



IFERA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

3-6 JULY 2018

Zwolle, the Netherlands

Call for Papers

“Coping with Disruptions: Family Firm Continuity and Sustainability in Times of Rapid Change”

Program Co-Chairs:

Anita Van Gils and Ilse Matser, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences

Key Dates and Deadlines:

- All submissions due: **February 5, 2018**
- Notification of acceptance for conference submissions: March 19, 2018
- Application for doctoral/faculty consortia: March 26, 2018
- Notification of acceptance for consortia: March 30, 2018

Conference Theme:

Radical technological changes in family firms' business environment, as well as major social, economic and political changes throughout the world, demand more flexibility and adaptability from family firms. At the same time, the family system itself is altering significantly. Families become smaller, have fewer children and will include more elderly persons, potentially endangering the continuity of the family firm. It is thus increasingly important for family firms to develop strategies and structures needed to address radical change, both internally and externally.

The International Family Enterprise Research Academy, IFERA, invites papers that add knowledge to the selected conference theme “Coping with Disruptions: Family Firm Continuity and Sustainability in Times of Rapid Change”. In addition, we invite papers on all aspects of family business research, including but not limited to succession, leadership, governance, entrepreneurship, innovation, strategy, marketing, organizational behavior, sociology, family psychology, history, economics, finance and accounting, as well as topics that lie at the intersection of these and other interrelated disciplines. All theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome. As “engaged scholarship” is highly valued in the conference host

organization, researchers are encouraged to reflect, next to the theoretical contribution, on the practical implications of their studies.

Windesheim University of Applied Sciences (<https://www.windesheiminternational.nl>) located in Zwolle (just one hour by direct train from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport) is looking forward to warmly welcome you in July 2018!

Potential research questions following the conference theme:

- How do family owners and their management teams change their strategies and long-term (investment) behavior in times of disruptive change?
- How do family firms deal with the risks associated with disruptive technologies? Which (family) factors influence the eventual adjustment of the innovation portfolio in these family firms? How do family firms balance between more incremental versus more radically new innovation projects?
- How do entrepreneurial families deal with the current challenges regarding big data, knowledge acquisition, codification, and dissemination?
- How do incumbents and next-gen members deal with the challenges of digitalization?
- Which factors stimulate family firms to opt for more sustainability-oriented practices, and how can these innovations support the development of a more inclusive society?
- When and why do families take strategic decisions that stimulate growth options such as acquisitions and innovative spinoffs or startups to extend the business portfolio? Do these strategic changes influence the attitudes of next-generation family members regarding succession in the firm?
- How can human resource and corporate governance practices within family firm groups be initiated or transformed to enhance the necessary change processes?
- How does the capital structure of family firms change in high velocity environments?
- How can institutional partners, such as regional and national governments, research institutes, and universities support the strategic change process in entrepreneurial families?

Submission types:

IFERA 2018 welcomes a varied and wide range of submissions to create a vibrant conference environment among family business scholars. Submission types include:

- Full Paper (FP)
- Work in Progress (WIP)
- Research Dissemination (RD)
- *NEW 2018* Teaching Case Study (TCS)

For further information about submission guidelines, conference awards, journal special issues, etc., please visit: <http://ifera2018.ifera.org/>

The conference Program Co-Chairs and the IFERA team look forward to warmly welcome you in Zwolle in July 2018!

