

# GLOBAL **FAMILY** BUSINESS **SUMMIT**

**MAY 26-29, 2026**

IPAG Business School

**NICE, FRANCE**

## **(IN)STABILITY AT THE FRONTIERS**

Family Business in an Age  
of Shifting Grounds

## ONE GLOBAL FAMILY BUSINESS SUMMIT – 2 COMMUNITIES

The **2026 SPGC-FERC Global Family Business Summit** represents a unique collaboration between two premier global family business research communities. For the first time, participants will benefit from the combined strengths of both organizations in one event, enjoying the advantages of attending two major conferences in a single gathering. They will engage with diverse perspectives, access groundbreaking research, and expand their international networks. This summit offers a rare opportunity to experience the richness of two influential academic communities united in one global event dedicated to the advancement of family business.

### DESCRIPTION

The **2026 SPGC Global Family Business Summit, held in partnership with FERC**, invites family business scholars, owners, next-generation members, and advisors to engage in a bold, timely, and transformative conversation around the theme: (In)Stability at the Frontiers. Across the globe, family enterprises are navigating a world in flux. Climate crises, geopolitical conflict, technological upheaval, economic fragmentation, and deepening social divides are not abstract forces, they are daily realities. In this environment, family businesses are being asked to reconcile contradictions: continuity and chaos, long-term vision and short-term survival, unity and fragmentation. This Summit interrogates a core paradox of our time: family firms are expected to act as anchors of stability in a world defined by permanent instability. Yet they operate at the frontiers of transformation, where the boundaries between economy and ecology, ownership and influence, past and future, human and machines are rapidly dissolving. From war zones to boardrooms, from climate emergencies to AI disruption, family firms confront not just market shifts, but fundamental redefinitions of power, legitimacy, and meaning.

### **This Summit challenges participants to explore critical questions:**

- What does it mean to hold power responsibly when institutions are distrusted?
- How do family businesses maintain continuity in the face of chaos?
- Is stability still possible, or even desirable?
- What new models are required for leading family enterprises in fractured societies?
- How can families redefine their role as economic actors, social influencers, and long-term stewards of value?

We are not merely observing instability, we are living inside it. This is an invitation to view family business not as a fixed category, but as a powerful lens through which to examine complexity, contradiction, and creative tension. Rather than offering quick fixes, this Summit embraces the ethical, emotional, and political dimensions of family enterprise. It seeks to provoke, to cross-contaminate, and to rethink. This is not a conversation about

legacy, it is a conversation about tension. And how that tension, when faced directly, can become a catalyst for insight, transformation, and new forms of leadership.

## WHY THIS THEME MATTERS NOW?

- The world is experiencing a polycrisis: climate breakdown, conflict, technological disruption, rising inequality, and institutional distrust.
- Family firms remain long-term actors with both local roots and global reach.
- Next generations are challenging inherited narratives and introducing new forms of identity and innovation.
- Families are navigating moral, political, and economic dilemmas in real time.
- What's needed now are new languages, new collaborations, and new frameworks.

## TRACKS

### 1. (In)Stability, Risk & Resilience in Family Firms

*Resilience, risk governance, uncertainty, continuity, multi-generational dynamics.*

Maria Giuseppia BRUNA – IPAG Business School, France

Andrea CALABRÒ – SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy

Cinzia COLAPINTO – IPAG Business School, France & Venice School of Management, Italy

Jim DAVIS – Utah State University, USA

Evelyn MICELOTTA – University of Vermont, USA

### 2. Entrepreneurship, Renewal & the Next Frontier

*Entrepreneurship, renewal, transgenerational entrepreneurship, venture creation, next gen*

Eric CLINTON – Dublin City University, Dublin

Clay DIBRELL – University of Mississippi, USA

William B. GARTNER – Babson College, USA

Anne K. HEIDER – Witten Institute for Family Business, Germany

Petra MOOG – ZHAW School of Management and Law, Switzerland

Christina THEODORAKI – IAE Aix-Marseille Graduate School of Management, France

### 3. Ownership, Governance & Wealth in Motion

*Ownership, governance, board of directors, family office, wealth management, transition.*

Carl ÅBERG – University of South-Eastern Norway, Norway

Cristina BETTINELLI – University of Bergamo, Italy

Domenico CAMBREA – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

Luis GOMEZ-MEJIA – Arizona State University, USA

Alessandro MINICHILLI – SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy



Pedro VAZQUEZ – IAE Business School, Argentina

**4. Succession, Identity & Intergenerational Power**

*Succession, identity dynamics, generational transition, leadership, family relationships.*

