

ORIGINAL

Family entrepreneurship: a bibliometric analysis and future research agenda

Emprendimiento familiar: un análisis bibliométrico y agenda de investigación futura

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ABSTRACT

The family entrepreneurship regroups family members, family business and the entrepreneurship activities. This makes it a fertile and rich research field, which needs to be explored and analyzed to understand the specific behaviors and orientations of the family entrepreneurial initiatives.

The main purpose of this paper is to present a bibliometric analysis and research agenda of scientific publications dealing mainly with the family entrepreneurship field. The bibliometric process is the methodological design adopted to review the previous studies about our problematic. The scope of our study is limited to the scientific articles have been published between 2000 and 2022 (September), in the three data bases: web of sciences, Scopus and Jstor. 73 out of 181 articles selected have been retained and analyzed after the assessment process taking into consideration different inclusion and exclusion criteria. In addition, the Excel's tools and the VOSviewer software version 1.6.18 are the main technological devices used to carry out this research.

Our study shows that family entrepreneurship is a legitimate area of research, despite the fact that it is still in its pre-paradigmatic and launching stages. Thus, further academic studies dealing with the family entrepreneurship research clusters generated through the thematic and bibliometric analysis (as presented by the figure 5) need to be deepened.

Keywords: Bibliometric Analysis; Entrepreneurship; Family Businesses; Family Entrepreneurship; Research Book.

RESUMEN

El emprendimiento familiar agrupa a los miembros de la familia, los negocios familiares y las actividades emprendedoras. Esto lo convierte en un campo de investigación fértil y rico, que necesita ser explorado y analizado para comprender los comportamientos y orientaciones específicos de las iniciativas emprendedoras familiares.

El propósito principal de este trabajo es presentar un análisis bibliométrico y una agenda de investigación de las publicaciones científicas que tratan principalmente el campo del emprendimiento familiar. El proceso bibliométrico es el diseño metodológico adoptado para revisar los estudios previos sobre nuestra problemática. El alcance de nuestro estudio se limita a los artículos científicos publicados entre 2000 y 2022 (septiembre), en las tres bases de datos: web of Science, Scopus y JSTOR. 73 de los 181 artículos seleccionados han sido retenidos y analizados tras el proceso de evaluación, teniendo en cuenta diferentes criterios de inclusión y exclusión. Además, las herramientas de Excel y el software VOSviewer versión 1.6.18 son los principales dispositivos tecnológicos utilizados para llevar a cabo esta investigación.

Nuestro estudio muestra que el emprendimiento familiar es un área de investigación legítima, a pesar de que aún se encuentra en sus etapas pre-paradigmáticas y de lanzamiento. Por lo tanto, se necesitan profundizar los estudios académicos adicionales que traten los clústeres de investigación sobre emprendimiento familiar generados a través del análisis temático y bibliométrico (como se presenta en la figura 5).

Palabras clave: Análisis Bibliométrico; Emprendimiento; Empresas Familiares; Emprendimiento Familiar; Agenda de Investigación.

INTRODUCTION

The development of entrepreneurial initiatives and the establishment of businesses are significantly affected by the social context and familial background, according to the literature review and scientific studies carried out on the field of entrepreneurship (Cardella et al., 2020 ; Roszko-Wójtowicz et al., 2017). According to these authors, the entrepreneurial intent, the business ideas and initiatives, the entrepreneurship spirit and culture have initially nurtured within the family system (Allen & Gartner, 2021, p. 316). The family entrepreneurship represents a cornerstone for the socio-economic growth (Araya-Castillo et al., 2022; Audretsch et al., 2015; Roszko-Wójtowicz et al., 2017), innovation (Cardella et al., 2020), competitiveness (Quiddi & Habba, 2021; Cardella et al., 2020), internationalization growth strategy (Reuber, 2016), technological and digital transformation (Upadhyay et al., 2022), environmental and social wellbeing (Neumann, 2021), job and wealth creations (Quiddi & Habba, 2021).

Without a doubt, the family-controlled businesses are considered to be the most important and ancient organizations' types across the globe (Chua et al., 1999). It products over 70 % of the Gross Domestic Products of the world (De Massis et al., 2018; King et al., 2022). More precisely, the family companies represent about 60 % in Europe (Quiddi & Habba, 2021) and more than 80 % in the United States of America (Saputra, 2017) also they product about 64 % of the American Gross domestic Product (Astrachan & Shanker, 2003). As well, in the Middle East context, about 75 % of the private entrepreneurial endeavors are controlled by the business families (Quiddi & Habba, 2021).

The strategic and pivotal roles that perform the family entrepreneurship in the advancement of the economy and society have attracted the attention of scientists and scholars over the recent decades. So, the adoption of different theoretical approaches (Nordin et al., 2020) and multidisciplinary research methodologies are highly recommended to approach the organizational and strategic behaviors, entrepreneurial orientations and strategies, the familial endeavor development and growth strategies, the financial and investment policies specificities, etc. of the family entrepreneurship and business activities (Bettinelli et al., 2014a).

In this perspective, sociological theories (such as culture, social context and relationship, religion and ethnicities, education system), anthropological approaches (family system, structures and composition), organizational perspectives (such as; resources and capabilities theories, knowledge theory, contingency theory, family business theory, familiness theory, stakeholders theory), psychological research stream (such as; Socio-emotional Wealth theory (SEW), attachment theory, entrepreneur's personality traits and behaviors) (Handler & Kram, 1988; Cardella et al., 2020) are adopted to explain and shed light on the family entrepreneurship research problematic and issues (Nordin et al., 2020).

According to the literature has been generated in this field of study, family-owned businesses reflect a variety and distinctive characteristics. The familiness capabilities developed through the continuous overlapping of the family and business systems (Nordin et al., 2020; Robic et al., 2015) are the most relevant idiosyncratic resources that serve these organizations' typologies to nurture a distinct competitive advantage (Habbershon, 2006; Habbershon & Williams, 1999). Nevertheless, emotional attachment, over-identification to the firm, and risk aversion constrain growth, opportunities as well as adversely affect strategic behavior, financial and entrepreneurial performances of the familial ventures (Chatterjee et al., 2021; Barros et al., 2019; Berrone et al., 2012).

Our paper's purpose is to advance knowledge in the field of family entrepreneurship research by conducting a bibliometric analysis of the previous researches and highlight the perspectives and future directions for further studies in this area. In this regard, we explicitly state that our paper will focus on the family entrepreneurship sector (Anwar et al., 2023; Rojas et al., 2023) which integrates and overlaps the family system, the family business structure and the entrepreneurship approach as supported by (Fayolle & Bégin, 2009; Randerson et al., 2015), and do not only seek to examine ultimately the family firm's reality and behavior. This in order to fully comprehend this type of family entrepreneurship acts.

