



SIG 04 - FABR - Family Business Research

We invite you to submit your research to explore the theme of *The Business of Now: the future starts here* for the EURAM 20th Conference.

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

T04_05 - Organization, Management, Sociology, and Psychology in Family Firms: Behavior, Values, Relations, and Social Structure

Proponents:

Jan-Philipp Ahrens, University of Mannheim; Baris Istipliler, University of Mannheim; Alfred Kieser, University of Mannheim; Pramodita Sharma, University of Vermont; Yi Tang, University of Hong Kong (HKU).

Short description:

This track covers current research at the intersection of organizational behavior, strategic management, psychology, sociology, and family firms. A particular focus is put on research on the role of families, especially the CEO of a family firm, the microfoundations of their (biased) cognition, affections, values, aspirations, and concomitant behavior and performance outcomes, including sustainability performance. Similarly, sociological research that puts emphasis on the relationship as the unit of analysis, particularly social structures, social embeddedness, as well related constructs such as identity, trust, responsibility, coherence, and shared shematas including their ontological emergence, are valued topics.

Long description:

Family firms operate in a polar tension between continuity, stability, reliability, sustainability and management for the long-run as one pole; while successful family firms are often steered in a fashion that cherishes dynamic adaption to changing environments, strategic renewal and succession as the other pole (Miller & LeBreton-Miller; 2005).

However, their sociological foundations remain under-researched, although it is well known that family firm garner and capitalize in particular on social capital. Their focus on sustainability, both financially and non-financially, often leads to the emergence of a fragile social structure around them – consisting of a web of strong and weak relational ties – that often goes along with the development of shared values and vibrant firm cultures (Long, 2011), which needs to be understood better in several dimensions. Emergent social structures (Ekeh, 1974) may influence and alter managerial behavior at helm of the family firm and thereby affect family firm performance: the social individual, the individual in his group setting (Asch, 1952), remains largely unexplored (Ahrens, Calabrò, Huybrechts, & Woywode, 2019). Similarly, we believe that a deeper understanding of the psychological foundations, including a wide array of behavioral traits or personality dispositions, but also of underlying processes of cognition, sensation, perception, attention, or even attachment, will further the current debate on values, aspirations, and behavior in family firms and of entrepreneurial



family, and notably expand the spectrum of analysis. "Family firms' distinctiveness ultimately arises from the types and intensities of family members' feelings, emotions, preferences, and attachments, toward family enterprises, all of which fall within the domain of psychological research" (Sharma et al., forthcoming). Finally, the field has found that part of the economic and non-economic relations often create a strong regional and spatial anchoring, the consequence of the activities of family firms for the regions, cities, provinces as well as the trajectories and social macro-structures they create need to be better understood (Stough, Welter, Block, Wennberg, & Basco, 2015).

We invite all empirical (quantitative and qualitative), conceptual, and methodological work. We believe that methodological exchange from fields, such as sociology and psychology will help to foster scientific progress, the robustness, and credibility of results in the relatively young field of family business research. From a theoretical point of view, we welcome papers with interesting and new hypotheses that may include, but are not limited to:

- leadership theory,
- social exchange theory,
- behavioral theory of the firm,
- identity theory,
- upper echelon theory,
- organizational theories,
- theories of familiness, et cetera.

We especially encourage also interested young scholars for submission.

Keywords:

- Organizational Behavior
- Goals and Values
- Behavioral Theory of the Firm
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Strategic Management

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth, Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production.

Publication Outlet:

- Journal of Family Business Strategy
- Family Business Review
- Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice

For more information contact:



Jan-Philipp Ahrens - jahrens@staff.mail.uni-mannheim.de

AUTHORS GUIDELINES

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