

Call for Papers

IFERA Research Development Workshop

Chairs:

Nadine Kammerlander

(ifb@WHU, WHU–Otto Beisheim School of Management, Germany)

Kurt Matzler

(Free University of Bolzano, Italy)

Reinhard Prügl

(FIF, Zeppelin University, Germany)

Location:

Free University of Bolzano (Italy)

March 16-17, 2017

Balancing Tradition and Change: Theorizing on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Family Firm

IFERA Research Development Workshops (RDWs) are intended to provide an umbrella for gathering of scholars on a specific topic. RDWs are intended to complement IFERA's Annual Conferences.

TOPICAL FOCUS

Family firm innovation and entrepreneurial behavior over generations has attracted increasing scholarly attention over the last years, reflected in a growing number of journal articles and conference papers as well as special issues dedicated to this topic.

Constant renewal of the firm, and thus (corporate) entrepreneurship and innovation, is crucial for long term success of any firm in any industry. While innovation and management literature has revealed a large number of important enablers of and barriers to innovation, many of those findings are not directly transferrable to family businesses. Indeed, prior research has shown that family firms consistently underinvest into R&D and that they experience particular challenges when, for instance, faced with discontinuous innovations. At the same time, researchers have shown that some family firms are extraordinary innovators and highly entrepreneurial actors, with important competitive advantages.

Researchers have thus far applied a variety of theories such as behavioral agency model, attention based view, agency theory, and resource based view in order to explain variance in innovation and (corporate) entrepreneurship among family firms as well as differences between family and non-family firms. However, despite those advances, family firm innovation and entrepreneurship research is still in its infancy given that many aspects declared as important by innovation, entrepreneurship and management scholars have not been included into family firm research yet.

Research questions like the following (and related ones) still need attention:

- How do family dynamics influence innovation and entrepreneurial behavior of family firms?
- How can family firms foster an efficient innovation/entrepreneurial process?
- How do family firms deal with different types of innovation (product/service, process, business model, and management innovation)?
- How does the stage of the family and/or firm life cycle affect innovation and entrepreneurship in family firms?
- How can we "teach" innovation and (corporate) entrepreneurship to family firms?
- What can non-family firms learn from the idiosyncratic behavior of family firms regarding innovation and (corporate) entrepreneurship?
- How do family firms balance "tradition" and "innovation"?
- Why are some family firms able to maintain their innovation propensity and entrepreneurial behavior over generations while others are not?
- How do family firms balance exploration and exploitation?
- Which role does the family play in laying the grounds for innovation and (corporate) entrepreneurship over generations?
- Why and how does the founder imprint the organizational culture for entrepreneurial behavior over generations?
- Which theoretical and methodical lenses could help us to further understand the "tradition and innovation" paradox?

With this topic for the RDW, we target the in-depth discussion of original research papers focusing on different conceptual and empirical approaches to assessing the innovation behavior of family firms from various theoretical perspectives. Furthermore, we welcome multi-disciplinary approaches to further develop the research field. This RDW focuses not only on empirical findings on family firm innovation, entrepreneurial behavior, and theoretical reasons thereof, but also wants to give researchers the possibility to exchange new ideas and build academic alliances.

RDW Format

We target a number of 6-8 research papers as well as a series of poster presentations, in which the workshop topic is explicitly and clearly addressed. We warmly welcome co-authors as participants of this RDW, too! Further, we welcome requests from attendees in general, subject to the discretion of the workshop Chairs. The maximum number of Workshop participants is limited to 30 researchers from different disciplines.

Selected submissions will be presented by their authors as original studies or elaborated works in progress to the workshop group. After each presentation, two discussants, who have read the paper in advance, will give feedback. Finally, the respective papers are discussed in plenum by all workshop attendees. This workshop will allow for the in-depth discussion of the work of participants and promisingly leads to synergies with colleagues working in a closely related field of research.

Additionally, we are pleased to welcome workshop facilitators, who hold introduction speeches to the workshop topic and attend the paper sessions to give feedback, as well as German and Italian family business owners who will provide workshop participants interesting insights into the innovation and (corporate) entrepreneurship models of their companies.

Registration

1. The registration fee for the RDW is 300 EUR.
2. All registered attendees of the RDW will receive a discount of 100 EUR that can be applied towards the registration fee for the 2017 IFERA Annual Conference.
3. All submissions and registration will be routed through IFERA's online systems. Requests to attend this RDW without a paper submission should be made by submitting a brief 200 word abstract relative to the planned future research paper related to the workshop topic.
4. The submission website at <https://www.softconf.com/f/ifera2016> will be available for submissions starting November 1, 2016. The online submission deadline for abstracts is **November 25, 2016**. Acceptance notifications based on the abstracts will be communicated on **December 15, 2016** at latest. Authors who wish to submit full papers should send their full papers until **January 23, 2017**, midnight US EDT. This deadline is firm, that is, we will not be able to offer any extensions.
5. Types of submissions include: 1) full papers (30 pages maximum, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt) and 2) work-in-progress papers of at least 10 pages and 3) 200 word abstracts of planned future research papers.
6. Authors whose full papers are chosen for RDW presentation will be notified by **February 13, 2017**. Other authors whose abstracts received an acceptance notification in December may present their papers in an interactive poster session. The titles of all papers (presented in any format) will be listed in the program.
7. A session of 3 best papers from the workshop will be featured in the Annual Conference, and will also be eligible for Annual Conference Best Paper considerations by the relevant jury. Other papers will be assigned to full paper or discussion paper session, as appropriate. Authors might wish to revise their papers based on their gained knowledge at the RDW and before the paper submission deadline for the 2017 Conference.
8. Any questions should be addressed to nadine.kammerlander@whu.edu or reinhard.pruegl@zu.de

Conference location: Free University of Bolzano

Multilingualism and internationality are the main characteristics of the Free University of Bozen, Bolzano. The five faculties (Computer Science, Economics and Management, Education, Design and Art, Science and Technology) with a high number of lecturers (35%) and students (17%) from abroad deal with subjects connected to economics, the natural sciences, technology, computer science, design and the social and educational worlds. Teaching and research at the University are based on high quality standards and the faculties are part of international networks, i.e. the Euregio University with the universities of Trento and Innsbruck. This young and dynamic university at the crossroads between Italian and German culture and economy offers excellent conditions for studying and doing research in a multilingual region with an optimal student-lecturer ratio, especially high quality of living and lots of opportunities for sports and recreation.