Track: Support in small and family business environments

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Track Chairs:
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Description of the track

The track is positioned on the intersection of micro/small firm and family business research. Small firms are the backbone of the social and economic fabric and many small businesses are family businesses (Cruz, Hamilton & Jack, 2019). The majority of small sized enterprises (SMEs) are in fact micro-firms (Schaper et al., 2005). But such firms experience liabilities of smallness making them vulnerable to resource constraints (Hanna and Walsh, 2008). When small firms are young, they often benefit from family support (Cruz, Justo, & De Castro, 2012; Edelman, Manolova, Shirokova, & Tsukanova, 2016; O’Boyle, Pollack, & Rutherford, 2012; Powell & Eddleston, 2013). More specifically, the life-partner is the family member most commonly involved in the firm. In most cases, the influence of support provided by the entourage of the entrepreneur is often overlooked (Hamilton, 2006; Howorth, Rose, & Hamilton, 2010) and such closely available resources are examples of “invisible actors” (Cruz et al., 2019) in the small business context. While the body of knowledge about micro-firms in general and small family firms in particular is growing (e.g., Jaouen & Lasch, 2015), our understanding of the emergence and development of small business under family influence is still limited. It is therefore crucial to understand how small firm support, particularly support from the close entourage, the family or the life partner, influences the growth of young firms.

In this context, family and close friends are considered a “strong tie” type of social relations as opposed to “weak ties” referring to professional contacts and acquaintances. As such, family business involvement may hedge against the liability of newness and smallness of firms. However, the extent to which this is possible is based on the extent to which a synergy (as opposed to conflict) can be developed between the behavioral expectations associated with the family identity and the business identity. Firms that include family members or use their support occasionally, for example, may cause the emergence of a hybrid-identity.

The track “Support in small and family business environments” welcomes conceptual and empirical contributions on various levels of analysis (individual, firm, household, country/culture) that connect to the topic to advance our understanding of family involvement in the business and family support as an idiosyncratic resource in this type of firm.

Submissions may cover (but are not limited) the following key topics:
- Micro-firms, small firms, family firms
- Family and non-family support
- Support and firm age (new, first generation, vs. incumbent family firms)
- Life-partner support to the business
- Copreneurship
- Types of support and their effects on firm outcomes
- Antecedents, moderators, outcomes of family and non-family support
- Human and social capital dimensions of small/family business support

Please note: We encourage contributions to address one or more of the listed or related topics, using qualitative or quantitative analyses, developing theoretical frameworks that extend and develop our understanding of academic entrepreneurship and will deliver practical and policy implications. The track is open to research addressing other - but related - topics. We also welcome contributions from different scientific backgrounds: economics, psychology, sociology, etc.

For more information visit our homepage: icer-conference.org

References


The deadline for submissions is 15th June 2019.
All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.
Download the submission template here
Submit your paper here

The registration for the conference is open until 31st August 2019.
Register here