



# 5th INTERNATIONAL FAMILY BUSINESS RESEARCH FORUM

## September 27-29, 2022 @ Hasselt, Belgium

### ORGANIZERS

**Anneleen MICHIELS, Tensie STEIJVERS, Wim VOORDECKERS**

Hasselt University, Host for 2022

**Andrea CALABRÒ**

IPAG Business School, Founder of IFBRF



**Submission deadline: May 15, 2022**

## Background

At its **fifth edition** the International Family Business Research Forum has in the last years provided a unique platform for developing family business research in a structured, stimulating, challenging and friendly environment (and of course within an inspiring context). After four editions (in Witten at University of Witten/Herdecke Germany (2015), in Naples/Capri, at the University of Naples Federico II Italy (2016), in Vienna, at WU – Vienna University of Economics and Business Austria (2017), in the Principality of Monaco, at the International University of Monaco (2019)) we are moving to the inspiring context of Hasselt (Belgium) hosted by our colleagues from Hasselt University in 2022.

The interest in family business as an autonomous academic research field has grown tremendously in recent years, mostly motivated by the family business prevalence worldwide and the increasing number of people and institutions acknowledging the importance and need to get a further understanding on family businesses actors and arenas. Despite of that, while family business studies have advanced significantly during the past decade, research still largely focuses on a limited number of topics and theory development requires ongoing attention. Although the discipline is progressing in terms of theory building, it still lacks a systematic adoption of theoretically-based frameworks. Thus, on the one hand, family firm research is still dominated by a focus on the family firm, incorporating contradicting and contrasting views between idealizing and critical family business features. The critical views of family firms investigate besides traditional concerns about leadership succession: nepotism and non-professionalism; family conflicts; misplaced altruism towards family members among others. At the opposite, positive interpretations of family firms' behaviors and results include, among others: long-term orientation; family social capital; strategic resource accumulation; superior brand identity; better financial performance. On the other hand, family firm research still lacks a systematic analysis of the business family. In order to advance the current understanding of the positive and negative characteristics of family businesses, it is indispensable to research the developmental dynamics of the structures and processes of business families. Therefore, family firm research should also put its focus on the reciprocal institution of the family business. This might be the next step to understand the generation of positive and negative features of family firms in order to enhance the theory development for both sides – the family firm and the business family.

## Aim of the forum

The aim of this Forum is to try to reconcile the interplay of negative and positive views within and between the family and the business system. In this way, future research should aim to better explain when the positives and negatives above are likely to occur, and under what conditions. In this way, the Forum will aim to address questions such as:

- *What are the underlying unexpressed research questions that may help to move the field one step further while considering both the business family and family firm perspective?*
- *What kind of theories should we use to explain the behavior and identity of business families and family firms?*
- *How can we capture the heterogeneity of business families and family firms?*
- *Which new methods should we explore?*
- *Which are the contributions we should disseminate among family owners, managers and business families?*

Therefore, we invite submissions from the international family firm research community, to discuss together the state of the art of the research on family firms and have the opportunity to collect feedback and insights on how to develop the ideas presented in the Forum for leading international journals.

## Types of submissions solicited and deadlines

We encourage international scholars – with particular attention to PhD Students and young researchers – to submit their ideas and works in progress at different stages. Given the developmental nature of the Forum, submissions should consist of research ideas/proposals/extended abstracts<sup>1</sup>.

Important deadlines are indicated here below:

- **May 15, 2022** – All submissions (max. 3 pages) should be submitted via email to [ifbrf2022@uhasselt.be](mailto:ifbrf2022@uhasselt.be)
- **May 30, 2022** – Authors will be notified on acceptance in order to arrange their travels
- **Sep, 10, 2022** – Submission of full (working) papers of accepted proposals

## Format

The format of the Forum will be highly interactive. All sessions will be organized in plenary and each paper will have a formal discussant (who will present the discussion with the use of PPT).

## Detailed program (tentative)

- **September 27, 2022 Tuesday**  
*Welcome Reception, 7pm-10pm (location, to be defined), Hasselt*
- **September 28, 2022, Wednesday**  
*Welcome and Keynote, 9am*  
*Plenary Sessions, 11am-5pm, Hasselt University*  
*Jenever Museum, 7pm: Visit and Tasting*  
*Gala Dinner, 8pm-11pm, Hasselt*
- **September 29, 2022, Thursday**  
*Plenary sessions, 9am-5pm, Hasselt University*

## Workshop fee for authors and delegates

250 EUR

- Access to the full conference
- Welcome Reception, Social Activity and Gala Dinner
- Coffee Breaks and Lunches

## Keynote speaker

Prof. dr. Pursey Heugens, Professor of Organization Theory, Development, and Change, Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

## Publishing opportunities

There are several publishing opportunities for participants (linking the papers to existing special issues and fast review tracks in journals).

## Awards

- 1 Best paper award sponsored by RCEF (250 EUR)
- 1 Best paper award sponsored by the STEP Project Global Consortium (250 EUR)
- 1 Best contribution to practice award sponsored by BDO (500 EUR)

## Venue

Hasselt University, Campus Hasselt (Belgium)

## Looking forward to meeting you in Hasselt, city of Jenever, Fashion, Food and Nature!

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<sup>1</sup> Accepted research ideas, proposals and extended abstracts must be subsequently developed into working papers by Sep 10.