

# **THE INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION OF CHINA'S SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES. A REVIEW**

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The paper critically analyses the relevant literature on the international expansion of China's small and medium-sized enterprises with the aim of identifying areas for future research. The paper follows up on Deng (2011) findings and reviews the works on the international growth of SMEs vis-à-vis what has been published on Chinese MNEs and Western SMEs. It does this by, first, analysing the specific characteristics of small business from China along with the particularities of the Chinese business environment and, second, by studying the literature at both firm and industry levels. The paper then

highlights the need to deepen the understanding of the process leading to the expansion of SMES beyond China's borders and concludes with the identification of areas for future research.

**Keywords:** Emerging economies firms, SMEs, National and International Expansion, China

**General review paper**