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Early Release: March 2023 Issue of *FBR*

FEBRUARY 24, 2023



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EDITORIAL

History-Informed Family Business Research: An Editorial on the Promise of History and Memory Work

Roy Suddaby, Brian S. Silverman, Peter Jaskiewicz, Alfredo De Massis, and Evelyn R. Micelotta



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ARTICLES

Innovation Through Tradition: The Role of Past Knowledge for Successful Innovations in Family and Non-Family Firms

Michael Gusenbauer, Nina Schweiger, Kurt Matzler, and Julia Hautz

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Research Questions

- Do family firms use more mature knowledge components in their innovation process than non-family firms?
- Can family firms draw more innovation value from mature knowledge components than non-family firms?



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Michael Gusenbauer is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute of Innovation Management at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria. He received his PhD from Johannes Kepler University Linz, a diploma from WU Vienna, and has previously held postdoctoral positions at the Technical University of Munich (GER) and the University of Innsbruck. Michael's research has been published in journals such as the *Journal of Management Studies*, *Cognition and Emotion*, *Research Synthesis Methods*, and *Scientometrics*.

Nina Schweiger is a PhD student working in the Department of Strategic Management at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. In her research, she focuses on innovation management and the strategic behavior of family firms.

Kurt Matzler is professor of strategic management at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. He is academic director of the Executive MBA program at MCI in Innsbruck. Kurt has published numerous academic papers and several books, among others he is co-author of the German edition of *The Innovator's Dilemma* (2011) and *Open Strategy* (MIT Press, 2021). With more than 28,000 citations in Google Scholar, Kurt belongs to the top 50 strategy researchers in the world.

Julia Hautz is professor of strategic management at the University of Innsbruck. In her research, Julia focuses on strategy and innovation. In particular, she explores corporate diversification and innovation strategies and openness of strategy processes in the context of new digital technologies. Her research has been published in leading academic journals including *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of Product Innovation Management*, *Global Strategy Journal*, *International Journal of Management Reviews*, *Long Range Planning*, and *Harvard Business Review*.

Narrative Memory Work of Employees in Family Businesses: How Founding Stories Shape Organizational Identification

Christina Hoon, Julia Brinkmann, and Alina Baluch

Research Questions

- How do lived experiences with the founder and founding family transmit across generations through stories that make up the collective memory of the family firm?
- How are these founding stories sustained across multiple generations of employees in a family firm?
- How do these stories impact belongingness to the family firm?



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Christina Hoon is a professor of family business management in the Faculty of Economics and Management at Bielefeld University, Germany. Her research focuses on family businesses to explore strategy, identity theory, leadership and succession, and theorizing in qualitative inquiry. She has published in leading academic journals including *British Journal of Management*, *Journal of Family Business Strategy*, and *Organizational Research Methods*. She is the academic director of the Family Business Institute (iFUn) at Bielefeld University.

Julia Brinkmann received her PhD from the Faculty of Economics and Management at Bielefeld University, Germany where she is an adjunct member of the Family Business Institute. She is interested in exploring family businesses with a special focus on non-family employees. In her research she focuses on identity, succession, and the strategic behavior of family firms.

Alina Baluch is a senior lecturer in management at the School of Management, University of St Andrews, UK. Her work focuses on employment relations in the nonprofit sector and uses qualitative research approaches to explore the experience of work in a variety of settings such as front-line care work, nonprofit-business partnerships, philanthropic organizations, and more recently family-owned businesses. Her research also focuses on theorizing in qualitative research methods.

Learning in a Family Business Through Intermarriage: A Rhetorical History Perspective

Maura McAdam, Eric Clinton, William B. Gartner, and Eleanor Hamilton

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Research Questions

- How do families learn from outside rather than within the focal family, and based on these learnings, how do they re-adjust their future?
- How are family business practices transformed through the intermarriage of two business families?
- How does intermarriage facilitate learning among the combined family businesses?



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Maura McAdam is a professor of management and director of entrepreneurship at Dublin City University. She is currently a visiting professor at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University (PNU) in Riyadh and has held visiting professorships at Babson College (USA) and Nottingham University (UK). Her research which explores the influence of gender and diversity on entrepreneurial behavior has been published in top rated North American and UK journals across a range of theoretical disciplines. Maura is an engaged thought leader and regular media commentator on women's entrepreneurship and family business.

Eric Clinton is an associate professor at DCU Business School (Ireland) and a visiting professor at Babson College (USA). His research interests are primarily concerned with strategic entrepreneurial practices in family firms. Eric's work on family firms is regularly published in leading scholarly journals including *Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice*, *Journal of Management Studies*, and *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*. In 2022, Eric was awarded the Family-Owned Business Institute (FOBI) scholar-in-residence fellowship.

William B. Gartner is the Bertarelli Foundation Distinguished Professor of Family Entrepreneurship at Babson College and a visiting professor of entrepreneurship at Linnaeus University in Sweden. His family entrepreneurship scholarship focuses on the effect of business family legacies on subsequent entrepreneurial activities and the influence of parenting roles and styles on entrepreneurial choice and persistence.

Eleanor Hamilton is professor of entrepreneurship in the Department of Entrepreneurship and Strategy at Lancaster University Management School. She served as director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (2002-2008), Director of Regional Affairs (2008-2016), Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies (2009-2012) and Associate Dean for Enterprise, Engagement and Impact (2012-2015). Her research interests are entrepreneurship and small business. Her work specifically focuses on family businesses and examines aspects of gender, narrative, and learning.

