

Call for Book Chapters in the



*Research Handbooks in Business and Management Series*

## **“Research Handbook on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Family Firms”**

### **Background and motivation:**

The majority of firms in our societies are family firms (Astrachan, 2003; Xi et al., 2015), which have, as an organisational form, gained increased interest of politics and researchers alike as backbones of regional communities (Le Breton-Miller & Miller, 2009) particularly during the recent financial and health crises. Family firms and their members shape and maintain these communities by generating value, creating jobs and enforcing regional sustainability (Memili et al., 2018; Peters & Kallmuenzer, 2018).

In many family firms, ownership and management are maintained over several generations, and a key challenge for their long-term survival is to sustain the entrepreneurial spirit of the founding generation of entrepreneurs (Littunen & Hyrsky, 2000). All firms regularly need to renew their way of doing business in order to stay competitive, as they risk losing their entrepreneurial capacity when they mature (Kellermanns & Eddleston, 2006).

However, family firms often face many additional challenges with regard to entrepreneurial behaviour (Zahra et al., 2004). Some scholars regard family firms as old-fashioned, introverted, inflexible and lacking entrepreneurial spirit (i.e., a contradiction), while others argue the opposite and view family firms as a setting where entrepreneurship is enabled to flourish (i.e., a synonym) (Kraus et al., 2011). Family firms are often considered to act conservatively coupled with inertia in departing from established business practices (Chrisman & Patel, 2012). Other often mentioned characteristics are their path dependency (Gersick et al., 1997), rigid mental models (König et al., 2013), and a focus on family-centred non-financial goals such as socioemotional wealth (Gómez-Mejía et al., 2007).

In these fast-changing times, family firms also have to deal with significant challenges in order to remain competitive in global, hypercompetitive markets. Examples such as digitalization (Ceipek et al., 2020), sustainability (Adomako et al., 2019), or global crises (Kraus et al., 2020) require family firms to continuously reflect upon and potentially renew their business. Due to their often long history, however, in particular older family firms and their decision-makers are often bound to the tradition and may show inactivity when it comes to innovating the firm (De Massis et al., 2016; Erdogan et al., 2019).

There is increasing evidence that families in business are robust sources of entrepreneurial activity (Naldi et al., 2007). It is apparent that family firms and entrepreneurship are not generally contradictory, but rather that family firms are (/can be)

entrepreneurial – they just go about it differently, by leveraging their distinct familiness (Habbershon et al., 2003).

While the actions and behaviours of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial teams in the nascent, early and growth stages of the business cycle have been widely researched, there is a dearth of literature that sheds light on the later stages when the ownership and management of the entrepreneurial venture becomes the responsibility of the founder's offspring and professional management. As the venture grows and becomes more complex, so does the family, and it is this increased complexity and its related impact on entrepreneurship and innovation that needs to be better understood (Kraus et al., 2012).

These peculiarities of family business entrepreneurship and innovation create an interesting paradoxical tension. On the one hand, continuous renewal and entrepreneurship are cornerstones of sustainable competitiveness (Kallmuenzer & Scholl-Grissemann, 2017), on the other hand tradition creates a tendency to conserve the status quo. Therefore, this research handbook targets to provide an integration of the management of innovation and entrepreneurship and the particularities of family firms (Fletcher, 2005; Calabrò et al., 2019).

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### **Objective and topics:**

The handbook aims at providing a hands-on collection of relevant chapters of use to family firm and entrepreneurship scholars/researchers, for teaching postgraduate and doctoral classes as well as for practitioners in the field of family firm management and consulting. The book is not exclusive to a particular region, but taking a global perspective.

Bringing together contributions of thought leaders in the field, the handbook plans to cover the following foci and is accordingly inviting book chapters to each of these (exemplary) foci. We invite all kinds of contributions, being conceptual/theoretical, qualitative, quantitative or experimental by nature, within the following 3 sections:

#### ***1. Current state-of-the-art research in entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firm research:***

- entrepreneurial behaviour in family firms
- digitalization and entrepreneurship/innovation in family firms
- social and sustainable entrepreneurship/innovation of family firms
- entrepreneurial resilience of family firms
- family firms' embeddedness in entrepreneurial ecosystems and communities
- transgenerational entrepreneurship and innovation
- tradition and innovation in family firms
- family firms' product or process innovation
- goals and performance of entrepreneurial/innovative family firms
- family firms as a unique context of entrepreneurship and/or innovation research
- entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firm research in the context of the ongoing health and economic crisis
- applied research of entrepreneurship and innovation in family firms

**2. Novel theoretical perspectives on the fields of entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firm research:**

- interdisciplinary use of theories
- family-related theories
- firm-related theories
- employee and stakeholder perspectives
- theories connecting the fields of entrepreneurship and innovation in family firm research

**3. Research methods for research in entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firms:**

- trends and prospects in research methods in entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firms
  - application of novel methods for research in entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firms
  - critical reflections and/or specific guidelines for utilizing research methods in entrepreneurship and/or innovation in family firms
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**Submission Requirements:**

**Chapter Proposal:** max 1 page (by May 31<sup>st</sup>), indicating, e.g.:

- The section (i.e., current state, theories or methods) to which the contribution is made
- The primary research question
- The theoretical and/or conceptual focus of the contribution
- The research methodology/design if applicable
- The expected results
- The contribution to the discourse on entrepreneurship and innovation in family firms.

**Full Chapters** (by October 31<sup>st</sup>):

- Chapter length: max. 10,000 words (incl. figures/illustrations, tables, notes and references, allowing 500 words for each figure or illustration and 300 words for each table included)
- Abstracts of up to 150 words and up to six keywords for each chapter
- MS Word format, Times New Roman, 12pt, double line spacing
- Any diagrams, charts, illustrations, and maps must be in a form and resolution suitable for reproduction. These must be supplied in grayscale or black and white
- Mandatory reference style: APA (Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition, ISBN 978-1-4338-3215-4)
- ORCID identification numbers for all authors if used/applicable/desired.

**Submission Procedure and Deadlines:**

- Chapter proposals (1 page) to the editors: **31 May 2021**
- Acceptance of the chapter proposals: 15 June 2021
- Last date for full chapter submission: **31 October 2021**
- Reviews and feedback to the authors: 31 December 2021
- Revised chapters due: 31 March 2022
- Acceptance Date: 31 May 2022

## Editors:

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All submissions should be made via email to the handling editor Sascha Kraus.

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