Allan DISCUA CRUZ – Lancaster University Management School, UK

Ana GONZALEZ – Grand Valley State University, USA

Hans LUNDBERG – Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

Stefania MASÈ – IPAG Business School, France

Fabio QUARATO – Bocconi University, Italy

Miruna RADU-LEFEBVRE – Audencia, France

**5. Innovation, Technology, AI & the New Business Model**

*Innovation, AI, digital transformation, technology adoption, business models.*

Thomas CLAUß – Witten/Herdecke University, Germany

Giovanni Battista DAGNINO – LUMSA, Italy

Elias HADJIELIAS – Cyprus University of Technology, Cyprus

Marcel HÜLSBECK – Munich University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Nadine KAMMERLANDER – WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, Germany

Michele PINELLI – Venice School of Management, Italy

Erik VELDHUIZEN – Windesheim University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands

**6. International Business & Family Enterprises in a Changing World**

*Internationalization, global strategy, uncertainty, institutional context, global value chains.*

Francesco DEBELLIS – University of Vienna, Austria

Stefano ELIA – Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Liena KANO – University of Calgary, Canada

Antonio MAJOCCHI – Università Luiss Guido Carli, Italy

Claudia PONGELLI – Link Campus University, Italy

Alfredo VALENTINO – ESCE International Business School, France

**7. Sustainability, Purpose & Social Transformation**

*Sustainability, purpose, ESG, social impact, regenerative practices.*

Jan-Philipp AHRENS – University of Mannheim, Germany

Angelo BISIGNANO – IÉSEG School of Management, France

Maria Giuseppina BRUNA – IPAG Business School, Nice

Christopher GRAVES – The University of Adelaide, Australia

Marcela RAMIREZ-PASILLAS – Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

Fernando MUÑOZ BULLÓN – Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

**8. Teaching Family Business: Pedagogy, Cases and Practice**

*Experiential Learning, Co-creation, Pedagogical Innovation, Impact, Ethical Challenges*

[Nunzia AULETTA](#) – IESA, Venezuela

[Mira BLOEMEN-BEKX](#) – Hanze University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

[Jeremy CHENG](#) – CUHK Business School, Hong Kong, China

[Elisa CONTI](#) – IPAG Business School, France

[Tulsi JAYAKUMAR](#) – SPJIMR, India

[Virginia LASIO](#) – ESPAE - Escuela de Negocios, Ecuador

## **9. Diversity and Gender Equality in Family Firm**

*Gender equality; Diversity; Intersectionality; Governance; Inclusion; Succession; Competitive Advantage; Growth.*

[David B. AUDRETSCH](#) – Indiana University, USA

[Wojciech CZAKON](#) – Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

[Giorgia Maria D'ALLURA](#) – Università degli Studi di Catania, Italy

[Julia de GROOTE](#) – Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany

[Morten HUSE](#) – BI Norwegian Business School, Norway

[Maria José SÁNCHEZ BUENO](#) – Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

[Mariateresa TORCHIA](#) – International University of Monaco, Principato di Monaco

## **10. Corporate Finance, Accounting & ESG Investment in Family Firms**

*Corporate finance, ESG investment, ESG risks, Sustainability reporting, Green finance*

[Ahmed-Imran HUNJRA](#) – IPAG Business School, France

[Nirosha WELLALAGE](#) – University of South Australia, Australia,

[Rosalia SANTULLI](#) – University of Genova, Italy

[Carmen GALLUCCI](#) – University of Salerno, Italy

[Oumaima QUIDDI](#) – ESCA – Ecole de Management, Morocco

## **11. Open Track**

For high-quality papers, work-in-progress and posters that do not fall into the above categories but speak to the broader summit theme.

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE (TENTATIVE)

### May 26, 2026 – Pre-conference day:

- Doctoral & early career consortium (joint SPGC–FERC)
- Welcome networking event on the beach

### May 27–29, 2026 – Main conference days:

- Company visits across the French Riviera
- Invitation-only roundtables
- Competitive paper sessions
- Developmental paper sessions
- FERC Poster presentations
- Keynote panels with scholars and family business leaders
- Interactive practitioner panels & case-based workshops
- Special issues and journal roundtables
- Gala Dinner on the Riviera (May 28, evening)

## SPECIAL ISSUE OPPORTUNITIES & AWARDS

Papers presented at the Summit will be considered for submission to main journal outlets in management and entrepreneurship.