Engaging with the Category: Exploring Family Business Longevity from a Historical Perspective

Kajsa Haag, Leona Achtenhagen, and Julia Grimm

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Research Questions

- How can a business-history perspective improve our understanding of family business longevity?
- How can family businesses achieve longevity by interacting with their environment?
- How does a family business exercise agency to shape the market category they are a member of?
- How can a small family business develop over generations without giving up on their core values?



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Kajsa Haag is an assistant professor in business administration at Jönköping International Business School (JIBS), Sweden. She is involved in research, education, and societal engagement in the Centre for Family Entrepreneurship and Ownership (CeFEO) at JIBS. Her research interests include succession and strategic renewal of family firms, ownership dynamics, family enterprise foundations and the role of family firms for sustainable development.

Leona Achtenhagen is a professor in business administration focused on entrepreneurship and business development at Jönköping International Business School (JIBS). She is the Director of the Media, Management and Transformation Center (MMTC) and a member of the Centre for Family Entrepreneurship and Ownership (CeFEO) at JIBS. Her research interests include family business development as well as entrepreneurship in different types of contexts.

Julia Grimm is an assistant professor at Stockholm University, as well as a research affiliate at Jönköping International Business School and the Centre for Family Entrepreneurship and Ownership. Julia's research centers around questions of private governance and collective action among different stakeholder groups in the context of global supply chains, with a focus on framing and paradox theory, as well as organizational categories. Julia is a qualitative researcher and works primarily with longitudinal process data.

Talking About (My) Generation: The Use of Generation as Rhetorical History in Family Business

Christina Lubinski and William B. Gartner

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Research Questions

- How does a history-informed approach help explore the multiple uses of the term “generation” in family business?
- How do actors in family business strategically use “generation” to convey and legitimize their vision for the future?
- How do actors in family firms rhetorically structure the past by using “generation” and express their role in both the family and society?



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Christina Lubinski is professor of history at Copenhagen Business School and academic director of the Entrepreneurship, Ethics and Leadership unit at the Department of Business Humanities and Law. Her research focuses on global entrepreneurship, temporality, and family business governance in historical perspective. Since 2023, she is joint Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Business History*.

William B. Gartner is the Bertarelli Foundation Distinguished Professor of Family Entrepreneurship at Babson College and a visiting professor of entrepreneurship at Linnaeus University in Sweden. His family entrepreneurship scholarship focuses on business family legacies on subsequent entrepreneurial activities and the influence of parenting styles on entrepreneurial choice and persistence.

Building an Outward-Oriented Social Family Legacy: Rhetorical History in Family Business Foundations

Luca Manelli, Vittoria Magrelli, Josip Kotlar, Antonio Messeni Petruzzelli, and Federico Frattini

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Research Questions

- How do family firms transfer their inherited core values to external stakeholders?
- What is the role of family business foundations in nurturing the resonance of the family legacy beyond the boundaries of the family business?



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Luca Manelli is a postdoctoral fellow at the School of Management of Politecnico di Milano and received his PhD in Management Engineering from the same institution. His research interests are at the intersection of family business, entrepreneurship, and organization theory. In particular, he looks at how business families leverage intangible resources, such as history, identity, and purpose, to renew themselves across generations.

Vittoria Magrelli is an assistant professor at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (Faculty of Economics and Management), working at the Centre for Family Business Management. Her research interests currently focus on the interrelations among organizational temporality, aesthetics and legacy in the context of family-owned firms, family-owned foundations, and consulting firms. She received her PhD from Lancaster University.

Josip Kotlar is associate professor of strategy, innovation and family business at the School of Management of Politecnico di Milano (Italy). His research focuses on understanding how family owners shape the strategic goals, governance and resources of the firm to support the creation of sustainable competitive advantages across generations. He is currently an associate editor of *Family Business Review* and the president of the International Family Enterprise Research Academy (IFERA).

Antonio Messeni Petruzzelli is full professor of innovation management at the Politecnico di Bari. He is the author of more than 130 international publications and three international books on the topic of innovation management and technology strategy. Finally, his studies have been awarded the Nokia Siemens Network Award in Technology Management for Innovation into the Future and he has been recently included in the Clarivate list of highly cited researchers.

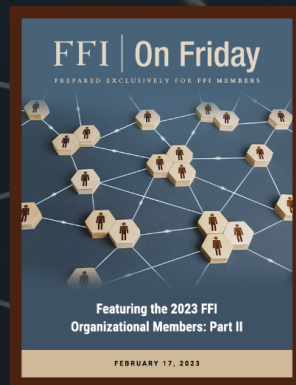
Federico Frattini is full professor of strategy and innovation at Politecnico di Milano and dean of POLIMI Graduate School of Management. His research area is strategic management of innovation and technology management and on these topics, he has written extensively and published in journals such as *Strategic Management Journal*, *Academy of Management Perspectives*, *Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice*, and *Journal of Product Innovation Management*.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN A NEWLY FORMING VIRTUAL STUDY GROUP

A new Virtual Study Group on Systems Thinking is being formed. The chair is Wanja Michuki, with co-chairs Jeff Scott and Bernadette Watowich-Stead. The VSG plans to meet monthly and hold open discussions on systems thinking and analysis concepts and their applications to the work of advisors and their self-awareness.

[APPLY TO JOIN THIS NEW VSG](#)

PREVIOUS EDITION



Today, we are pleased to continue our series featuring the FFI organizational members for 2023. These six members include distinguished organizations, associations, and educational institutions from around the world. Please read on to learn more about these organizations, which are increasing the global footprint of the field.

[READ MORE](#)



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FEB
27

First meeting of the Systems Thinking Virtual Study Group

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2

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MAR
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