



Call for Papers: Frontiers of Family Business Research: Exploring Emotions, Intelligence, religion, health, Well-Being: What really counts?

We are pleased to invite submissions for the upcoming workshop on “Frontiers of Family Business Research: Exploring Emotions, Intelligence, religion, health, Well-Being: What Really Counts?” to be held April 14-15TH, 2025, at Excelia Business School, La Rochelle, France.

This workshop will explore the complex and multidimensional nature of modern family businesses, emphasizing how intangible factors such as emotions, emotional intelligence, religion, spiritual intelligence, health, and well-being shape and influence the sustainability, leadership, and success of family businesses.



Narrative

Family businesses, which account for a significant portion of economic activity globally, possess unique characteristics that set them apart from other business models (De Massis et al., 2018). Beyond financial metrics, family businesses are driven by an intricate web of interpersonal relationships, emotional ties, cultural values, and deeply embedded belief systems (Salvato & Melin, 2008). These intangible elements often determine their longevity, governance structure, and overall success (Gomez-Mejia et al., 2011; Daspit et al., 2023). This workshop seeks to provide a space for scholarly debate and discussion on the often-overlooked factors that influence the governance, resilience, and evolution of family firms (Conz et al., 2024).

Theme

In family businesses, what counts is often more than just financial outcomes or strategic goals. Behind every decision, relationship, and transition lies an intricate web of emotions, values, spiritual beliefs, and personal well-being (Tognazzo & Neubaum, 2020). This workshop will explore the role of emotions, emotional intelligence, religion, spiritual intelligence, and health and well-being in shaping the dynamics, resilience, and sustainability of family businesses (Liguori & McLarty, 2020).

Topics of Interest

We invite scholars, practitioners, and experts from various fields to submit papers that address the following themes. Submissions that intersect with these topics or extend beyond them while focusing on the central theme of "What Counts in Family Business" are also welcome.

Emotions in Family Businesses

The role of emotions is central to understanding family dynamics and, consequently, the behavior of family businesses (Humphrey et al., 2021). Family businesses are built on complex interpersonal relationships, which can sometimes lead to emotional tensions (Degadt, 2012). This theme invites research exploring the impact of emotions on decision-making, leadership, succession planning, and conflict management within family businesses.

How do positive or negative emotions influence the strategic direction of family firms?

What role does emotional capital play in sustaining the business across generations?

How do intergenerational emotional ties influence leadership and succession?

Emotional Intelligence in Family Business Leadership

Emotional intelligence (EI) is increasingly recognized as a vital component of effective leadership, particularly in family businesses where personal relationships and professional responsibilities intertwine (Santiago & Mateo, 2020; Micelotta & Raynard, 2011). Papers exploring how family business leaders utilize EI to manage relationships, resolve conflicts, foster innovation, and sustain the business in times of adversity are encouraged.

Does EI differ between family and non-family leaders?

How does developing emotional intelligence as a strategy improve family cohesion and business resilience?

Religion and Family Business

Religion often plays an influential role in shaping the values, ethics, and long-term goals of family businesses (Astrachan et al., 2020; Conz et al., 2024). It contributes to the moral and spiritual compass that guides decision-making, family unity, and leadership. This theme invites submissions that explore the intersection of religious beliefs, family values, and business practices.

How do religious beliefs shape values, leadership styles, and governance in family businesses?

The intersection of spirituality, ethics, and sustainability in family business practices.

Spiritual Intelligence in Business Decisions

Spiritual intelligence refers to the ability to apply spiritual values and principles in the business context. For many family businesses, especially those with strong religious or spiritual foundations, spiritual intelligence can provide guidance in ethical decision-making, sustainability, and leadership (Amram, 2009; Micelotta & Raynard, 2011). Papers that address how spiritual intelligence influences the leadership of family businesses, their resilience during crises, and their overall approach to ethical dilemmas are highly welcomed.

What counts as "spiritual intelligence" in family business settings, and how does it contribute to the longevity and harmony of family firms?

The psychological and emotional well-being of family members actively involved in the business.

Health and Well-Being of Family Business Members

The mental and physical well-being of family business members, particularly those in leadership positions, is a crucial yet often overlooked factor in the success of family businesses (Wohlfahrt, 2012; Picone, 2022). Burnout, stress, and familial obligations can take a toll on individuals, affecting decision-making, leadership, and succession planning (Ben Tahar, 2019; Torrès et al., 2022). This theme invites research that explores the health and well-being of family business leaders and members, the impact of work-life balance.

How well-being initiatives can enhance productivity and long-term success?

How does the emotional and physical health of family members influence the performance of the business?

What strategies can be implemented to ensure a balance between business demands and personal well-being?

Workshop Objectives:

This workshop seeks to offer a platform for in-depth discussions that broaden our understanding of what truly counts in family businesses. While traditional measures of success (such as profit margins, market share, and return on investment) are essential, this workshop aims to highlight the hidden drivers of success that shape the culture, governance, and sustainability of family firms. We aim to:

- Explore interdisciplinary approaches that integrate emotional, spiritual, cultural, and health dimensions in family business research.
- Foster a dialogue between scholars and practitioners to share insights on improving family business leadership, resilience, and well-being.
- Identify new avenues for research and practice that can inform the future development of family businesses globally.

Publication Opportunities

Selected papers from the workshop will be considered for publication in a special issue of Entrepreneurship Research Journal titled: “The Health and Well-Being of Entrepreneurs, Family Business CEOs, and Stakeholders in Times of Crises”

An additional Special Issue of Family Business Review titled “Modern Family Firms: The Missing Piece in Family Business Studies”, will be presented by Professor Luis Gomez-Mejia.

We encourage submissions that push the boundaries of current knowledge on family businesses and that demonstrate innovative methodological or theoretical approaches.

Submission Guidelines:

We invite submissions of research papers, case studies, and theoretical frameworks that explore the themes outlined above. Submissions should include:

- An abstract (500 words maximum)
- Full paper (up to 8,000 words)
- Contact information for all authors, including institutional affiliation

Key Dates:

- Extended abstract or Full paper submission deadline: January 30, 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: February 15, 2025
- Workshop Date: April 14-15, 2025

Submission Instructions:

Please submit your paper to SFEIR Soumaya at: sfeirs@excelia-group.com by January 30th, 2025

Participation is free of charge and partner hotels will be suggested.

We look forward to receiving your contributions and to welcoming you to this exciting and thought-provoking workshop!

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