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Asia-Pacific Family Business Symposium
Call for Papers
September 27-28, 2025
Kuala Lumpur (Hybrid Symposium)

“Rethinking the boundaries of the family firm: missing pieces in family business studies?”

AFERN-Australasian Family Enterprise Research Network

Convenors: A/Professor Donella Caspersz (University of Western Australia), Professor Francesco Chirico (Macquarie University, ISE Research Centre & Jonkoping University), A/Professor Chris Graves (University of Adelaide)

Abstract Review Convenor: Professor Hazel Ramos, University of Nottingham, Malaysia

Research Student Consortium Convenor: Professor Pi-Shen Seet, Edith Cowan University

Family business remains a dominant form of economic organization throughout the world. In Asia they represent at least 80% of all corporations and a third of the value of listed companies in Asian markets (Bennedsen et al., 2022) significantly contributing to progress in the region (Tomizawa et al., 2020). However, the multiplier effect of Asian family business reaches into other areas; for instance, on average about a quarter of Asia-Pacific family offices invest in North America (Campden Research, 2023). Yet, little is known about how paradigms that inform current family business research and practice are relevant to understanding family business dynamics in the region (Fang et al., 2021). Informed by this background, the 2025 Asia Pacific Family Business Symposium invites papers that broadly address this theme. Suggestions include:

- How do contextual differences within “institutions, philosophies, and cultural values” (Barkema et al., 2015: 460) influence governance and management of family business in the region.
- How do unique ownership structures of family business in the region such as Chaebol family business groups influence the explanatory generalisability of theoretical frameworks such as agency or stewardship theory.
- How do nontraditional families (e.g., same-sex marriages, stepfamilies) and different forms of entrepreneurship (e.g., lifestyle entrepreneurs, craft entrepreneurs) influence the strategic decision-making of family firms in the region (Aldrich et al., 2021; Ganzin et al., 2024; Jaskiewicz & Dyer, 2017; Ivanycheva et al., 2024)?
- How will practices such as intra-firm and inter-firm succession, as well as types of ownership transformation (Chirico et al., 2025) influence research and practice about the sustainability of family business in the region?
- How do historical experiences in the region influence the entrepreneurial endeavours of family businesses?



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Abstract Submission Details

In-progress or completed research from across the genres of case study, qualitative and quantitative methodologies, high degree research students, academic and practitioners are welcome.

Submissions must include an abstract of up to 150 words, the research question, preliminary literature review, conceptual/theoretical framework, methodology (if relevant) and contribution to theory and practice. They will be evaluated for their potential and promise according to a double-blind process with two reviewers.

Requirements: Times New Roman, 12 font, double spaced. Maximum of 7 pages (5 pages for the body which can include charts, graphs, diagrams, etc. and up to 2 pages of references)]

Review: All submissions have a double-blind process with two reviewers. Submitting authors are asked to participate in the refereeing process.

Submission Deadline: June 1, 2025

Submit: apfbsymposium@gmail.com



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Submission Template (please use this template when submitting)

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