### Best Paper Awards:

- Best Competitive Paper **(1,000€)**
- Best Developmental Paper **(1,000€)**
- Best Poster (FERC) **(1,000€)**
- Best Practitioner Contribution **(1,000€)**
- Next Generation Scholar Award **(1,000€)**
- Best Paper on Forecasting & Responsibility (IPAG Chair Towards an Inclusive Company”) **(1000€)**

## REGISTRATION FEES

Fees include access to both SPGC and FERC conference activities, lunches, coffee breaks, welcome event, and gala dinner ▼ [REGISTER HERE!](#)

| Participant type              | Early Bird (until Feb 28) | Regular (after Feb 28) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| SPGC Affiliate – Academic     | €500                      | €600                   |
| Non-SPGC Affiliate – Academic | €600                      | €700                   |
| Practitioner                  | €650                      | €750                   |
| Doctoral Student              | €350                      | €450                   |
| Gala Dinner – Guest Ticket    | €150                      | €200                   |

## SUMMIT CHAIRS

Prof. Maria Giuseppia Bruna (IPAG Business School, France)

Prof. Evelyn Micelotta (University of Vermont, USA)

Prof. Andrea Calabrò (SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy)

Prof. James Davis (Utah State University, USA)

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Arpita Vyas (SPGC)

Giang Nguyen (IPAG Business School)

Elisa Conti (IPAG Business School)

Stefania Masè (IPAG Business School)

Cinzia Colapinto (IPAG Business School)

Eric Clinton (Dublin City University)

Ana Cristina Gonzalez (Grand Valley State University)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission Deadline: **February 14th, 2026**
- Registration Deadline: **March 30th, 2026**
- SPGC x FERC 2026 in Nice: **May 26th – 29th, 2026**

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

Please note that all submissions must be made through the online submission portal (<https://spgc2026.exordo.com/>) and must be anonymous to ensure the blind review process. We welcome submissions in the following formats. Please choose the one most appropriate for the stage and nature of your work:

### **Competitive Paper Sessions (Full Papers)**

These sessions are designed for high-quality, fully developed research papers that are ready for peer review and potential journal submission. Submission requirements:

- Full paper (maximum 10,000 words including references, tables, and figures)
- Anonymous document
- Include a short abstract (max 150 words) at the beginning of the paper

### **Developmental Paper Sessions (Work-in-Progress)**

This track is ideal for early-stage or mid-stage research that would benefit from feedback and discussion with peers and senior scholars. Submission requirements:

- Extended abstract (1,000–2,000 words) clearly outlining the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, and intended contribution
- Anonymous document
- Clearly indicate “Developmental Paper” in your submission

### **FERC Poster Presentations (Abstract-Based)**

The poster session provides an opportunity to showcase exploratory projects, teaching innovations, case studies, or early-stage ideas in a visual format. Submission requirements:

- Abstract (maximum 1,000 words)
- Anonymous document
- Clearly indicate “FERC Poster” in your submission

### **Doctoral Colloquium & early career consortium**

The Doctoral Colloquium is open to PhD students at any stage of their doctoral journey working on topics related to family business. Selected participants will receive feedback from leading scholars and engage in peer-to-peer exchange. Submission requirements:

- A research proposal or extended abstract (max 2,000 words)
- A short CV (2 pages max)
- Clearly indicate “Doctoral Colloquium” in your submission



## ABOUT SPGC

The **STEP Project Global Consortium (SPGC)** is a worldwide network of academic institutions dedicated to advancing knowledge on transgenerational entrepreneurship and family business. By connecting scholars and business families across regions and cultures, SPGC co-creates impactful research, produces global and regional reports, develops educational resources, and hosts international academic family business summits. Its work generates insights that help family businesses innovate, grow, and sustain success across generations.

## ABOUT FERC

The **Family Enterprise Research Conference (FERC)** is a leading academic platform dedicated to family business scholarship. It brings together a global community of researchers to exchange ideas, present cutting edge studies, and foster collaboration that advances the field. FERC is especially recognized for supporting emerging scholars and for promoting rigorous, relevant research that deepens understanding of family enterprises and their role in society.

**SUBMIT  
YOUR PAPER  
REGISTER  
NOW!**

<https://spgc2026.exordo.com/>

**ORGANIZERS**

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