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Author(s): Leppäaho, Tanja

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Book Review

Kathleen Randerson, Cristina Bettinelli, Giovanna Dossena and Alain Fayolle (eds.), *Family Entrepreneurship: Rethinking the research agenda* (Routledge Rethinking Entrepreneurship Research), New York: Routledge, 2016: 306 pp, ISBN: 9781138841192.

Reviewed by: Tanja Leppäaho, University of Jyväskylä, School of Business and Economics, Finland.

Family Entrepreneurship: Rethinking the research agenda, the new book edited by Kathleen Randerson, Cristina Bettinelli, Giovanna Dossena and Alain Fayolle is the second out of four in the Routledge *Rethinking Entrepreneurship Research* series. Family entrepreneurship lies in the interface of entrepreneurship, family science, and family business. This book takes a significant step towards the legitimisation of family entrepreneurship as a research field by compiling leading edge thoughts on these three research fields. It reflects the work of distinguished scholars from various national contexts concentrating on family entrepreneurship research. The introduction of the book discusses in-depth how the research field of family entrepreneurship will benefit from deepening our understanding of (i) family, (ii) family business, and (iii) entrepreneurship dimensions. The editors state that the role of and the consequences of family have been relatively unstudied, and this book aims at going beyond the typical firm level analysis to integrate also individual and family theories, levels of analysis and perspectives.

The introduction is followed by three parts, each discussing the interface of two of the above-mentioned views of family entrepreneurship. Part I related to the intersection of family business and entrepreneurship views compiles four chapters plus the conclusion. In chapter 1, Sarasvathy et al. demonstrate how the effectual framework might be useful to understand the entrepreneurial behavior of family firms. Chapter 2 introduces the seven circumstances of corporate family entrepreneurship, whereas chapter 3 presents a view of social family entrepreneurship upon which the others can build. Chapter 4 provides with a conceptual model of internal corporate venturing, concentrating specifically on how internal corporate venturing could be positively fostered in the context of the entry of the new generations. The concluding chapter of Part I also raises further points, such as the dynamics in between family and nonfamily shareholders, deserving more attention in the intersection of family business and entrepreneurship. Although this is the most studied intersection in family entrepreneurship, this part truly offers robust foundations and insights for future research.

Part II related to the intersection of family business and family is based on four chapters. Chapter 5 discusses the process of identity construction in the family business, Chapter 6 focusing on keeping financial rewards in family firms. Bauweraerts and Colot discuss if socio-emotional model explains the entrepreneurial behavior of family firms, Renoldi ending the part with a research note on entrepreneurial family firms. Further robust conclusions within this part are two points requiring more attention: the need to conceptualize family and the need to study differences in between common and civil law in relation to the rights and responsibilities of family members. What most attracted my interest was the concept of identity leading to a more individual view of family entrepreneurship: I became assured that emphasizing how inter-subjectivity and relational interaction through discourse and the application of a strong process view (how things come into being) instead of states (things as they are) can provide truly novel insights into understanding family entrepreneurship.

Part III tackling the interface of entrepreneurship and family discusses how family influences entrepreneurship during different times, such as pre start-up or growth, on family business group level and in its context (network). It compiles five individual chapters. Danes starts the part with an insightful discussion on new venture creation in the family context, concluding that couplehood is an essential ingredient to combat the liability of newness in new venture creation. The chapter by Dodd, Anderson and Jack tackles the role of networking in the growth process of entrepreneurial family firms, giving insightful findings on family firms networking differently from non-family firms for growth, and providing with robust horizons for future researchers to tackle context and network theory. Chapter 11 concentrates on the impact of domestic drivers and barriers on the entrepreneurial start up decision, concluding that household and family issues played a role in it especially for female entrepreneurs. Chapter 12 makes a synthesis of arguments for habitual entrepreneurship and the socio-emotional wealth among dynastic family enterprises. The part ends with a different and novel view: discussion on typology of interactions and data content in qualitative family case study research, giving detailed conclusions how the specificity of family businesses could and should be taken into consideration already in the phase of data collection.

As a scholar of family entrepreneurship, I can see a true need for this book and the views present in it. The magnitude of views usually being hard to grasp as a whole, the division taken in this book with three parts under each intersection made the structure of the book clear and the presence of each chapter well justified. This division is a clear and succesful choice from the editors and gives each reader the opportunity to easily select the most relevant areas of interest. The insightful concluding sections written by Massona after each still improved the reading experience. It was a further evidence of the careful work by the editors, although their final conclusions remained rather vague. Indeed, although the views present in each part were very different, like typically in a collection of chapters by various authors, the multitude of views was an advantage, being that but the aim of this book was to offer rigid but fruitful new horizons for future research. Naturally, many perspectives, such as culture, succession, decline, and enrepreneurial internationalization to name a few, remained absent, but they might be taken up in a new volume. I also would have hoped for a clearer presence of family science – theories from that side could still significantly enrich our understanding of family entrepreneurship.

One of the most interesting insights to come from this book is the new analytical levels introduced, especially the ones related to family, individuals and context. Altogether, there is no doubt this book takes a significant step towards a more comprehensive research on family entrepreneurship and gives foundations for several insightful research settings on family entrepreneurship. I highly recommend this book to academics, but do not as such regard it as highly suitable for practitioners or policy makers, being that it mainly consists of reviews and future research agendas. The book is highly useful for both PhD students and scholars longer ahead in the career if they are planning to study family firms from a more entrepreneurial perspective. This book helps in many scenarios: when a scholar of family business wants to renew studies via a more entrepreneurial and/or individual lens or when a scholar of entrepreneurship is interested in tackling the role of family in the process or when a scholar from family science is ready to jump to the entrepreneurship and family business side.