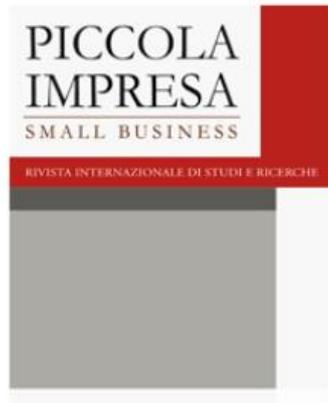


Piccola Impresa/Small Business

Call for papers – “Crises and resilience in family firms”



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Family firms are a particular organizational archetype due to their unique characteristics, such as the link between the family and the business, their social capital (Pearson et al., 2008; Sanchez-Ruiz et al., 2019), their brand (Astrachan et al., 2018; Casprini et al., 2020), the idiosyncratic relationships emerging across, but also within, generations and the family-non family members (Cabrera-Suárez et al., 2001). Additionally, due to their longevity (Zanni et al., 2010) and their family-centered non-economic goals (Beech et al., 2020; Campopiano et al., 2018), family firms are an interesting actor to study with respect to crises. Indeed, in comparison with other organizational archetypes, family firms are simultaneously subject to both business-related and family-related challenges (Baron and Francois, 2020; Kraus et al. 2020). This has been clear with the recent pandemic of Covid-19 that has shed light on how organizations can survive unexpected events.

Indeed, scholars attention has been increasingly drawn to understand characteristics that make organizations resilient and able to overcome difficulties (Hamel and Välikangas, 2003; Linnenluecke, 2017) caused by external non-family related events, such as natural disasters, terrorist attacks, volatile markets, new disruptive technologies and, more recently, Covid-19 (De Massis and Rondi, 2020).

While this topic has been addressed by family business scholars (Chrisman et al., 2011), more recently it has gathered momentum and been the focus of attention for scholars such as Conz and Magnani (2020) and Hillmann (2020), who have mainly researched the set of resources and capabilities needed (Akgün and Keskin, 2014; Amann and Jaussaud, 2012; Danes et al., 2009; Mzid et al., 2019) and the strategies practiced (Acquaah et al., 2011; Chrisman et al., 2011) by family firms in order to be resilient, while little is known about how the heterogeneity of family business characteristics lead them to develop and nurture resilience.

With the intention to open and extend the debate on the resilience of family firms, by considering the Covid-19 pandemic as one of the critical events that boosted and tested the capacity for resilience of family businesses, we propose how family businesses manage crises events as key

focus of this Special Issue. While the majority of studies consider resilience as a static attribute of organisations, e.g. resilience is an attribute firms possess before an event occurs, we are particularly, even if not exclusively, open to papers which adopt dynamic perspective on the resilience of family firms, i.e. resilience is a dynamic attribute of the firm that is built over time, characterized by a) a proactive phase at time $(t-1)$; an absorptive or adaptive phase at time t , and b) a reactive phase at time $(t+1)$, where t is the time when an unexpected event occurs and alters the equilibrium of the firm (Conz and Magnani, 2020).

Conceptual as well as qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods empirical contributions are welcome for this Special Issue. For example, we look to expand our understanding on resilience by employing qualitative approaches as observations, phenomenography, narrative analysis of conversations, single case study analysis, multi-case analysis, in order to build theories on family business phenomena that are “grounded in and connected with the experiences and everyday-life reality of those who live in that world” (Murphy et al., 2019: 420).

Given the interdisciplinary nature of resilience, we invite research from several disciplines such as innovation studies, strategy, international business, among others, to develop interdisciplinary studies that can extend our limited understanding of family firms resilience.

Contributions may address, but not limited to, the following research questions:

- How did family firms manage the Covid-19 pandemic crisis?
- How did they provide a resilient response to crisis?
- What resources and capabilities did family firms exploit to manage the crisis?
- Which role did the *familiness* play in fostering resilience?
- How are Family Centered Non-Economic Goals related to the building and exploiting of the resilience of family firms in managing a crisis?
- How do family firms leverage on slack resources to absorb and adapt to external shocks?
- How do family firms manage inter-organizational networks to overcome crises?
- What is the role of open innovation processes in helping family firms to face crises?
- Which are the “dark sides” of family businesses that lead to “not being resilient”?
- How does the interplay among generations help in overcoming difficulties?
- What is the influence of the cultural environment on family firms in managing crises?
- Are small family firms more flexible and agile, consequently more prone to provide a resilient response to crisis compared to medium and large family firms?
- Does socio emotional wealth foster resilience?
- Long lasting family firms are more resilient than younger ones?
- How does firm resilience develop over time?

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Timeline and submission information

“Crises and resilience in family firms”

- Submission of full papers: **1st September 2021**
- Notification of acceptance/rejection/revision: **15th December 2021**
- Deadline to submit revised version: **15th March 2022**
- Notification of final acceptance/rejection: **15th May 2022**

All articles will be subject to the standard double-blind review process. The Special Issue is scheduled to be published in the **second half of 2022**.

Full papers should be submitted through the online platform <http://rivistapiccolaimpresa.uniurb.it/> .

The platform can be browsed also in English by using the button “selection language” on the top right side of the home page. Authors will be first requested to fill in the section “Registrazione/registration”; then, they will need to click on “Nuova Proposta/New proposal” in the section “Cruscotto/Dashboard” to upload the files related to their submission. All the papers need to strictly adhere to the specific guidelines of the journal that can be found at this link: <http://rivistapiccolaimpresa.uniurb.it/index.php/piccola/about/submissions#authorGuidelines>. The guidelines can be also browsed in English by using the button “selection language” on the top right side of the webpage.

About the journal

Piccola Impresa/ Small Business Journal aims to contribute to the study and diffusion of knowledge on small-sized entrepreneurial firms. It is an academic journal with international vocation, dedicated specifically to the investigation and theoretical reflection on the administration and management of small businesses, their role in the economy, as well as the policies and regulations they face.