Economic. Combining the popular theories in Entrepreneurial Intention with other theories in other fields such as Psychology and Sociology will obtain a new perspective in the entrepreneurship field.

This study found that there are broad opportunities to conduct Entrepreneurial Intention in qualitative studies. Using qualitative data analysis such as thematic analysis and research in the units of analysis that receive less attention by other researchers, as shown in the previous discussion, are the methodology gaps and context gaps in Entrepreneurial Intention research. The study will be useful for other researchers who are entering into this area of analysis. Furthermore, this systematic literature review provides several knowledge gaps and opportunities that remain open for future research.

There is a limitation in this study. A single database will limit the range of sources. This study only focused on the Web of Science indexed, specifically in Social Science

Citation Index (SSCI) categories, and narrowed to Q1 and Q2. It is recommended to involve Scopus as the database to search the articles.

In the future, researchers may propose a study of the relationship between Entrepreneurial Intention to other theories such as Goal Attainment theory (Hanafiah 2012) in a different context. It may be applied to older entrepreneurs or retirees who intend to start a new business. This is still an under-researched area (Gray & Smith 2020; Grosu & Drăgușin 2020; Ratten 2018) characterized by a scarcity of empirical data (Pilkova et al. 2012). Researchers may propose qualitative research to discover other independent factors related to Entrepreneurial Intention through case studies and exploratory research.

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