Handbook of Qualitative Research Methods for Family Business

Handbooks of Research Methods in Management series

Edited by Alfredo De Massis, Professor of Entrepreneurship and Family Business, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy and Lancaster University Management School, UK and Nadine Kammerlander, Professor of Family Business, WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, Germany

This timely Handbook provides a comprehensive guide to the methodological challenges of qualitative research in family business. Written by an international, multidisciplinary team of experts in the field, the Handbook provides practical guidance based on the experiences of senior researchers, and features reflective discussion on how to craft insightful, rigorous studies.

‘One of the reasons for the shortage of qualitative studies published in top academic journals has been the lack of rigorous methodological directions. Alfredo De Massis and Nadine Kammerlander’s Handbook fills this gap by offering an encompassing set of guidelines and clever suggestions to perform rich investigations of the most salient phenomena in family business, and to publish the results. These thoughtful and immediately applicable methods tremendously enhance scholars’ ability to understand and explain these complex and fascinating organizations.’

– Carlo Salvato, Bocconi University, Italy

‘Globally, interest in researching phenomena surrounding family businesses and business families is growing. Simultaneously, expectations regarding rigor and quality of research methods are also being elevated. This edited book serves as an invaluable resource for scholars seeking to produce meaningful and impactful qualitative research, not just in family business but in related fields as well.’

– Tyge Payne, Texas Tech University, US

‘This Handbook provides much needed insight into specific challenges and opportunities of doing qualitative research in family business. It offers young (and young-at-heart) scholars excellent guidance, from experienced family business researchers, about available methods and how to best apply them to examine the unique dynamics that characterize family firms.’

– Davide Ravasi, University College London, UK

‘Professors De Massis and Kammerlander have produced a magnificent volume that bridges two timely topics: qualitative methods and family business. I look forward to the many theoretical advancements that will result from the application of the approaches and techniques described herein.’

– Herman Aguinis, The George Washington University School of Business, US

‘This is a superb book on a critical and much-neglected approach to family business research. It offers a set of inspiring chapters by leading authors that do a wonderful job of addressing the core techniques and challenges of qualitative methods as they apply to family firm research. I most highly recommend this book to all family business researchers wishing to plumb more deeply the dynamics, problems and opportunities of family enterprise.’

– Danny Miller, HEC Montréal, Canada