

GLOBAL **FAMILY** BUSINESS **SUMMIT**

MAY 26-29, 2026

IPAG Business School

NICE, FRANCE

(IN)STABILITY AT THE FRONTIERS

Family Business in an Age
of Shifting Grounds

ONE GLOBAL FAMILY BUSINESS SUMMIT – 2 COMMUNITIES

The **2026 SPGC-FERC Global Family Business Summit** represents a unique collaboration between two premier global family business research communities. For the first time, participants will benefit from the combined strengths of both organizations in one event, enjoying the advantages of attending two major conferences in a single gathering. They will engage with diverse perspectives, access groundbreaking research, and expand their international networks. This summit offers a rare opportunity to experience the richness of two influential academic communities united in one global event dedicated to the advancement of family business.

DESCRIPTION

The **2026 SPGC Global Family Business Summit, held in partnership with FERC**, invites family business scholars, owners, next-generation members, and advisors to engage in a bold, timely, and transformative conversation around the theme: (In)Stability at the Frontiers. Across the globe, family enterprises are navigating a world in flux. Climate crises, geopolitical conflict, technological upheaval, economic fragmentation, and deepening social divides are not abstract forces, they are daily realities. In this environment, family businesses are being asked to reconcile contradictions: continuity and chaos, long-term vision and short-term survival, unity and fragmentation. This Summit interrogates a core paradox of our time: family firms are expected to act as anchors of stability in a world defined by permanent instability. Yet they operate at the frontiers of transformation, where the boundaries between economy and ecology, ownership and influence, past and future, human and machines are rapidly dissolving. From war zones to boardrooms, from climate emergencies to AI disruption, family firms confront not just market shifts, but fundamental redefinitions of power, legitimacy, and meaning.

This Summit challenges participants to explore critical questions:

- What does it mean to hold power responsibly when institutions are distrusted?
- How do family businesses maintain continuity in the face of chaos?
- Is stability still possible, or even desirable?
- What new models are required for leading family enterprises in fractured societies?
- How can families redefine their role as economic actors, social influencers, and long-term stewards of value?

We are not merely observing instability, we are living inside it. This is an invitation to view family business not as a fixed category, but as a powerful lens through which to examine complexity, contradiction, and creative tension. Rather than offering quick fixes, this Summit embraces the ethical, emotional, and political dimensions of family enterprise. It seeks to provoke, to cross-contaminate, and to rethink. This is not a conversation about

legacy, it is a conversation about tension. And how that tension, when faced directly, can become a catalyst for insight, transformation, and new forms of leadership.

WHY THIS THEME MATTERS NOW?

- The world is experiencing a polycrisis: climate breakdown, conflict, technological disruption, rising inequality, and institutional distrust.
- Family firms remain long-term actors with both local roots and global reach.
- Next generations are challenging inherited narratives and introducing new forms of identity and innovation.
- Families are navigating moral, political, and economic dilemmas in real time.
- What's needed now are new languages, new collaborations, and new frameworks.

TRACKS

1. (In)Stability, Risk & Resilience in Family Firms

Exploring how families manage political, environmental, reputational, and operational risk in an age of chronic uncertainty.

2. Innovation, Entrepreneurship & the Next Frontier

How family firms confront disruption, foster entrepreneurship, build venture portfolios, and innovate across generations and sectors.

3. Ownership, Governance & Wealth in Motion

Evolving models of family governance, ownership distribution, family office dynamics, taxation, and global wealth policy transitions.

4. Succession, Identity & Intergenerational Power

Cultural and emotional dynamics of succession, gender and generational transitions, power negotiation, and leadership legitimacy.

5. Technology, AI & the New Business Model

The implications of AI, automation, data, and digital transformation on family business operations, decision-making, and identity.

6. Sustainability, Purpose & Social Transformation

Family firms as agents of regenerative practices, ESG leadership, impact investing, and new definitions of value.

7. Pedagogy, Learning & Engaged Research

Innovative teaching, learning, and case development practices; co-creation with family businesses; ethical challenges in executive education.