Consequently, our paper will be organized in the following manner: the second section develops the conceptual framework and research background. The third section outlines the material and method adopted to select the data sources and accomplish the bibliometric analysis. The fourth section summarizes the key findings and the fifth section discusses the main conclusions and potential directions for further studies.

Definition of family entrepreneurship

The literature review dealing with the family entrepreneurship behaviors and processes is still inconclusive and fragmented. Despite the family businesses' significant impacts on the country's economic and entrepreneurship structures over the decades, scholars' interests have been mainly focused on the family business management, activities, endeavors and involvement without taking into account the corporate entrepreneurship strategies and behaviors (Shi, 2014 P.1-2). Besides, Craig et al., (2009) cited by Shi, (2014) have highlighted "research on family business and entrepreneurship were typically conducted along distinct paths in the past few decades. Only recently have the two paths begun to cross as both family business and entrepreneurship researchers have started to realize that families can have a significant influence on entrepreneurship, and vice versa" (pp.1-2).

The stream of family entrepreneurship is a rising area of research attributed to this congruence of the family system, the family business, the entrepreneurial approaches and attributes (Allen et Gartner, 2021 p.183). According to this interactional approach, the family entrepreneurship is defined as "the research field that studies entrepreneurial behaviors of family, family members and family businesses" (Randerson et al., 2015; Bettinelli et al., 2014; Randerson et al., 2021). Moreover, the entrepreneurship education school researchers believe that the family business entrepreneurial acts are basically initiated within the family dynasties, through launching unstructured domestic and familial activities (Allen et Gartner, 2021 p. 184). In this perspective, Seaman et al., (2016) stress "other work points to the positive example parental entrepreneurship provides, [...], thereby suggesting a strong and positive parental influence in intention to become self-employed" (p.4). Actually, this entrepreneurial approach has emphasized the importance of adopting a broader meaning to family entrepreneurship education, by considering the role of the various actors of the entrepreneurial ecosystem such as; institutions of higher education, businesses, public administration, and business families, in order to nurture and promote business culture, entrepreneurial attitudes and behaviors of the family members, the business family and the family firm (Allen et Gartner 2021, P.184).

METHOD

This research plans, on the one hand, to review the previous researches that have been done in the sector of family entrepreneurship, and on the other hand, to highlight the key contributions and potential directions for future researches. The methodological approach and instrument used to undertake our bibliometric analysis are presented in this section. That is, a methodical and rigorous process for synthesizing the literature reviews (Rovelli et al., 2021) about a specific problematic (Liberati et al., 2009). The bibliometric analysis ultimate objective is to consolidate, summarize and assess the development of a field of study, and hereby to present the key results, to figure out the possibilities and research directions for further studies (Arcese et al., 2021) in the tourism sector, the "family business model" is an important development opportunity and, in particular, if it is an innovation driver for this industry development. In the literature, there is no conclusive evidence of this for the tourism sector. In this context, the authors investigate personal and family needs and preferences alongside the relationship between family business model, growth and profit maximization and the development of tourism businesses through innovation drivers. Design/methodology/approach: To develop this topic, the authors conducted an extensive literature review considering the scientific papers published and contained mainly in database in the last 10 years (2010-2020; Araya-Castillo et al., 2022).

Also, the bibliometric approach uses an extremely rigorous, explicit and transparent design (Greenhalgh et al., 2004) throughout the overall process (Liberati et al., 2009). It thoroughly outlines the various tools, techniques and procedures for searching, collecting, screening and analyzing the selected data (Liberati et al., 2009; Araya-Castillo et al., 2022). Additionally, the bibliometric analysis is a reliable scientific methodology (Liberati et al., 2009) however, is not optimal. Poor reporting of systematic reviews diminishes their value to clinicians, policy makers, and other users. Since the development of the QUOROM (Quality Of Reporting Of Meta-analysis, because it is based on statistical techniques that enable an exhaustive selection of research publications in regard to the research problematic. Similarly, it allows also the evaluation of the quality and scientific contributions of the publications selected (Araya-Castillo et al., 2022).

To alleviate the biases and to assure an efficient operationalization of our bibliometric analysis protocol, we adopt the "Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews Meta-Analyses" (PRISMA) method developed by (Liberati et al., 2009). This approach defines the main steps to follow up as well as the precautions to consider while running a systematic and bibliometric analysis (Liberati et al., 2009). Following this guide, we have gathered systematically the relevant papers in the three databases: "web of sciences, Scopus and Jstor". Limiting the scope of our review to these three main data sources could be justified by their scientific rigor and crucial contributions to the advancement of knowledge (Granda-Orive et al., 2013; Cardella et al., 2020). Hereby, the maturity of these databases ensures the rigor and quality of their publications (Cardella et al., 2020).

To start, we search for publications that contain precisely the key concept of "family entrepreneurship" either in the title, abstract or keywords of the articles published in the aforementioned databases. Limiting ourselves to the selection of publications containing necessarily the concept of "family entrepreneurship" could

be justified by our research purpose aims to analyze the entrepreneurship vision within the entrepreneurial processes launched by the business families. A total number of 181 publications are generated by this preliminary search and submit to the eligibility criteria and assessment (inclusion and exclusion criteria). This exhaustive database of articles concerning the family entrepreneurship realm has covered the period of 2000 to 2022 (September).

We include the following points as the inclusion criteria: 1) we retain the scientific articles have been produced in English, 2) Scientific papers which are directly related to our research's question of the family entrepreneurship, 3) Peer reviewed publications dealing with our research problematic. However, we have excluded from our analysis framework: 1) books, book chapters and conferences proceeding, 2) publications that have used different theoretical approaches other than the managerial and entrepreneurial currents (such as the economic, sociological, and anthropological approaches) to study the family entrepreneurship phenomenon are excluded.

