



Call for Papers for a Special Issue

STRATEGIC ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN FAMILY BUSINESS

Submission September 1, 2010

Guest Editors:

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Background and Special Issue Purpose

Family is manifest in both the creation and organization of most of the world's firms. However, until very recently, organizational scholars have mostly ignored this unique form of organization. There remain many opportunities to explore linkages between family, family firms and strategic entrepreneurship at micro, meso, and macro levels of analysis. For example, at the micro level existing entrepreneurship research has often focused on individual action while ignoring the important role of family in the venture creation process. At the meso level, family still powerfully influences the strategic orientation of firms—with as many as a third of the *Fortune 500* companies being family influenced. At the macro level, family firms—and the degree to which they are entrepreneurial—directly affect the wealth and poverty of nations.

Despite the importance of firms owned or controlled by families as a force for wealth creation and economic strength, few researchers have investigated the role of strategic entrepreneurship in family business. Generally speaking, entrepreneurship scholars have tended to underestimate the contribution of family systems to entrepreneurial success, and many existing family business scholars have focused on wealth preservation rather than wealth creating activities such as opportunity recognition, innovation, strategy and growth. Research is needed on the role of family in nurturing entrepreneurial ventures as well as on the importance of strategic entrepreneurship in maintaining the strength and viability of established and trans-generational family firms. These issues affect entrepreneurship and family businesses in every country. However, public policies aimed at supporting entrepreneurship tend to vary widely, often limiting free enterprise in ways that constrain economic growth or emphasizing the creation of new ventures rather than the growth and strategic rejuvenation of existing ventures.

This special research issue is devoted to understanding the role of strategic entrepreneurship in varied familial contexts. The special issue is intended to generate papers that offer new theoretical perspectives and empirical insights as well as consider in depth the issues, problems, contexts, or processes associated with strategic entrepreneurship in familial contexts. We welcome a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches to these issues. A suggestive but not exhaustive list of relevant topics includes:

- Implications of founding conditions unique to family firms
- The contribution of family systems and/or households to the venture creation process
- The allocation of family-based resources to entrepreneurial endeavors

- Maintaining the entrepreneurial spirit of the founding generation
- Entrepreneurial characteristics, practices, and strategies across generations of a family firm
- Outcomes (strategic, financial) attributable to differences between more and less entrepreneurial family firms
- Governance of family firms and strategic change following succession
- The role of family in corporate entrepreneurship
- Family businesses' role in contributing to or impeding innovation
- Perspectives on risk taking by family-controlled businesses
- Resource "bundling" and strategic configurations in family firms
- Transforming enterprises strategically as they grow, professionalize and introduce external capital and non-family managers
- Managing the tensions between maintaining family control versus the need to exit to maintain entrepreneurial strength, survival and success
- Familial capitalism and entrepreneurship in differing institutional contexts
- Strategic entrepreneurship in international contexts: the role of family businesses, family business groups and extended kin ties.

Deadlines, Submission and Review Process:

The deadline for submission is September, 1, 2010. Please indicate that the manuscript is for consideration in the family business special issue when submitting your manuscript online.

Contributors should follow the directions contained in the *SEJ* manuscript submission guidelines: http://sej.strategicmanagement.net/submission_guidelines.php

All papers will be reviewed according to the standard policies of the *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal*. Authors whose papers receive a revise and re-submit will be invited to a special developmental workshop in January, 2011. It is anticipated that the special issue will be published in December 2011.

Further Information:

For questions regarding the content of this special issue, please contact the guest editors:

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- Tom Lumpkin, Syracuse University, lumpkin@syr.edu
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- For questions about submitting to the special issue contact the *SEJ* managing editor: Lois Gast, lgast@wiley.com

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