Track: Entrepreneurial Behavior in Entrepreneurial Teams & Families, and Family Firms

Track Chairs:
Christian Hauser, University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons, Switzerland
Jan-Philipp Ahrens, University of Mannheim, Germany

Description of the track
This is a general track dedicated to exploring entrepreneurial persons, entrepreneurial teams, entrepreneurial families and family firms from a behavioral perspective. While integrating perspectives from psychology and sociology has a long history in business studies (see e.g., Hambrick & Crossland, 2018), it is still gaining momentum in the fields of entrepreneurship and family business. The endeavor to decipher entrepreneurial behavior to better understand how and why entrepreneurs decide, act and shape their firms has attracted considerable scholarly energies. Be it on the individual more psychological perspective, where entrepreneurship research for instance has dedicated attention to heuristics and cognitive biases and its role in the entrepreneurial process (Zhang & Cueto, 2017), or at the inter-individual and more social-psychological and sociological perspective, where entrepreneurship researchers studied how entrepreneurial behavior is shaped due to the presence of others, for instance the consequences of repeated human interactions, emergent social structures and social capital in entrepreneurial teams, entrepreneurial families or even intergenerational family firms (Arregle et al., 2007).

However, many sociological and psychological aspects of entrepreneurship and family businesses still remain to be researched. For instance, the continual focus of family firms on sustainability (Chua et al., 1999), both financially and non-financially, often leads to the emergence of a fragile social structure around them – consisting of a web of strong and weak relational ties – that often goes along with the development of shared values, vibrant firm cultures, and even behavior shaping identity (Long, 2011; Miller et al., 2011), which needs to be understood better in several dimensions. Emergent social structures may influence and alter entrepreneurial behavior at helm of the family firm and thereby affect family firm performance: the social individual, the individual in his group setting (Asch, 1952), remains largely unexplored (Ahrens, Calabrò, Huybrechts, & Woywode, 2019). Similarly, the field has found that part of the economic and non-economic relations often create a strong regionally and spatially anchored behavior, the consequence of the activities of entrepreneurs and family firms for regions, cities, provinces as well as the trajectories they create need to be better understood (Stough, Welter, Block, Wennberg, & Basco, 2015). Likewise, the central power position and discretion of the entrepreneur and of family firm owners often facilitates that his or her idiosyncratic perceptions, preferences and values shape the entrepreneurial organization far more, than for instance a CEOs could shape his or her organization in a classical corporation (Simon, 1947; Cyert & March, 1963).
We invite all empirical (quantitative and qualitative), conceptual, and methodological work that advances our understanding in the field of entrepreneurship and family firm research from a behavioral perspective. We hope that this track attracts scholars that have advanced this field over the last three decades as well as young scholars that wish to study and teach in this exciting field. We believe that methodological exchange from fields, such as business studies, economics, history, geography, politics, sociology, and psychology will help to foster scientific progress, the robustness, and credibility of results in this relatively young field of entrepreneurship and family business research. By sharing novel approaches, we see this track as opportunity to jointly develop further knowledge about the potential, benefits, and constraints of different methods to enable researchers to improve the design and execution of their research and to spread and share their practices within the community and beyond. Moreover, we especially invite young scholars to submit their work to this track. In case of questions if your topic might fit the track, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

The track has access to a special issue dedicated to the intersection of Entrepreneurship & Family Firms and Geography.

References


The deadline for submissions is 15 June, 2021. All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.

Submit your paper here

The registration for the IECER – Virtual Community Conversation Vol. II will be open from 01 July, 2021. Register here