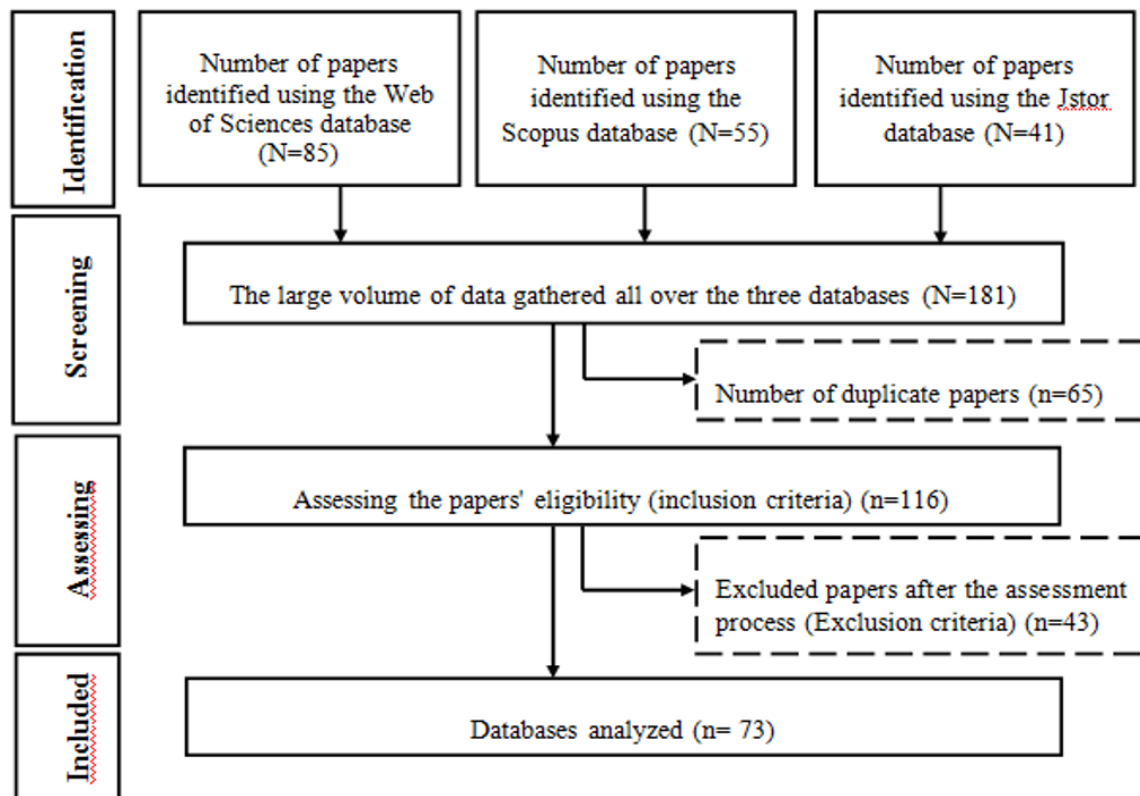


Figure 1. Data selection process

Applying these parameters allowed us to check eligibility, to purify our database and retain the bibliographic publications that would be the purpose of our bibliometric analysis. To do this, we exported the databases from the three sources “Scopus, Web of Sciences and Jstor” into Excel’s files. After that, we read the full abstracts and carefully considered the publication’s titles and keywords in order to double-check the inclusion and exclusion criteria. This enables us to select or reject an article. Through this careful scanning of the abstracts, titles and key concepts, we have been able to retain a database of 73 publications for this bibliometric analysis. The figure below illustrates the protocol of choosing the database.

The analysis of the chosen articles is therefore the emphasis of the following stage of this bibliometric research procedure. Several themes are defined to structure our analysis, for instance: illustrating the number of publications per country and per year, addressing the most impactful authors and their affiliations, the publications’ sources and the most influential articles. In order to present a comprehensive vision of the development of research in the family entrepreneurship area. Likewise, to understand its evolution and future potential study directions. Besides, the VOSViewer software version 1.6.18 and Excel’s functionalities and techniques’ (Araya-Castillo et al., 2022) have been used as the technological devices to carry out this bibliometric study.

RESULTS

The evolution of research in the family entrepreneurship field

The strategic roles of Family Businesses in economic development, social actions, environment and welfare of societies are not a matter of doubt within the research community. While the family company business model

needs to be updated to suit the new requirements of the business and economic environment (for instance; competitiveness, aggressiveness, organizational performance and efficiency) (Habbershon et al., 2010). So, the entrepreneurship strategy should be nurtured within the business processes and acts, as well an entrepreneurial culture and spirit should be cultivated among the entity's stakeholders (family, family members, family business, etc.), with a focus on the search of the business opportunities, as well the managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities' enhancement (Bettinelli et al., 2014).

In this same vein, Zahra & Covin, (1995) the call for greater entrepreneurial behavior on the part of established companies has been accepted on faith as an inherently desirable objective. The implicit logic behind the pervasive belief in the value of corporate entrepreneurship seems to be that risk taking, innovation, and aggressive competitive action—the key elements of entrepreneurial corporations—will help in identifying and pursuing lucrative product/market opportunities and in providing new bases for achieving superior competitive positions. But what do we really know about the financial consequences of corporate entrepreneurship? Most of the evidence that corporate entrepreneurship “pays off” is anecdotal in nature or based on cross-sectional studies that focus on the short-term implications of entrepreneurial behaviors. As such, in a definitive sense, we know very little about the financial consequences of corporate entrepreneurship. In an attempt to improve our understanding of this issue, this article describes a study of corporate entrepreneurship and its impact on company financial performance. Data were collected from three different samples over a seven-year period to assess the longitudinal impact of corporate entrepreneurship on firm performance. These samples consist of 24 medium-sized manufacturing firms representing 14 industry segments, 39 chemical companies, and 45 Fortune 500 industrial firms representing five industry segments. Data were gathered on each sample using both primary and secondary sources. Regression analysis was then used to analyze the data. The results suggest that corporate entrepreneurship has a positive impact on financial measures of company performance. This effect on performance, which tends to be modest over the first few years, increases over time, suggesting that corporate entrepreneurship may, indeed, be a generally effective means for improving long-term company financial performance. Moreover, the results indicate that corporate entrepreneurship is a particularly effective practice among companies operating in hostile environments (as opposed to benign environments stressed out “the implicit logic behind the pervasive belief in the value of corporate entrepreneurship seems to be that risk taking, innovation, and aggressive competitive action the key elements of entrepreneurial corporations will help in identifying and pursuing lucrative product/market opportunities and in providing new bases for achieving superior competitive position”).

