

## **PROPOSITIONS**

attached to the thesis

### **Firms navigating in the borderland between formality and informality**

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1. Policy actions seeking informal enterprise formalization have limited effects on business formalization; moreover formalization does not improve business performance. (*This thesis*).
2. Formal and informal dimensions of the economy overlap identifying a space of ambiguity where economic agents can simultaneously engage with both formality and informality. (*This thesis*).
3. The existence of several degrees of (in)formality allows economic agents to engage with (in)formality at various levels. (*This thesis*).
4. Given 2 and 3, hybrid entrepreneurial forms can be identified. (*This thesis*).
5. Higher degrees of formality are associated with larger size, higher human capital, enhanced policy participation and improved civic engagement. (*This thesis*).
6. Knowledge production can proceed with an iterative process that assesses the empirical capacity of the hypothesis/model/theory and refines it.
7. Structures and agency interact giving place to a cyclical process resulting in structural changes and agency shifts.
8. A key aspect for developing a more comprehensive understanding of social phenomena is the integration of quantitative and qualitative methods.
9. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses represent efficient methods for maximizing knowledge on a specific topic/area and for coping with the increasingly abundant production of academic papers.
10. Integrating different social sciences is essential for conducting research in development studies.
11. Informal agents are on the frontline of environmental issues and climate change; as they are very vulnerable, they are strategic for addressing the most imminent challenges.