



Women & Family (Businesses) across Entrepreneurial Contexts

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Call for Chapters

Chapter contributions are now invited from scholars studying women’s entrepreneurship for a new book, *Women and Family (Businesses) across Entrepreneurial Contexts*, to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing Inc. in 2022.

The Diana International Project¹ is committed to advancing knowledge about the status of women’s entrepreneurship around the world. This is the 12th book associated with the Diana International Project and will build on the success of the first book - Brush, C., Carter, N.M., Gatewood, E.J., Greene, P.G. and Hart, M. (eds.) (2006) *Growth-oriented Women Entrepreneurs and their Businesses: A Global Research Perspective*, and all others published since then.

The objective of this new volume is to foster a provocative discussion on the different roles Family (Businesses) have on women’s entrepreneurship.

Family firms are the main organizational form of the great majority of ventures worldwide. The term “family firm” can often cover a variety of features depending on contexts (Welter, 2011) and cultures (Hofstede, 2001). In fact, there is a great heterogeneity among family firms due to different degrees of family involvement in ownership and management, organizational size (ranging from small ventures to global ones), industries, and geographical scope. In this mosaic and wide disparity of ventures, and since the call from Nelson (1998), the role of women in the context of family businesses has been more or less well studied (Martinez Jimenez, 2009).

Moreover, most studies to minimize the role of women within these types of businesses who would be present but contribute “in the shadow” to the growth and sustainability of the firm (Haberman & Danes, 2007). Even though some studies reveal that women should be officially more present into the boards of directors starting the second or third generation of family owners (Sonfield & Lussier, 2004), even others precise that only 23% of succession of family firms (in developed countries)

¹ The Diana Project was launched in 1999 by Professors Brush, Carter, Gatewood, Greene and Hart to study the phenomenon of women’s entrepreneurship in the United States. The Diana Project team, in partnership with ES BRI (Entrepreneurship and Small Business Research Institute, Sweden), inaugurated the Diana International Project (DIP) in 2003. DIP currently involves researchers from 16 countries worldwide and aims to provide a platform from which to develop, conduct and share a global research agenda dedicated to answering questions about women entrepreneurs and growth oriented businesses. A history of the Diana Project is included in a recent publication, by Candida Brush, Patricia Greene & Friederike Welter (2020).

involve women (Ahrens et al., 2015), few research or, at least, few studies, are really able to capture what women are doing in practice, what is their exact role within the company.

At the same time, women entrepreneurs running ventures and managing their families have become a global phenomenon (Elam, Brush, Greene, Baumer, Dean & Heavlow, 2019). But, women face different challenges than their male counterparts, as they are the primary caregivers for children and their families (Shelton, 2006). This can cause work-family conflict including job-spouse conflict, job-homemaker conflict and job parent-conflict, which can be even more challenging as women entrepreneurs grow their businesses (Kim & Ling, 2001, Nikina et al., 2015).

The ways in which women entrepreneurs manage work and family is to date understudied even if they are increasingly starting businesses with their spouse or family members, a phenomenon referred to as “copreneurs”. This could ultimately be considered a preliminary phase towards the constitution of a “family businesses”, where business ownership and operations are shared by dual-career couples (Marshack, 1994). Yet the ways in which these businesses are structured, operated, and perform is not well understood.

Besides the impact of the family per se on women entrepreneurs, one other aspect that has been understudied: the place of women within family businesses. Thus, most studies tend to minimize the role of women within these types of businesses who instead contribute “in the shadow” to the growth and sustainability of those firms (Haberman & Danes, 2007). Some studies suggest that only 23% of succession of family firms (in developed countries) involve women (Ahrens et al., 2015) and that women should be officially more present into the boards of directors especially in second or third generation family firms (Sonfield & Lussier, 2004). The actual gap is that only few studies have been really able to capture what women are doing in practice within family firms and what their exact role is. In fact, women within their family firms might be indeed exposed to several challenges especially when it comes to take the decision on who will be the next leader and the female successor is considering or willing to take over (Calabrò, Minichilli, Amore, & Brogi, 2018). The familial, social, cultural, and institutional dynamics which take place often lead those ‘family business women’ to prefer to quit their original desire to lead the family firm, avoid tensions within the family and leave the place to their brothers, or may-be exiting the family firm and start from scratch a new type of entrepreneurial activity (Hamilton, 2006).

In sum, there is a lack of systematic knowledge on women in the context of family businesses and on how women cope with being entrepreneurs and also managing their families. This book seeks to fill this gap.

We invite participants to consider submitting manuscripts that focus on topics related to the role of women entrepreneurs within the context of family firms, on many diverse levels. More specifically we are interested in:

- a) Exploring if belonging to a family-owned firm fosters or hinders female entrepreneurship differently in comparison to women who do not have a family business background;
- b) Exploring how the different roles that women have in their families (daughters, mothers, sisters, spouses, grandmothers) differently affects their commitment towards entrepreneurial activities and entrepreneurship;
- c) Exploring the role of women in entrepreneurial teams which can be familial, mixed and non-family teams within a family business context;
- d) Exploring the work-family balance of women entrepreneurs across contexts;
- e) Exploring in practice the role of the family on women entrepreneurship and its impact on entrepreneurial success or failure.

Chapter submissions should be based on rigorous empirical or theoretical research, and should discuss and analyse one of the following as related to Family and women’s entrepreneurship:

- Women Entrepreneurship and spousal support

- Women Entrepreneurship, maternity and career path
- Women entrepreneurship and commitment to the family firm
- Women entrepreneurship and family firm succession
- Women entrepreneurship and family firms' growth/renewal/change
- Women entrepreneurship, institutions, and family firms

It is intended that draft chapter submissions will be presented and discussed at the forthcoming Diana International Research Symposium to be held at the IPAG Business School. Thus, the tentative timetable for the compilation and completion of the book is as follows:

May 21. , 2021	Diana Conference, Nice, France
January 15., 2021	Expressions of interest/abstracts from participating authors.
March 15, 2021	Formal invitation/submission guidelines to selected authors.
May 20, 2021	Submission of draft chapters & initial review process.
July 15, 2021	Completion of feedback to authors.
September 1, 2021	Submission of revised chapters from authors (including necessary permissions for diagrams, etc).
Sept/Nov, 2021	Ongoing editing of chapters by editorial team.
December 30, 2021	Completion of Preliminary Book Information, Introduction & Conclusions.
January 30, 2022	Submission of final manuscript to Edward Elgar.

If you are interested in submitting a chapter, please express your interest, in the first instance, by putting together a chapter abstract, as per the guidelines below, and forwarding it to diana2020eebook@gmail.com by January 15th, 2020.

For an informal discussion on your submission, please contact any of the editors.

Submission Guidelines:

1. A cover letter with all author affiliations and the paper title
2. 3 page (double-spaced) abstract
 - a. Include title- but NO AUTHOR information
 - b. Research question/purpose of the chapter
 - c. Theoretical foundation
 - d. Data source(s) and methodology
 - e. Implications/contributions
3. Please submit your proposals to: diana2020eebook@gmail.com



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