This perspective leads to the development of the field of family entrepreneurship, which incorporates entrepreneurial behavior into the operations of family companies, to establish a prosperous, resilient, long-lasting and sustainable family business (Chabaud & Sammut, 2014; Fayolle & Bégin, 2009; Mahmoud-Jouini & Mignon, 2009; Bégin et al., 2010; Randerson et al., 2015; Bettinelli et al., 2014; Cruz et al., 2006; Clinton et al., 2018; Monticelli et al., 2019)

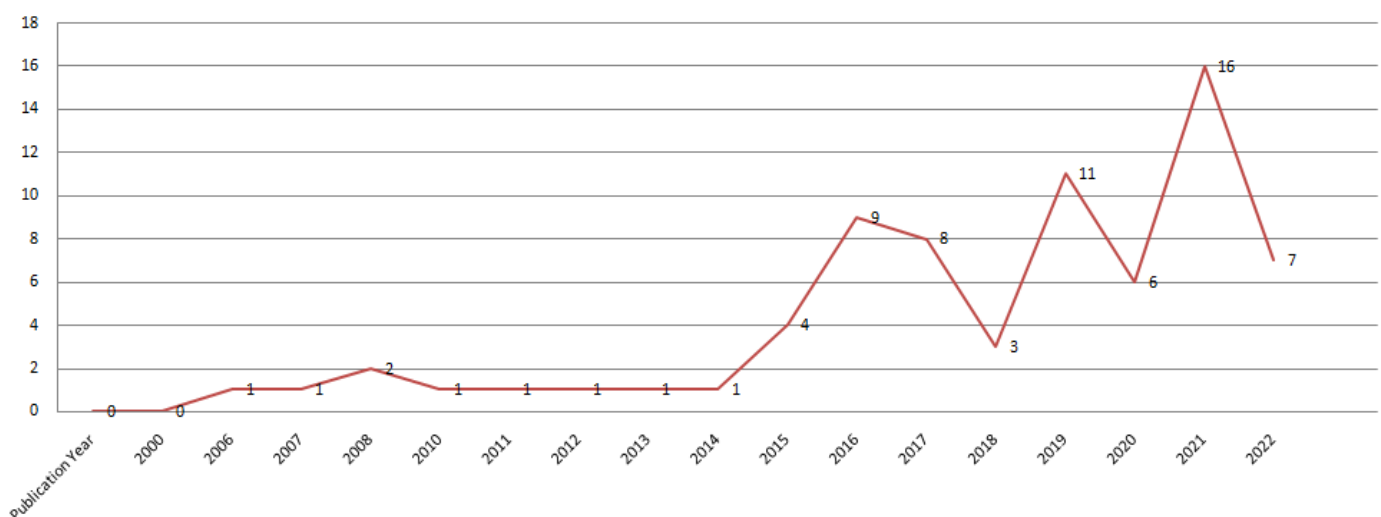


Figure 2. Evolution of family entrepreneurship research over the two past decades

The analysis and interpretation of this graph reveals three significant stages in the development of the scientific research within the family entrepreneurship domain throughout these two last decades. A remarkable scarcity of scientific publications merging the two domains of family business and entrepreneurship was observed in the first period, which spanned from 2000 to 2005. But there are many scholarly works, books and chapters

and conference proceeding dealing with the sub-domains of family business and entrepreneurship separately during this period as supported by (López-fernández, et al., 2016; Bettinelli et al., 2014). In addition, the development of the scientific research concerning the subject of entrepreneurship within the family companies' acts and processes has initiated in 2006 by publishing some bibliographic researches. Throughout this second step of the family entrepreneurship field development and growth, which spanned from 2006 to 2010, 4 articles (5,47 % of publications) out of 73 publications selected are enumerated. Furthermore, the great majority (94,53 % of papers) of bibliographic publications have been produced during the last decade. This is the major phase in the development of the field of family entrepreneurship research.

Particularly, the figure 2 above illustrates the consideration given to entrepreneurial behavior within the family businesses acts over the last seven years (from 2015 to 2022 September) through the publication of 64 papers (87,67 %). From this synthetic presentation, we could conclude the remarkable evolution of research over the last 7 years with an annual average production of 12,52 % papers per year (for the last 7 years). This reality marked by the increase of the annual scientific production could be explained by the heightened interest and willingness to establish a family business with an entrepreneurial spirit, characterized by the entrepreneurship and managerial capabilities which support consequently its resilience, performance and longevity across generations (Borges et Lima 2012; Basco et al., 2019). This in order to respond and fulfill to the new requirements of the millennium context and economic market (Ramírez-Solís et al., 2021).

Publication's sources

Seventy three research publications analyzed in this bibliometric study have been published in 43 different sources and journals. But, thirteen journals are the most significant in the area of family entrepreneurship as shown in the appendix figure 3 generated by the data analysis through Excel tools.

