

**CALL FOR PAPERS**  
*Journal of Family Business Management*

SPECIAL ISSUE ON:  
**“ENTREPRENEURIAL FAMILIES IN BUSINESS ACROSS GENERATIONS,  
CONTEXTS AND CULTURES”**

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Families in business are an essential component of the socioeconomic landscape of towns, cities and regions around the world (Basco & Bartkeviciute, 2016; Guerrero et al., 2013; Howorth, Rose, Hamilton, & Westhead, 2010; Seaman, 2015). Entrepreneurial families in business can be broadly interpreted as a phenomenon where several members of a family create and develop one or more business enterprises over time (Hamilton, Discua Cruz, & Jack, 2017; Nordqvist & Melin, 2010). Our understanding of families in business to date is supported by the acknowledgement that entrepreneurship is inextricably linked to family (Aldrich & Cliff, 2003; Heck et al., 2006; Olson et al., 2003; Williams, Zorn, Russell Crook, & Combs, 2013). However, context and time have been scarcely integrated to frame the study of entrepreneurial families in business.

Time is a dimension that affects individual behavior and, consequently, those institutions, such as family and business, in which they are embedded. The objective interpretation of time, as a linear and regular pattern which is irreversible, could be used to explore and explain the start-up, development and exit of entrepreneurial economic activities of families (Drakopoulou Dodd, Anderson, & Jack, 2013) which may impact on management complexity, portfolios or spin offs and further entrepreneurial activities. Time is important because of its subjective interpretation, grounded on the meaning that cultures associate to it (Ancona, Okhuysen, & Perlow, 2001), which may alter the interpretation of the entrepreneurship phenomenon itself as well as the perception and subsequent entrepreneurial behaviour across cultures at the individual, group, and firm level. Scholars are called to understand the dynamics that motivate a family to keep a business under family control over time (Tucker, 2011) often developing tailored managerial forms of control (Botero, Gomez Betancourt, Betancourt Ramirez, & Lopez Vergara, 2015), often challenging long standing ideologies within their firms (Johannisson & Huse, 2000). Similarly scholars are called to understand the effect of entrepreneurship on families and the desire to maintain control of their business (Jennings, Breitzkreuz, & James, 2013).

Context is what is beyond the phenomenon itself, and the demarcation between them is composed of both a physical and cognitive aspects (Basco, 2015). While context has traditionally represented the formal and informal institutions that shape the phenomenon of entrepreneurial families in business (North, 1990; Scott, 1995), recent work suggests that there are multiple and overlapping embedded contexts (Basco, 2017), which may influence the practice of entrepreneurship in entrepreneurial families in business (Welter, 2011). Recently, in a study of a

rural cooperative comprised of family businesses, Hadjielias & Poutziouris (2015) explored the dynamics bringing together families in business from different business contexts. Their findings underscore that context is important for entrepreneurial families to engage in entrepreneurial activities collectively. Contexts such as industrial districts (Johannisson et al., 2007) and entrepreneurial environments (Guerrero et al., 2013), as well as endogenous, exogenous and temporal aspects (Wright, Chrisman, Chua, & Steier, 2014) merit close attention. Further studies around context and its physical/cognitive as well as formal/informal demarcations can help develop theories of entrepreneurial families in business and contextualise the phenomenon.

A focus on entrepreneurial families in business underscores a family perspective on entrepreneurship by considering three levels of analysis: individual, group and firm (Discua Cruz & Basco, 2017). Each level calls for interdisciplinary studies with different dimensions and relationships to be explored through time and within contexts. For example, at the individual level, the influence of family in entrepreneurship has been discussed by Aldrich and Cliff (2003) (2003), yet more work is needed to unpack how family dynamics influence the initial steps in an entrepreneurial process in particular contexts and time. Further works at the group level approach could help contextualize the interactions of family members as building blocks for creating collective rules, patterns, goals and expectations that influence a family group/team dynamics when creating or pursuing business opportunities (Discua Cruz, Hadjielias, & Howorth, 2017; Discua Cruz, Howorth, & Hamilton, 2013). Finally, at firm level, the interaction between family firm and corporate entrepreneurship needs more research in order to better understand the cross-family and cross-cultural differences that may affect corporate venturing, renewal strategies, and innovation.

