

# CALL FOR PAPERS

## Journal of Family Business Management

SPECIAL ISSUE ON  
*“RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP IN FAMILY FIRMS:  
A FOCUS ON THE FAMILY”*

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Manuscript Submission Deadline: OCTOBER 1, 2019

The family’s involvement in firm governance is noted as a core driver that creates heterogeneity among family firms (Daspit, Chrisman, Sharma, Pearson, & Mahto, 2018). This form of governance allows the family to exert decision-making influence and control in the firm, while also pursuing actions that are for the good of the family (Carney, 2005). Although this governance form allows the family to exert control over the firm, the goals of the family and firm are not always aligned, and, in fact, can be quite divergent. Thus, for both the business and the family to succeed, responsible decision-making and responsible actions are paramount.

Responsible ownership is defined as the “active and long-term commitment to the family, the business, and the community, and [the ability to balance] these commitments with each other” (Lambrecht & Uhlaner, 2005). A responsible owner engages in behavior that serves the collective good of both the owners and the firm (Uhlaner, Flören, & Geerlings, 2007). When the family is in a governance role, responsible family ownership manifests when the family, as a group, is committed to balancing the rights and privileges of ownership with a long-term commitment to family and other (nonfamily) stakeholders of the firm (Aragón-Amonarriz, Arredondo, & Iturrioz-Landart, 2017).

Although studies are beginning to examine the effect of responsible ownership on family firm assets and outcomes (e.g., Berent-Braun & Uhlaner, 2012), even less is known about how family firms develop and sustain responsible ownership across generations. For example, Aragón-Amonarriz et al. (2017) suggest that family social capital preserves responsible family ownership across generations, yet Bergamaschi and Randerson (2016) note that differing types of family firms yield varied preferences for engaging in socially responsible actions. Further, while researchers are beginning to examine the various pathways used by families to instill responsible ownership in the future generation, these processes, intentions, and norms vary greatly across geographical and cultural contexts (e.g., González Couture & Díaz Matajira, 2015).

In all, given the nascent nature of insights and the growing importance of responsible governance, a special issue on responsible ownership promises to offer a substantial advancement to the field of family business. The objective of this special issue is to publish theoretical and empirical work that highlights notable progress and furthers understanding of responsible ownership in the family firm. A non-exhaustive list of possible topics includes:

- How do family members become responsible owners? How do family firms strategically prepare current and next generation owners?
- What is the role played by family values and/or different types of reciprocity in developing responsible ownership that is sustainable in the family firm?

- What theories from family science offer advanced understanding of how responsible family ownership is developed and leveraged in the family firm?
- What are the effects of cultural, economic, institutional, and other contextual influences on responsible ownership and the family?
- How do family owners balance the responsibility of serving multiple stakeholders with often divergent interests?
- How does responsible family ownership (simultaneously) affect family and firm financial, nonfinancial internal, and nonfinancial external outcomes?

**Submission Guidelines:** All submissions are subject to a standard double-blind review process. Manuscripts must be original, unpublished works not concurrently under review for publication at another outlet and are expected to follow the standard formatting guidelines for *Journal of Family Business Management*. Final manuscripts are to be submitted via the journal's submission system (<https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jfbm>) no later than **October 1, 2019**. Authors should indicate "Special Issue" as the manuscript type and must clearly specify that the submission is for the special issue on "Responsible Ownership in Family Firms" in the cover letter. Publication of this Special Issue is expected for 2021.

**Workshop:** Authors interested in further developing an idea for this special issue are encouraged (but not required) to submit an abstract to the European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management (EIASM) meeting that will be held at Audencia Business School in Nantes, France, May 23-25, 2019. The deadline for submitting conference abstracts is **January 21, 2019**. All conference submissions are to be made via the EIASM submission system ([http://www.eiasm.org/frontoffice/event\\_announcement.asp?event\\_id=1381](http://www.eiasm.org/frontoffice/event_announcement.asp?event_id=1381)). Please note that acceptance to the workshop does not guarantee nor is it required for acceptance to the special issue.

#### References

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- Lambrecht, J. & Uhlaner, L.M. (2005). Responsible ownership of the family business: State-of-the-art, position paper prepared for FBN-IFERA World Academic Research forum, EHSAL, Brussels, September. This document is available at either of the following links:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228379201\\_RESPONSIBLE\\_OWNERSHIP\\_OF\\_THE\\_FAMILY\\_BUSINESS\\_STATE-OF-THE-ART](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228379201_RESPONSIBLE_OWNERSHIP_OF_THE_FAMILY_BUSINESS_STATE-OF-THE-ART)  
[http://www.academia.edu/1351163/Responsible\\_Ownership\\_of\\_the\\_Family\\_Business\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_Art](http://www.academia.edu/1351163/Responsible_Ownership_of_the_Family_Business_State_of_the_Art)
- Uhlaner, L.M., Flören, R. & Geerlings, J.R. (2007). Ownership commitment, family ownership and performance in the privately-held firm, *Small Business Economics Journal*, 29(3), 275-293.