

15. Governance and ownership of small firms, including family firms and entrepreneurial firms

Few topics are getting more attention in research, media and practice than boards and governance. However, most studies on boards and governance are about large corporations from USA with dispersed ownership. In this track we focus on ownership and governance in small firms, including family firms and entrepreneurial firms.

Most firms are small or medium sized, and most firms can be characterized as family firms, but the research attention to the governance of such firms is limited, even though it is growing. We welcome papers relating to all aspects of ownership and governance issues in small firms. That can include all topics related to family businesses and business families, the impact of venture capital financing and venture capital governance, and the use of boards in small and entrepreneurial firms. Both conceptual and empirical papers are welcome, and we welcome papers from various countries.

We particularly welcome papers that introduce theories and approaches that are different from what is found in most studies of corporate governance in mainstream research. We will stimulate the use of novel theories like team production theory, social contract theory, paternalism, altruism and various resource theories, etc.

Track co-chairs are:

Donata Mussolino, 2nd University of Naples, Italy (donata.mussolino@unina2.it)

Morten Huse, Norwegian School of Management BI, Norway (mhuse@online.no)

The Call for Papers for this track welcomes not only academic papers, but also case studies, and practitioners and policy oriented papers and workshops.

- Academic paper abstracts should clearly state the aim of the study, methods used, results obtained and conclusions reached for SMEs and entrepreneurship as well as implications for policy or program development. Abstracts should include title of paper, name(s) of author(s), affiliation, and full contact details.

- Paper abstract submissions should also include the main research question, the main theories used and main literature references, the main contributions, and finally a tentative outline of the final paper. For empirical papers methods and samples should be presented.
- Workshop and case study proposals should clearly link to the themes of the conference. Proposal abstracts must include: topic, name of workshop leader (with full contact details), names of workshop panellists, and a brief description of what the workshop will cover.