



Special Issue - Call for Papers

## Feeding the fire of entrepreneurship: Theory and practice for the enterprising family

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In family firms, the intertwining of the family and the business systems plays a crucial role in forging principles, norms and values, but also in making resources and competences available that affect entrepreneurial decision-making and outcomes. For example, family structure, members' roles and their relationships impact the resources available to the firm, both statically (i.e. at a given point in time) and dynamically (i.e. through family development and transitions). Along this line of thought, family-related norms, attitudes and their evolution also have implications on entrepreneurial behaviors (e.g., opportunity creation, new business start-up actions and decisions) and outcomes (e.g., survival, fulfillment of economic and non-economic goals). Scholars agree it is increasingly important to adopt a *family perspective* and to focus on the *enterprising family* as a promising, albeit unexploited, unit of analysis in entrepreneurship research.

The aim of the special issue is to create a fertile ground to a) support the development of theories of the enterprising family; b) favor the disciplinary cross-fertilization of family studies and entrepreneurship fields (e.g., the application of family science theory to investigate entrepreneurship); c) frame and systematize the contribution of management theories (e.g., agency theory, stewardship theory, socio-emotional wealth perspective, resource based view, ...) to the theorizing on the enterprising family. Such theorizing effort at the “enterprising family” level of analysis has relevant implications for practice, too. Family business practitioners and educators can benefit from this line of inquiry, by recognizing the challenges related to family issues, which should be considered as complementary to the much more discussed business ones in fostering the entrepreneurial potential of family firms. With this special issue we hope to attract exemplary empirical research and theoretical developments that showcase novel empirical strategies, theoretical concepts, and new data sources supporting a family embedded perspective on entrepreneurship.

Topics and questions that might be addressed in this special issue are:

- **Enterprising family, family business, and their link as unit of analysis:** What makes a family an “enterprising family”? How and why do different typologies of families (e.g., post-divorce extended family; single-parent family) pursue entrepreneurship? Under what circumstances do different forms of involvement of these families in the business (e.g., ownership, management, governance) influence entrepreneurial activities? To what extent do these dynamics change across cultures?
- **Family embedded perspective on entrepreneurship:** What can we learn by applying ideas from life course studies to dynamics within enterprising families (e.g., birth of children, new generation members' entry)? To what extent does resource accumulation (e.g., family social capital) affect decisions regarding entrepreneurial initiatives (e.g., degree of relatedness and autonomy granted to the ventures, size and scope of enterprising family portfolio)? To what extent do the various phases in the life course of families (e.g., raising children, divorce, retirement, or death) affect a family's engagement in entrepreneurial initiatives? How does the interdependence of the family with other external stakeholders influence the activities of the enterprising family?
- **Effects of entrepreneurship on the family:** To what extent and how do family business entrepreneurial activities affect the resources (human, social, financial, physical and symbolic capital) available to the enterprising family? How and why do family business entrepreneurial performances affect the system of norms, attitudes, goals and values of the enterprising family? Under what circumstances do entrepreneurial activities influence the wellbeing experienced by enterprising families' members?
- **Reconnecting family business and entrepreneurship fundamentals:** What can we learn about the benefits of family on opportunity creation? Do family businesses navigate conditions of uncertainty better than non-family businesses and if so why? Do

new business start-up actions and decisions benefit by applying a family embeddedness perspective? Under which conditions do active (managers and employees) and passive (owners not working in the business) family members affect other family members' entrepreneurial intention? To what extent and how does the belonging of family firms in an innovation ecosystem or industrial district influence entrepreneurial activities?

The questions identified above are representative, not exhaustive, of the types of topics that might be addressed in this special issue. Please contact the special issue guest editors with questions regarding appropriate content concerns and proposed topics.

#### **Timeline and Submission Information**

Manuscripts can be submitted starting **August 1, 2019** and will immediately enter the double-blind review process. The deadline for all submissions is **January 31, 2020**. All articles for this Special Issue must be submitted online via the EVISE system at <https://www.evise.com/evise/jrnl/JFBS>. Submissions should follow the manuscript guidelines of JFBS available from this same link (see the 'Guide for Authors' link at the top of the page). Authors should clearly indicate in their cover letter that the manuscript is for the Special Issue "ENTERPRISING FAMILY"

and choose "SI-ENTERPRISING FAMILY" as article type upon submission.

All articles will be subject to the standard JFBS double-blind review process. For questions regarding this Special Issue, please contact the managing guest editor: Mara Brumana ([mara.brumana@unibg.it](mailto:mara.brumana@unibg.it)).

#### **About the Journal**

The Journal of Family Business Strategy (JFBS) publishes research that contributes new knowledge and understanding to the field of family business. The Journal is interdisciplinary and international in scope and welcomes submissions that address all aspects of how family influences business and business influences family. JFBS publishes quantitative research as well as qualitative work and purely theoretical or conceptual papers. Further details on JFBS can be obtained from <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jfbs> or by contacting the Editor-in-Chief, Torsten Pieper, via [tpieper@uncc.edu](mailto:tpieper@uncc.edu).

#### **Important Dates**

Submission window opens: August 1, 2019  
Manuscripts due by: January 31, 2020  
Tentative publication of the Special Issue: March 2021