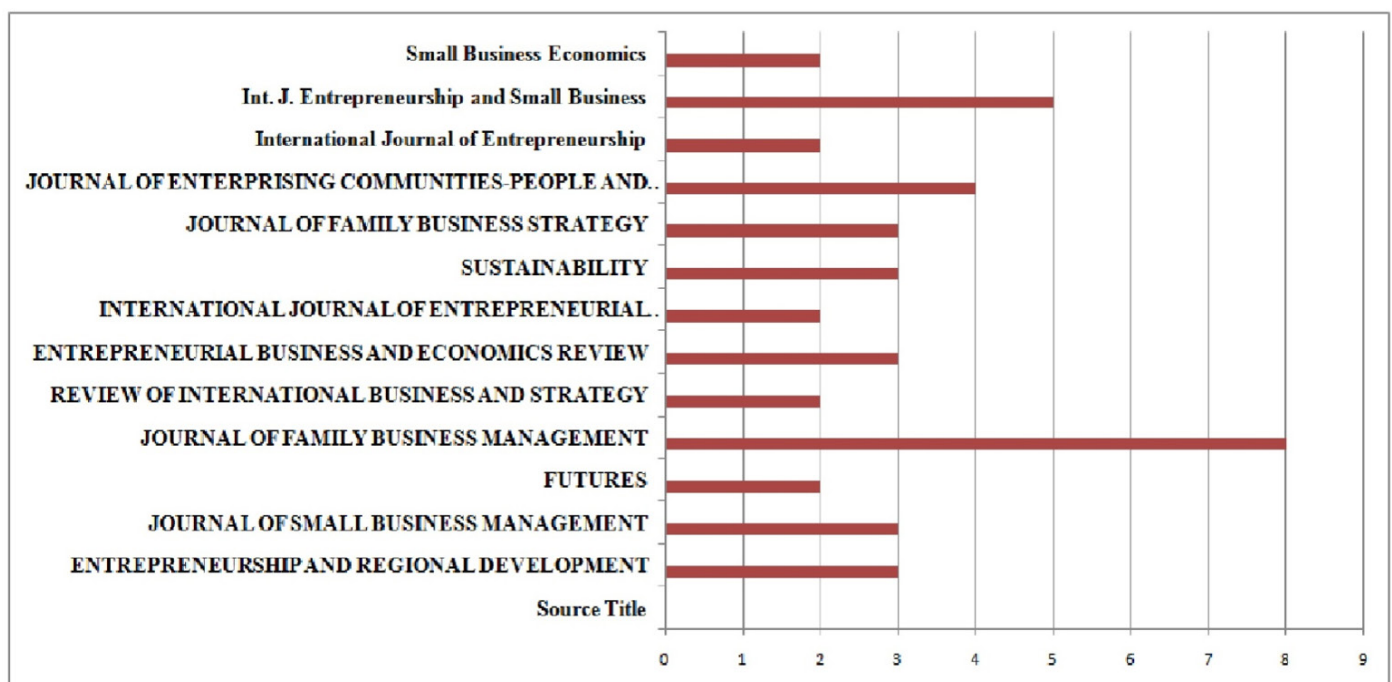


Figure 3. The most impactful scientific journals

Indeed, 42 (57,42 %) out of 73 articles have been published in these aforementioned journals. Besides, “Journal of Family Business Management, Journal of Enterprising Communities-People and Places in the Global Economy, International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business, Journal of Family Business Strategy, Sustainability, Entrepreneurial Business and Economics Review, Journal of Small Business Management, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development” are the most relevant data sources. With a huge contribution of the “Journal of Enterprising Communities-People and Places in the Global Economy”, the “International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business”, the “Journal of Family Business Management” have been contributed respectively by 4, 5, and 8 scientific articles and publications.

Authors' scientific contributions

73 bibliographic publications collected in the three databases of “Web sciences, Scopus and Jstor” have been written by 197 researchers and academicians belonging to different affiliations and states. In addition, we include the following criteria among those commonly accepted by the scientific community (Araya-Castillo et al., 2022) to evaluate the degrees of influence that each author has had on the development of a particular

field of study: the “H-index criterion, the number of researches and contributions made by each author, and the number of citations for each reference” (Quiddi & Habba, 2021). The following figure presents the very influential authors in the family entrepreneurship domain.

| Authors | Author's Papers | Total Citations | H_index |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Randerson, K. | 6 | 301 | 9 |
| 2. Fayolle, A. | 5 | 4258 | 29 |
| 3. Dana, L.P. | 5 | 357 | 10 |
| 4. Seaman, C. | 3 | 192 | 9 |
| 5. Vanessa R. | 3 | 2 807 | 31 |
| 6. Bettinelli, C. | 3 | 474 | 10 |
| 7. Ramadani, V. | 3 | 176 | 7 |
| 8. Hanson, S. K. | 2 | 111 | 6 |
| 9. Heck, Ramona K. Z. | 2 | 794 | 7 |
| 10. Alonso, A. D. | 2 | 620 | 16 |

Figure 4. The most impactful authors

The analysis and interpretation of the authorship collaboration show that every scientific reference is co-authored in average by 2,69 scholars. According to Cisneros, et al., (2018) the collaboration of authors belonging to various research areas is an appropriate research strategy, as this permits the use of different methodological (for example qualitative and quantitative approaches) and theoretical approaches (management theories, psychological, anthropological and sociological approaches) to understand the challenging issues and problematic of the family entrepreneurship sector.

The analysis of the authorship networks and collaborations conducted through the VOSViewer software version 1.6.18 has yielded 5 networking clusters (as shown by the figure 5) of authors whom have produced more than 2 articles dealing with the family entrepreneurship questions

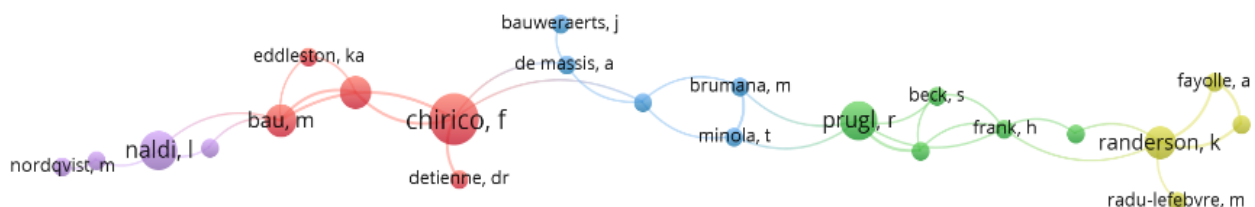


Figure 5. Authorship map

Affiliations and countries

Investing in scientific research or what is known actually as the “knowledge economy” is the guaranteed way to ensure the country’s prosperity and socioeconomic progress (Sundać et al., 2011). In this perspective, our bibliometric analysis retains this geographic criterion, which would be illustrated by the establishments and countries of the affiliations of the authors.

Based on the authorship analysis performed above, the authors belonging to the different institutions and countries have been acknowledged. In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the fact that some studies have been produced by scientists connected to international collaborations and authorship networks, etc. pertaining to various institutions and states. The institutions and states most engaged in family entrepreneurship research are shown by the figure 6 below.

An outstanding position in the field of research on family entrepreneurship is maintained by 15 institutions from the 10 nations as shown in the figure 6 above. Swedish academic institutions produce about 28,76 % of the literature dealing with family entrepreneurship. In addition, the French and Germany’s institutions came in second place with 9,59 % contributions of each country, in the development of this research area. Meanwhile 7 % of literature has been authored by US and UK institutions. For the remainder of the researches, they are performed by various universities and organizations worldwide, among which we include for instance, Italy, Austria, Netherlands, Norway, etc. Furthermore, we draw attention that the scientific researches involve worldwide partnerships between institutions and scholars.

| Institutions | Countries | Total papers | Total Citations (TC)* | H_Index |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 1. Jönköping university | Sweden | 15 | 5439 | 95 |
| 2. Audencia | France | 5 | 3324 | 52 |
| 3. Zeppelin University | Germany | 5 | 1344 | 43 |
| 4. Macquarie university | Australia | 4 | 4514 | 53 |
| 5. Stockholm School of Economics | Sweden | 4 | 2222 | 65 |
| 6. Queen Margaret University | United Kingdom | 3 | 5973 | 59 |
| 7. Bi Norwegian Business School | Norway | 2 | 3622 | 78 |
| 8. Colorado State University | United States | 2 | 4609 | 90 |
| 9. Edith Cowan University | Australia | 2 | 6292 | 80 |
| 10. EMLYON Business School | France | 2 | 6644 | 92 |
| 11. Erasmus University Rotterdam | Netherlands | 2 | 4911 | 90 |
| 12. European school EBS University | Germany | 2 | 3486 | 85 |
| 13. Linnaeus University | Sweden | 2 | 4062 | 77 |
| 14. University of Bergamo | Italy | 2 | 4478 | 76 |
| 15. Wu Vienna | Austria | 2 | 5730 | 86 |

Figure 6. The most impactful institutions

Note: *Total citations of the last 4 years (2018-2022 September) of the most impactful institutions dealing with the family entrepreneurship research field based on the Web of Sciences citations' scores.

