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Because of an interest in observing events of change, a group of us in Bergen decided to turn our attention to the study of entrepreneurs (cf. Barth **1963**). The choice was rather obvious in that entrepreneurs are clearly agents of change: they make innovations that affect the community in which they are active. Entrepreneurs are also much more common and active in some communities and societies than in others, and the dynamic character of some societies has sometimes been explained by the prevalence of entrepreneurs in them.

The anthropological study of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship has characteristically sought to show the common characteristics of entrepreneurs that differentiate them from nonentrepreneurs, and thus the prerequisites **for** the emergence **of** entrepreneurship. What we did was to ask, not what makes the entrepreneur, but what does the entrepreneur make: what can one say about his enterprise, is it possible to characterize it as an event of change?

Now in retrospect, one might see several alternative ways of pursuing this question and simpler ways of handling it than the ones we adopted in that particular study. But what proved stimulating to us then and later was the way this question directed us to look for ways of characterizing and describing change itself, rather than the prerequisites for change. We attempted to characterize particular cases of entrepreneurial activity **as** new kinds of allocation.