Centre for Family Business

RIGOROUS ACADEMIC RESEARCH
RESEARCH-LED ENGAGEMENT IN BUSINESS EDUCATION AND PRACTICE
INSPIRING AND SUPPORTING BETTER MANAGEMENT OF FAMILY FIRMS
The Centre for Family Business is an internationally-recognised, research-led unit at Lancaster University Management School. Through our research, teaching and engagement we aim to help put family business at the forefront of management thinking.

Family businesses are the most prevalent form of business organisation globally.

In the United Kingdom, families hold a majority ownership position in 81% of unquoted companies, and 71% of small and medium enterprises are explicitly identified by the CEO as a ‘family business’.

The Centre boasts:

- Leading and world-renowned researchers in family business studies
- A track record of influential family business publications in top ranked journals
- Editorship of top tier international journal special issues, books, handbooks and guidance articles
- Strong links with local and international family business practitioners, advisors and researchers
The Centre for Family Business is a research hub for faculty and PhD students studying family businesses from a wide range of perspectives.

Our vision

We inspire and support better management of family firms through our international, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research on the distinctive organisational goals, processes and outcomes engendered by family influence on businesses.

Our mission

To achieve excellence in interdisciplinary research that:

- Contributes new and meaningful knowledge to the theory of family business
- Produces impactful implications for the business practice of small-to-medium size family firms

To lead a community of scholars and family businesses in developing the global resources for catalyzing the international exchange of ideas.

In essence, to be at the forefront of family business research and thinking.
Our research team is very international, with our researchers coming from five different continents, but shares a problem-driven, interdisciplinary, multi-method approach that has led to significant impact on theory and practice. The Director of the Centre is Professor Alfredo De Massis.

Additionally the Centre draws on the experience and knowledge of the scholars and academics from a Research Advisory Board to guide its future research directions and on that of successful family entrepreneurs and family business owners from a Business Advisory Panel to understand the actual needs of families in business. Both the Research Advisory Board and the Business Advisory Panel play a critical role in bridging academic theory and practice.

Our people

Professor Alfredo De Massis  
PhD, MSc (Hons)  
Director of the Centre for Family Business

Professor Jess Chua  
Professor of Family Business  
Chairman of the Research Advisory Board

Dr Allan Discua Cruz  
PhD, PgDip, MMM, MBA, BSc Lecturer in Entrepreneurship

Jacqui Jackson  
MA, Cert Ed  
Head of Family Business Engagement

Ambra Mazzelli  
MSc, BSc  
PhD Student

Lynn Idriss Bechara  
BA Psych.,TD Spec.Ed.,MBA  
PhD Student

Professor Ellie Hamilton  
PhD, MA, BA (Hons)  
Dip M Dip MRS, FRSA  
Associate Dean for Enterprise Engagement and Impact

Dr Josip Kotlar  
PhD, MSc, BSc  
Lecturer in Family Business

Dr Edward McKeever  
PhD, BA  
Management and Business Development Fellow

Peranita Feranita  
MRes, MBA, B.Econ & Bus  
PhD Student

Emanuela Rondi  
MSc, BSc  
PhD Student
Research Advisory Board

Professor James Chrisman
Mississippi State University
USA

Professor Frank Hoy
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, USA

Professor Carole Howarth
Bradford University School of Management
UK

Professor Sara Carter
University of Strathclyde Business School, UK

Professor Mike Wright
Imperial College Business School
UK

Professor Mattias Nordqvist
Jonkoping International Business School, Sweden

Business Advisory Panel

Andrew Beale
Managing Director
Beales Hotels

Edwin Booth
Chairman
Booths Supermarkets Ltd

Chris Cox
Managing Director
George Cox Ltd

Mark Evans
Managing Director
Coutts Institute

Gill Hall
Owner
Butlers Farmhouse Cheeses

Andy Rubin
Chairman Pentland Brands Plc

Joe Horak
Director
Family Owned Business Institute, Seidman College of Business, USA

Robert Roth
President/CEO
RoMan Manufacturing

Daniel Mclaughlin
Enterprise Strategy Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Alison Park
Owner
Low Sizergh Barn Ltd

Mike Roberts
Owner
Frank Roberts & Sons Ltd

Michael O’Hara
Founder and Managing Director of MGF Group of Companies
We seek to help improve family business management through our collaborative and multi-disciplinary research and teaching.

So we welcome the opportunity to incorporate your experiences with family businesses into our research and teaching through case studies and guest lectures.

**Education and Business Development Programmes**

We develop and teach family business and entrepreneurship courses at a variety of levels both at Lancaster University Management School and in partner institutions.

We offer:

- Undergraduate modules in Family Business
- Postgraduate modules in Family Enterprise Management
- Executive education for Family Business leaders
- International student exchange programmes

**Research Expertise**

- Innovation and growth strategies in family business
- Family business organisational goals and goal setting process
- Intrafamily succession and leadership development
- Family entrepreneurship and intergenerational learning
- Dynamics of family entrepreneurial teams
- Corporate social responsibility and corporate social reporting in family business
We are actively involved with leadership roles in the Global STEP Project for Family Enterprising founded by Babson College (USA).

Engaging over 200 scholars from 41 leading universities, this global applied research initiative explores the entrepreneurial processes within business families and generates solutions that have immediate application for family leaders.

We edit and guest-edit leading Family Business journals and special issues such as:
- Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice
- California Management Review

We are actively involved with leading research and engagement networks in family business such as:

Lancaster’s Centre for Family Business has collaborative links with family business practitioners, advisors, and academic communities both locally and internationally.
Lancaster University Management School (LUMS) is a triple-accredited, world-ranked management school, consistently among the UK’s top ten.

LUMS is among the few leading business schools to combine excellence in research with a student-centred campus and a full spectrum of undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD and executive programmes.

The Centre for Family Business is still growing. We have great ambition and need help to reach the full potential. With your help, we can advance our research and support for family businesses – to achieve more and sooner for the benefit of all family businesses and those who depend on them.

Philanthropy comes in many forms - money, time, expertise and gifts in kind. By getting involved, you can make a difference to family businesses now and in the future.

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