Bibliometric and thematic analysis

In recent decades, the research area of “family entrepreneurship” has emerged as a result of the development of the two disparate and separated fields of “family business” and “entrepreneurship” (Randerson et al., 2015). According to Bettinelli et al., (2014), the continuous overlapping and intersection between the two sub-domains give a rise to a new research realm. The key concepts occurrence and thematic analysis carried out through the VOSviewer software version 1.6.18 highlight 8 majors’ research clusters which characterize the significant development of the family entrepreneurship field recently. The figure 4 presents the bibliometric map generated via the VOSviewer software.

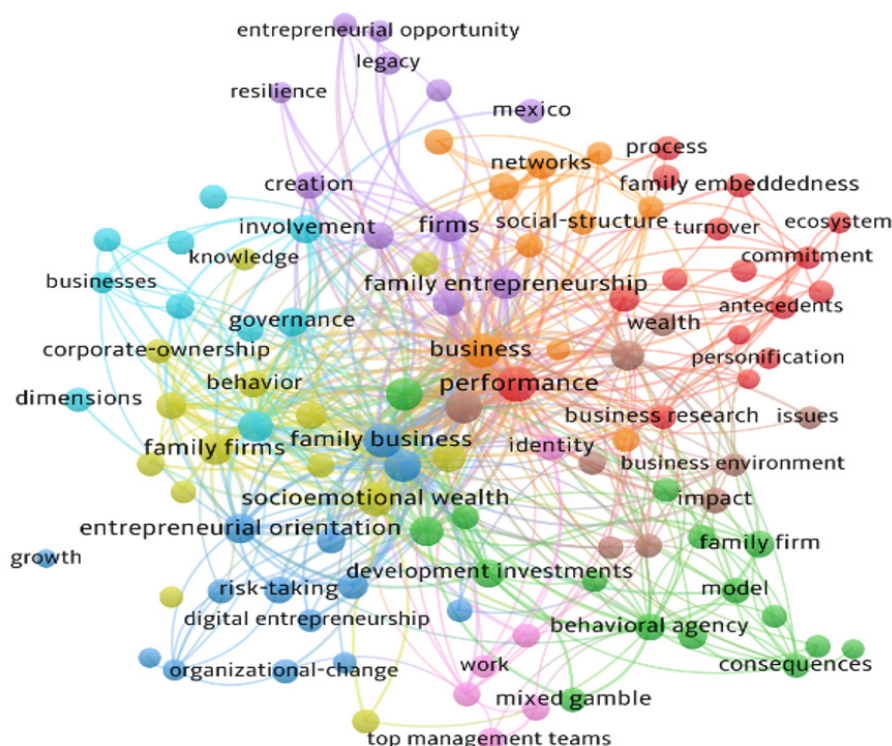


Figure 7. Bibliometric analysis

The green cluster groups the different concepts, like: “perspectives, community, commitment, behavioral agency, determinants, family firms, models, consequences and decisions”. This cluster refers to research avenues that deal with the family entrepreneur and managers’ behaviors. Also, the blue cluster connects different themes including “firm performance, succession, market orientation, absorptive capacity, growth, digital entrepreneurship”. These concepts refer to the research themes of transgenerational family entrepreneurship orientation, growth and entrepreneurial behavior. Besides, the yellow group combines the constructs “strategy, behavior, governance, knowledge, upper echelon, corporate ownership, agency, management, social structure”. It refers to the literature that analyzes managerial as well as strategic behavior and capabilities in the family entrepreneurship context. The purple cluster incorporates different concepts, for instance “firm, family entrepreneurship, legacy, construction, next generation, resilience” which refer to the business studies about the family entrepreneurship transgenerational longevity and resilience. In the pink network, the keywords are “identity, legitimacy, work, women, top management team”. These refer to the literature dealing with the entrepreneurial status and identity as well as the managerial legitimacy of the women entrepreneurs. The orange cluster units various concepts “networks, resources, contexts, structure, process, business” which related to the literature review addressing the effect of the entrepreneurship ecosystem (contexts) and family business resources and capabilities on the family entrepreneurship sector. Furthermore, the light blue cluster combines the following main constructs “corporate venturing, involvement, generation, entrepreneurial behavior, innovation and business”. These are related to the literature review treating the themes of strategic entrepreneurship (corporate venturing), innovation and long-term orientation within the family business acts and processes. In the brown research network, the main occurrence concepts are “ecosystem, commitment, antecedent, issues and challenges, business environment, family firm”. These refer to the scientific studies dealing with the entrepreneurial ecosystem and the business environment challenges as the antecedents of the family entrepreneurship structure development.

A rich body of research on family businesses tends to cover a broad range of topics including the uniqueness and characteristics of the family business (Zellweger et al., 2010; Berrone et al., 2012; (Ramadani & Hoy, 2015), , financial behavior and investment policies (Csákné Filep et Karmazin, 2016; Quidi & Habba, 2021), strategic behavior (Barros et al., 2019; Bjuggren et Sund, 2001; Peters et al., 2018), entrepreneurial orientation (Barroso et al., 2016; Cruz & Nordqvist, 2012; Poutziouris et al., 2004), corporate entrepreneurship (Sieger et al., 2011), management and governance (Chrisman et al., 2018; Le Breton-Miller & Miller, 2018; Chrisman, 2019), family firm sustainability and performance (Sharma & Dave, 2013; Oudah et al., 2018).

According to our bibliometric analysis, the domain of family entrepreneurship reflects a diversity of publications addressing entrepreneurial phenomena from its several perspectives, namely, individual (such as personal traits and characteristics of the business families’ entrepreneurs) (Lima et al., 2014; Ashraf et al., 2017; Kelleci et al., 2019), environmental (business opportunities and institutional factors) (Lima et al., 2014; Fayolle, 2012) and organizational (entrepreneurial strategies and behaviors) (Lima et al., 2014 ; Sabbari, 2015).

Over the last decades, the family business and entrepreneurship are seen as the separated research area, even though they have gained the scientific interests within the academic community. There has been comprehensive literature review in each specific topic, but there is no sufficient scientific works about the cross or interaction of these sub-domains. Lastly, researches tendencies’ have recommended and highlighted the opportunity to consider the business family within the entrepreneurship acts and processes (Shi, 2014 p.2). In this perspective, our thematic analysis supports the family entrepreneurship realm as a legitimate research field.