8. Open Track

For high-quality papers, work-in-progress and posters that do not fall into the above categories but speak to the broader summit theme.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE (TENTATIVE)

May 26, 2026 – Pre-conference day:

- Doctoral & early career consortium (joint SPGC–FERC)
- Welcome networking event on the beach

May 27–29, 2026 – Main conference days:

- Company visits across the French Riviera
- Invitation-only roundtables
- Competitive paper sessions
- Developmental paper sessions
- FERC Poster presentations
- Keynote panels with scholars and family business leaders
- Interactive practitioner panels & case-based workshops
- Special issues and journal roundtables
- Gala Dinner on the Riviera (May 28, evening)

SPECIAL ISSUE OPPORTUNITIES & AWARDS

Papers presented at the Summit will be considered for submission to main journal outlets in management and entrepreneurship.

Best Paper Awards:

- Best Competitive Paper **(1,000€)**
- Best Developmental Paper **(1,000€)**
- Best Poster (FERC) **(1,000€)**
- Best Practitioner Contribution **(1,000€)**
- Next Generation Scholar Award **(1,000€)**

REGISTRATION FEES

Fees include access to both SPGC and FERC conference activities, lunches, coffee breaks, welcome event, and gala dinner → [REGISTER HERE!](#)

Participant type	Early Bird (until Feb 28)	Regular (after Feb 28)
SPGC Affiliate – Academic	€500	€600
Non-SPGC Affiliate – Academic	€600	€700
Practitioner	€650	€750
Doctoral Student	€350	€450
Gala Dinner – Guest Ticket	€150	€200

SUMMIT CHAIRS

Prof. Maria Giuseppia Bruna (IPAG Business School, France)

Prof. Evelyn Micelotta (University of Vermont, USA)

Prof. Andrea Calabrò (SDA Bocconi School of Management, Italy)

Prof. James Davis (Utah State University, USA)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Arpita Vyas (SPGC)

Giang Nyguyen (IPAG Business School)

Elisa Conti (IPAG Business School)

Stefania Masè (IPAG Business School)

Cinzia Colapinto (IPAG Business School)

Eric Clinton (Dublin City University)

Ana Cristina Gonzalez (Grand Valley State University)

IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission Deadline: **February 14th, 2026**
- Registration Deadline: **March 30th, 2026**
- SPGC x FERC 2026 in Nice: **May 26th – 29th, 2026**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Please note that all submissions must be made through the online submission portal (<https://spgc2026.exordo.com/>) and must be anonymous to ensure the blind review process. We welcome submissions in the following formats. Please choose the one most appropriate for the stage and nature of your work:

Competitive Paper Sessions (Full Papers)

These sessions are designed for high-quality, fully developed research papers that are ready for peer review and potential journal submission. Submission requirements:

- Full paper (maximum 10,000 words including references, tables, and figures)
- Anonymous document
- Include a short abstract (max 150 words) at the beginning of the paper

Developmental Paper Sessions (Work-in-Progress)

This track is ideal for early-stage or mid-stage research that would benefit from feedback and discussion with peers and senior scholars. Submission requirements:

- Extended abstract (1,000–2,000 words) clearly outlining the research question, theoretical framework, methodology, and intended contribution
- Anonymous document
- Clearly indicate “Developmental Paper” in your submission

FERC Poster Presentations (Abstract-Based)

The poster session provides an opportunity to showcase exploratory projects, teaching innovations, case studies, or early-stage ideas in a visual format. Submission requirements:

- Abstract (maximum 1,000 words)
- Anonymous document
- Clearly indicate “FERC Poster” in your submission

Doctoral Colloquium & early career consortium

The Doctoral Colloquium is open to PhD students at any stage of their doctoral journey working on topics related to family business. Selected participants will receive feedback from leading scholars and engage in peer-to-peer exchange. Submission requirements:

- A research proposal or extended abstract (max 2,000 words)
- A short CV (2 pages max)
- Clearly indicate “Doctoral Colloquium” in your submission

ABOUT SPGC

The **STEP Project Global Consortium (SPGC)** is a worldwide network of academic institutions dedicated to advancing knowledge on transgenerational entrepreneurship and family business. By connecting scholars and business families across regions and cultures, SPGC co-creates impactful research, produces global and regional reports, develops educational resources, and hosts international academic family business summits. Its work generates insights that help family businesses innovate, grow, and sustain success across generations.

ABOUT FERC

The **Family Enterprise Research Conference (FERC)** is a leading academic platform dedicated to family business scholarship. It brings together a global community of researchers to exchange ideas, present cutting edge studies, and foster collaboration that advances the field. FERC is especially recognized for supporting emerging scholars and for promoting rigorous, relevant research that deepens understanding of family enterprises and their role in society.

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<https://spgc2026.exordo.com/>

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