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Is entrepreneurial resilience gendered especially during sustained polycrisis?

This study by [Albert Kimbu](#) and colleagues employs social constructionist theory and a poststructural feminist lens, to investigate the lived experiences and mechanisms through which Iranian women tourism entrepreneurs/intrapreneurs build resilience amidst sustained crises. In so doing the study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the gender



dynamics and socio-economic factors shaping entrepreneurial endeavours in Iran, a developing country context. By introducing the concept of “gendered resilience,” this study highlights the importance of inclusive business practices, peer resilience, collaborative networks, digital resilience, and skills development in women tourism entrepreneurship.

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About Dr Albert Kimbu

Albert Kimbu is the Director of the Gender, Entrepreneurship and Social Policy Institute and co-Director of the Centre for Sustainability and Wellbeing in the

Visitor Economy at the University of Surrey. He researches gendered entrepreneurial pathways, social sustainability and inclusive development through tourism.

SURVIVING CRISIS: BUILDING TOURISM ENTREPRENEURIAL RESILIENCE AS A WOMAN IN A SANCTIONS-RAVAGED DESTINATION

By **Albert N. Kimbu, Seyfi, S., Tavangar, M., Vo-Thanh, T., & Zaman, M.**

Notwithstanding the expansion of research on gender-related challenges within tourism entrepreneurship, limited attention has been dedicated to women entrepreneurs' resilience building and coping mechanisms during prolonged polycrisis. This knowledge gap is particularly salient in developing countries, like Iran, which have endured prolonged international sanctions and subsequent economic hardship impacting women most, as they also have to contend with the distinct obstacles of a 'religious theocracy'. This study adopted an interdisciplinary approach, synthesizing insights from resilience literature, political science, and gender studies, while being guided by social constructionist and poststructural feminist lenses to explore the narratives and lived experiences of Iranian women tourism entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs, unpacking how they build resilience in a sustained polycrisis. The findings revealed that tourism

entrepreneurship has become a powerful tool used by women to express their independence and resistance against both external sanctions and internal theocratic structures. It concludes by introducing the concept of 'gendered entrepreneurial resilience' to challenge assumptions of gender neutrality in entrepreneurial resilience discourse while offering a contextualized theoretical perspective that amplifies marginalized voices.

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