

Thriving in challenging times: how family businesses navigate crisis, complexity, and uncertainty

The Family Business Research Foundation is collaborating with Lancaster University Management School's Centre for Family Business and the Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business to host the UK Family Business Research Conference 2024.

The event will be held at Lancaster University Management School and will focus on the following themes: a) how family businesses navigate crisis, complexity and uncertainty; b) how they respond to social, economic, environmental and technological change.

Location: Lancaster University Management School

Date and Time: Monday 20th May, 10.00am-16.45 pm UK Time (9.30 open for registration/coffee)

Co-chaired by: Dr Allan Discua-Cruz and Prof. Ajay Bhalla

Purpose of event:

- To bring family business researchers, practitioners, and decision makers together for a multi-disciplinary conversation about the direction of travel for family business research.
- To provide an opportunity for researchers to discuss their research priorities, share ideas and consult with practitioners, family businesses and decision-makers on the evidence they need.
- To explore how research can help to address issues and challenges that can arise in family businesses.
- To update and share learning from the work of the Family Business Research Foundation, the Centre for Family Business and Pentland Centre for Sustainability.

The event will cover the following topics:

- How family firms experience crisis and respond to rapid social, economic, environmental, and technological change in the UK.
- How are family businesses adapting to diverse pressures – for example, social and demographic change, changes in health and well-being of the

UK population, environmental challenges, changes in the UK labour market and work patterns, financial crises.

- The impact of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues on family firms.
- How family businesses thrive in challenging times – through resilience, agility, adaptability, and taking the long view.

Programme

9.30	Registration and coffee – Hub area, Lancaster University Management School (LUMS)
10.00-10.05	Welcome and introduction. Prof. Maria Piacentini, Associate Dean for Research, LUMS
10.05-10.10	Overview of the Centre for Family Business at LUMS Dr. Allan Discua Cruz, Director, Centre for Family Business, LUMS
10.10-10.30	Update from the Family Business Research Foundation and current challenges facing family firms in the UK Sir Michael Bibby, Chairman, Family Business Research Foundation
10.30-10.55	Session 1 Shaping a moral backbone Prof. Nicholas Burton, Director, Centre for Responsible Business, Northumbria University
10.55-11.10	Session 2 Family business research – a tipping point Prof. emeritus Carole Howorth, York University, and Dr Allan Discua Cruz, Centre for Family Business, LUMS
11.10-11.30	Session 3 (online) The entrepreneurial family galaxy and some crucial challenges for family business prosperity across generations Prof. Alfredo De Massis, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Business, Free University of Bolzano, IMD Business School and Lancaster University
11.30-12.00	Session 4 Generational expectations - we've always done it this way: a practitioner's view Sue Howorth and Dave Clarkson, Co-Founders of The Family Business Community
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch and networking. Breakout Area Lecture Theatres 3 and 2
13.00 - 13.05	Introduction to afternoon session Professor Ajay Bhalla, Bayes Business School, and Trustee, Family Business Research Foundation
13.05 - 13.45	Session 5 Panel discussion - What helps family businesses thrive and survive in difficult times? What are the benefits of longevity and future-generations thinking? Chair –Prof. Mat Hughes, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Leicester Panel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Hall, Owner of Butler Farmhouse Cheeses Ltd • Prof. Jan Bebbington, Director, Pentland Centre for Sustainability in Business • Mike Roberts, Deputy Chairman, Frank Roberts & Sons Ltd
13.50 -14.10	Session 6 (online) A business family's response to Covid

	Prof. Jess H. Chua, Distinguished Professor of Family Business, Lancaster University Management School
14.10 - 14.35	Session 7 Is the resource-based view really a suitable theory for family business research? Thoughts and reflections from the synthesis of theory and practice Prof. Dr. Stefan Maerk, Head of Degree Programme SME-Management & Entrepreneurship, FH Salzburg, and Prof. Dr. Mario Situm, Director of Studies Bachelor Business Management, FH Kufstein Tirol Bildungs GmbH & FH Kufstein Tirol International Business School GmbH
14.35 - 14.55	Coffee and networking
14.55 - 15.35	Session 8 Panel discussion - ESG in family firms. How does ESG relate to firm purpose and values? How do family firms build ESG into their strategies and operations? What are the practical challenges? Chair - Prof. Mark Shackleton, Professor of Finance, LUMS and Pentland Centre for Sustainable Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwin Booth CBE DL, Executive Chairman E.H. Booth & Co Ltd • Alexander Hayward, Executive Fellow, Institute of Entrepreneurship and Private Capital, London Business School • 3rd panellist TBC
15.35-16.05	Session 9 ESG in family firms: a review of research and practice. Prof. Mat Hughes, Professor of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Leicester
16.05-16.25	Session 10 Navigating non-family CEO succession Dr Manish Singh, Cranfield Management School, Launch of new FBRF Challenges Guide.
16.25-16.35	Closure Professor Ajay Bhalla, Bayes Business School, and Trustee, Family Business Research Foundation.

Practicalities:

The event will take place in person at Lancaster University's campus and will be simultaneously livestreamed via MS TEAMS. Registration and attendance at the Conference is free and is sponsored by LUMS and the Family Business Research Foundation.

Key contacts:

Dr Martin Kemp, Head of Research, Family Business Research Foundation.

Email: martin.kemp@fbrf.org.uk

Dr Allan Discua Cruz, Director, Centre for Family Business, LUMS.

Email: a.discuacruz@lancaster.ac.uk