The results of the most cited papers

| Authors | Research Title | Research Purpose | Theoretical framework | Methodology | Main Results and future research avenues |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| Heck, Hoy, Poutziouris, et Steier (2008) | “Emerging Paths of Family Entrepreneurship Research” | This article aims to clarify the knowledge body development about the family business realm over last decades. | Literature review | Conceptual paper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The scientific research approaches family businesses from several perspectives, but the literature has been developed remains less conclusive and fragmented. - In spite of the importance and omnipresence of family dimensions in the economic and entrepreneurial structures of countries around the world, little research has been devoted to consider the family system supports, resources and its implications for the growth, performances, management and strategic behavior of the family businesses. -The entrepreneurship paths and considerations (value creation, innovation, risk taking, aggressiveness, market orientations, resilient strategies and behaviors) need to be considered within the family business initiatives in order to nurture the sustainable entrepreneurial firms. |

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| Randerson, Bettinelli, Fayolle, Anderson (2015) | "Family entrepreneurship as a field of research: exploring its contours and contents" | The main purpose of this paper is to develop the knowledge body about the family entrepreneurship domain by intertwining the different separated sub-domains "family, family business and entrepreneurship". | Literature review | Conceptual paper | <p>-In order to approach the family entrepreneurship complex behavior and processes from micro, meso, macro, as well as, from the institutional, organizational and interpersonal levels, it is recommended to mobilize a variety of theoretical frameworks. These frameworks include for instance the "Resource Based View approach, Organizational identity, Socio-emotional theory, stewardship theory, Social Capital theory, network theory, co-evolution theory, effectuation theory and Entrepreneurship theory".</p> <p>-To frame the multidimensional construct of family entrepreneurship, this paper suggests to define separately the concepts of "family, family business, and entrepreneurship" by specifying each one's dimensions, size, structure, characteristics, management system, resources and capabilities, composition, etc.</p> <p>-On the epistemological level, the scientific community should investigate different research avenues, related mainly with the entrepreneurial behavior, financial and entrepreneurial performance, cultural, emotional, and psychological factors, the trans-generational orientation of the family entrepreneurship acts, etc.</p> |
| Bettinelli, et al. (2014) | "Family Entrepreneurship: A Developing Field" | The purpose of this article is to present the research agenda and to address the research evolution in the family entrepreneurship field | Literature review | Conceptual paper | <p>-To conceptually frame the family entrepreneurship construct the researchers should to take into account the continuous interaction and development of the three systems dimensions, such as: "the family, the family business and the entrepreneurship".</p> <p>- The family entrepreneurship behavior and performance are strongly fascinated by the business family context and specificities.</p> <p>- The family entrepreneurship is a legitimate field of research, but it is still in its emergent phase and deserves to be deepened through the conduct of other monographs.</p> |
| Fletcher, (2010) | "Life-making or risk taking? Co-preneurship and family business start-ups" | This study sheds light on the couple co-preneurship phenomenon within the family business venture | Literature review | -Qualitative exploratory analysis -26 interviews have been conducted with the couples co-preneurship based on "Nottinghamshire, UK" between 2006 and 2008. | <p>-Co-preneurial management, co-preneurial ownership, intergenerational co-preneurship, as well as the couple and individual co-preneurship are the different structures of the co-preneurship explored by this article</p> <p>- "Lifestyle business", co-preneurship and the cohabitation of entrepreneurs and co-entrepreneurs (like couples, the family entrepreneur and external manager who ensure the management roles) allow the sharing of resources, time, commitment, work, risk taking, emotional supports, etc. considered as the main determinants that promote the market orientation and the entrepreneurial adventure growth.</p> <p>- However, these couples' entrepreneurial commitment may disrupt their private life and questioned their balance between private and professional life for this reason the authors choose the title "life making or risk taking".</p> |
| De Rosa, McElwee, et Smith (2019) | "Farm diversification strategies in response to rural policy: a case from rural Italy" | This study sheds some lights on how strategic diversification behavior and entrepreneurship serendipity could help as the key responses of the Italian SME to meet the rural entrepreneurship policies change and evolution. | Literature review | -Qualitative analysis -Case study strategy of one Italian family Farm | <p>-The entrepreneurial resources and capabilities, entrepreneurial identity, skills and values are the main strategic determinants of the entrepreneurship process and activities.</p> <p>-The rural family business diversification strategies' (through different policies and behaviors, such as: offering good quality products, targeting different niches of the customers, innovations, adopting the sectorial strategies as well as the possibilities of covering local, regional and national markets, etc.) have been supported as the key strategic factors to develop a new business model for the rural entrepreneurship.</p> <p>-The family members' significant involvement and collective entrepreneurship enable the entrepreneurial family to take advantage of serendipity business chances (serendipity means the business opportunities identified in an unplanned way). Consequently, these factors support the farm's diversification strategy as well as the response to the rural conditions.</p> |
| Ratten et al., (2017) | "Family entrepreneurship and internationalization strategies" | This paper aims to analyze family business internationalization decision, process and strategies through the presentation the literature review. | Literature review | Conceptual paper | <p>- The Socio-Emotional (SEW) wealth dimensions, the familial and socio-cultural factors fascinate significantly the family entrepreneurship internationalization decisions, logics, processes and strategies.</p> <p>-The entrepreneurial processes of family enterprises must nurture and cultivate the entrepreneurship vision based on risk-taking, innovation, managerial capabilities, creativity, identification and creation of business opportunities, entrepreneurial orientation, etc. in order to establish successful and performing firms in the international market.</p> |