In theorizing entrepreneurial families in business around time and context we attempt to advance our understanding around recent calls to explore further the link between family, context, time and entrepreneurship (Drakopoulou Dodd et al., 2013; Randerson, Bettinelli, Dosena, & Fayolle, 2015; Seaman, 2015; Welter, 2011). Thus, a special focus on generations, context, and culture for studying entrepreneurial families in business around the world is warranted. To advance understanding around entrepreneurial families in business this special issue aims to consider conceptual, qualitative and quantitative empirical studies from around the world. Theoretical and conceptual research contributions are also welcomed. As the study of entrepreneurial families in business is multidisciplinary, we encourage cross-disciplinary approaches to advance our understanding. Questions and themes that can be submitted and developed for this special issue include, yet are not limited to:

### **Entrepreneurial families in business**

- What are the entrepreneurial features of families in business?
- How do entrepreneurial families in business influence a transgenerational entrepreneurship behavior?
- What kind of family identities and goals do entrepreneurial families embrace?
- How does the entrepreneurial behaviour of families in business influence firm performance?
- How and why do entrepreneurial families in business engage in habitual entrepreneurship behaviour?
- Why do certain entrepreneurial families in business prefer to cooperate with other families in business?

### **Time**

- How does family life cycles influence entrepreneurial families in business?

- How business life and product life cycle affect entrepreneurial families in business?
- How and why some families in business are more entrepreneurial than others?
- What kind of cognitive processes do entrepreneurial families develop in order to discover and exploit opportunities?
- How do families in business develop and sustain entrepreneurial opportunities across generations?
- How does the perception of time by entrepreneurial families affect the dimensions of firm entrepreneurial behavior?
- How do entrepreneurial families in business address succession processes in family business?
- How do entrepreneurial families in business influence local, regional institutions over time?
- How does family life-cycle affect a family's entrepreneurial activity?

### **Context**

- Do features of entrepreneurial families in business vary across cultures? What kind of feature differences in terms of managerial philosophy, identities, and family goals can we find across cultures?
- Is there any link between entrepreneurial institutions and entrepreneurial families?
- To what extent do particular contextual dimensions (e.g formal/informal, physical/cognitive) affect entrepreneurial families?
- What are the origins and evolution of entrepreneurial families in business families across contexts?
- What do concepts of what family is (extent, membership, responsibilities, relationships, etc.) mean for family entrepreneurial activity?
- How do cooperatives become contexts for the collective practice of entrepreneurship between families in business?

We invite submissions to a special issue of Journal of Family Business Management around the topic of “Entrepreneurial families in business across generations, contexts and cultures”. All papers will be subject to the usual review process and must meet the publication standards of the journal.

This special issue is a collaboration with Family Enterprise Research Conference (FERC), which will be hold in Mexico in June 2018: [Family Traditions & Culture: Values and legacy in Entrepreneurial Families](#).

### **Additional Information**

Authors should follow the guidelines as stated in the Information for Contributors of Manuscripts. **Manuscripts should be submitted to <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jfbm> no later than September 15, 2018.** Authors should indicate “Special Issue” as the manuscript type and should specify that the submission is for the special issue on “**ENTREPRENEURIAL FAMILIES IN BUSINESS ACROSS GENERATIONS AND CULTURES**” in their cover letter. Please contact Albert James ([Albert.James@Dal.Ca](mailto:Albert.James@Dal.Ca)), Elias Hadjielias ([ehadjielias@uclan.ac.uk](mailto:ehadjielias@uclan.ac.uk)), Maribel Guerrero ([maribel.guerrero@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:maribel.guerrero@northumbria.ac.uk)), Allan Discua Cruz ([a.discuacruz@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.discuacruz@lancaster.ac.uk)), Rodrigo Basco ([bascorodrigo@gmail.com](mailto:bascorodrigo@gmail.com)) if you have any questions about the special issue.

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