

## EGOS Vienna Hub 2026 Workshop, July 8

**Organizing team:** Julia Süss-Reyes & Reinhard Prügl

### ***Call for Papers: Family Businesses and Business Families in Times of Crisis, Fragmentation and Disorder***



At the heart of every family business lies the tension between preserving legacy and embracing renewal, which becomes particularly visible in times of crisis and transition (Erdogan et al., 2020). This workshop brings together scholars to examine how family businesses navigate crises, manage change, address succession-related tensions, and sustain their legacies in contexts of fragmentation and disorder (cf. Süss-Reyes et al., 2026).

Family businesses are neither inherently fragile nor inherently resilient in crises (Calabrò et al., 2021). On the one hand, family involvement may become a liability through “constrictive familiness” (Habbershon et al., 2003), for instance when divorce (Haag & Sund, 2016) or intense relational conflicts spill over into the business (Qiu & Freel, 2020), potentially threatening its survival.

On the other hand, family businesses may display heightened resilience due to “distinctive familiness” (Habbershon et al., 2003). Survivability capital (Sirmon & Hitt, 2003), tacit firm-specific knowledge and commitment (Cunningham et al., 2016; Halder et al., 2023), as well as strategic flexibility rooted in concentrated governance power (Le Breton-Miller et al., 2015), support rapid adaptation in turbulent times. Family owners also tend to act as patient investors, protect employees, and accept personal sacrifices to preserve long-term legacy (Miller & Le Breton-Miller, 2005; Baù et al., 2024; Minichilli et al., 2016; Salvato et al., 2020).

Crisis and disorder can thus become turning points that prompt strategic, governance, and identity-related change, with the business family serving as a central steering force through effective crisis governance (DeCiantis & Lansberg, 2020).

## **Aim of the Workshop**

This local workshop, hosted onsite at WU Vienna, is organized as a complementary event to the EGOS main conference in Bergamo 2026. Some of the main reasons for making EGOS decentral include inclusivity (e.g., care responsibilities, visa issues, conference costs etc.), sustainability goals, and experimenting with new forms of organizing.

In the light of the workshop theme, we particularly envision sample research questions including:

- What role do family values and traditions play in shaping crisis response strategies?
- In what ways do family or business crises catalyze innovation or transformation within family businesses?
- How do crises affect ownership and leadership transitions in family businesses?
- What factors enable or hinder intergenerational collaboration in times of uncertainty and disorder?
- How do family governance structures evolve in response to external and internal disruptions?
- In what ways do family businesses renegotiate their organizational identity during or after crises?
- What lessons can be drawn from family businesses and business families that have successfully redefined themselves after major disruptions?
- How do narratives of resilience and legacy evolve across generations?

We invite submissions from the international family business research community to engage in a collective reflection on how family businesses navigate crisis, fragmentation and disorder. The workshop offers an opportunity to discuss cutting-edge research, exchange feedback, and advance work toward publication in leading international journals.

## **Types of Submissions**

We encourage international scholars – with particular attention to PhD Students and young researchers – to submit their research ideas and works in progress. Given the developmental nature of the workshop, we encourage submissions of extended abstracts (500 to 1,000 words without references). Once accepted, these should be developed into drafts until the conference.

Please note that official participation in the local hub requires registration as a participant in the EGOS colloquium 2026.

## **Application Deadline, Date and Venue**

**Application deadline:** March 31, 2026 through the [EGOS website](#)

**Date:** Wednesday, July 8 (onsite Pre-Colloquium Workshops)

**Venue:** WU Vienna University of Economics and Business  
(Welthandelsplatz 1, Department 2, 1020 Vienna)

For any further questions, feel free to contact [julia.suess-reyes@wu.ac.at](mailto:julia.suess-reyes@wu.ac.at)

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