

Departing from the aim to enhance economic growth and fight poverty, this PhD thesis explores the determinants that underlie small business growth in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). On the basis of the findings from the five empirical studies in Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, the answer to the main research question: ‘*To what extent do the owners determine the growth of their small business in East African Least Developed Countries?*’, is that the growth of small businesses in East African LDCs is only partially determined by the owners. To a certain extent, while the owner can have multiple entrepreneurial motivations at the same time, and acting in necessity situations may generate opportunity motivations, small business growth is determined by a mix of motivations. However, entrepreneurial motivation does not play an important role for the determination of the development of the owner’s personal wealth in the informal economy. Furthermore, the owner’s effectuation and causation orientations have more or less no effect on small business growth; entrepreneurial orientation does not play any role of importance in the determination of the owner’s development of personal wealth in the informal economy; and small business growth is partly determined by the owner’s age.