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| Arcese et al., (2021) | "Innovative drivers for family business models in tourism" | The main aim of this study is to understand to what extent the "family business model" could be an antecedent of the business innovation within the tourism family entrepreneurship acts and processes. | Literature review | -Systematic review of the 1/0 bibliographic references have been published between 2015-2020 in the databases of EBSCO, Scopus, Thomson Reuters. | -The familial, entrepreneurial and individual factors as well as the innovative business model are the main key drivers of the innovation actions in the context of the family owned business evolving in the tourism industry. -Besides, the study highlights and confirms the role of the family business life cycle, entrepreneurship strategy, entrepreneurial orientation and behaviors, tourism and hospitality sector's peculiarities on the business innovation capabilities. |
| Seaman, Bent, et Unis (2016) | "Family entrepreneurship culture, entrepreneurial intent, futures and foresight in Scottish Pakistani communities" | This article aims to review the previous studies about the effect of the cultural factors on the entrepreneurial intentions and future plans of the Pakistani community settled-down in Scotland country. | Literature review | Conceptual paper | -This conceptual study points out the significant impacts of the cultural dimensions and family background on the entrepreneurial intentions, occupational aspirations and careers choices of the Pakistani community settled in Scotland. -The families' social class, the families' race and ethnicities, the educational background and entrepreneurship status of the parents fascinate strongly the occupational aspirations and career's choices. |
| Hanson, Hessel, et Danes (2019) | "Relational processes in family entrepreneurial culture and resilience across generations" | The study aims to explore the antecedents and factors supporting the resilience and continuity of the entrepreneurship culture and spirit across generations within the family business processes and acts. | Sustainable Family Business theory (SFBT) & Contextual Family therapy theory | -Qualitative research methodology - 22 cases of FB | - The underlying factors of entrepreneurial families' resilience are the family norms and the family relationship centered on justice, ethics and fairness. -The continuity of the entrepreneurship spirit across generation is highly influenced by the family relations and balanced ledger. Specifically, "a more balanced ledger representing a higher degree of resiliency (a protective factor) opens the door to access and use of other family capital (financial, human, other social capital) that feeds and sustains an entrepreneurial culture across generations". |
| Marjański et Sulkowski (2019) | "The Evolution of Family Entrepreneurship in Poland: Main Findings Based on Surveys and Interviews from 2009-2018" | This study discusses the evolution of the family entrepreneurship sector as a very strategic contributor to the socio-economic development of Poland's country. | Literature review | -Conceptual paper - A review of the previous empirical researches dealing with the Polish entrepreneurship structure published between 2009 and 2018 has been carried out. | - During their life cycle phase of development, the family enterprises must cope with the various challenges presented by the economic conditions changing, the market evolution and internationalization. - The entrepreneur-managers must manage the dynamics and evolution of the company-family interface in order to optimize and ensure the well functioning of both structures and systems. - According to this study, the success of the family business relies on its strategic reflection and behavior centered on innovation actions, optimal management of organizational processes and the strategic adaptation to market changes. |

Figure 8. The results of the 10 most cited articles

The new research orientations legitimize the family entrepreneurship as an academic field according to (Bégin et al., 2009; Bettinelli et al., 2014; Fayolle & Bégin, 2009; Randerson et al., 2015). These authors have stressed out the significance of incorporating entrepreneurial logics (innovation, creativity, risk-taking, opportunity seeking, opportunity seizing, value creation, entrepreneurial leadership, competitiveness) (Borges et Lima 2012) throughout family business processes and activities (Borges et al., 2016; Cardella et al., 2020; Shi, 2014). These are supported by the main research clusters' generated through our bibliometric map (see figure5). Consequently, to create a family business with the entrepreneurial visions, involvement, and resource capabilities which determine its performance, resilience, competitiveness and sustainability across-generations (Borges et al., 2016; Borges et Lima 2012).

In this same vein, Borges et Lima (2012) highlighted "there are elements that verify the possibility of the entrepreneurship manifestation in different types of organizations, such as innovation and value creation (Gartner, 1990), growth and competitiveness (Garcia et al., 1998). Moreover, integrating these logics, permits a deeper understanding of the entrepreneurial process, by allowing a comprehensive analysis from the individual and organizational aspects of this entrepreneurial action" (p.3).

Whilst, the research development in the realm of family entrepreneurship that combines the family dimensions, the involvement of family clan members and therefore the family company, is constrained and suffers from a variety of difficulties and challenges. Indeed, the comprehension of family entrepreneurship reality and process need to be approached from different viewpoints, such as: anthropology, sociology, psychology and management sciences. However, mastering all these disciplines is a challenging task to endure especially for scholars of business administration and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the literature points out the significance of the examination and understanding of the "family system" in order to comprehend deeply the firm's activities as well as the families' entrepreneurial behaviors and initiatives (Suess-Reyes,

2017). So, ethnographic studies, life stories, qualitative inquiry and in-depth exploratory analysis are the most extensively acknowledged as the research methods and tools to further the scientific research regarding the family entrepreneurship domain (Heck et al., 2008). However, these in-depth exploratory analyses are difficult to carry out in the context of family business acts characterized by conservatism as supported by (Nidaazzi & Allah, 2019).

CONCLUSIONS

The ultimate purpose of this paper is to review the scientific publications dealing with the family entrepreneurship realm. To do so, a bibliometric analysis has carried out in order to present in a rigorous and systematic manner the comprehensive evolution and growth (Ferreira et al., 2021) of this research problematic. Through this literature analysis, we could conclude that the family entrepreneurship is a legitimate field of research as supported by some most impactful scholars in this discipline like (Bettinelli et al., 2014). According to these authors, the family entrepreneurship is an emerging research domain and it is still in its pre-paradigmatic and initiating phases. In this perspective, our bibliometric analysis supports that the previous studies' conclusions and implications are still fragmented and less conclusive (Heck et al., 2008).

In addition, this review proclaims the reality and peculiarities of the family business which combine different and heterogenic systems; such as the family system, the business and ownership structure system and the entrepreneurial approach and dimensions make the responsibility of conduction the scientific studies in this domain very challenging. To meet this challenge developing authorship networks and collaboration clusters are really supported. In this some vein, our authorship map and cluster generated through the VOSviewer software show up that every paper is produced in average by 2,69 % scholars. According to (Cisneros, et al., 2018), the comprehensive and deep analysis of the complex problems of the family businesses should be investigated through scholar's networks and collaborations of the authors belonging to different disciplines.

For the research implications and main contributions, our literature review presents an overview of the previous studies dealing with family entrepreneurship sector. Indeed, the thematic analysis conducted through the VOSviewer software reveals 8 clusters of research themes and axis most characterizing the family entrepreneurship research evolution and development. We remind briefly the main conclusions and research orientations of every cluster.

The green cluster deals with the family entrepreneur and managers' behaviors. The blue cluster traits the transgenerational family entrepreneurship orientation, growth and entrepreneurial behavior. Besides, the yellow group studies the managerial as well as the strategic behaviors and capacities of the family entrepreneurship businesses. In addition, the research theme of the purple group concerns the family entrepreneurship transgenerational longevity and resilience. In the pink networks, the literature analyzes the entrepreneurial status and identity as well as the managerial legitimacy of the women entrepreneurs and managers. Also, the orange cluster units various variables and constructs related to the literature work addressing the effects of the entrepreneurship ecosystem (contexts) and family business resources and capabilities on the family entrepreneurship sector growth. Furthermore, the light blue network reviews the studies treating the strategic entrepreneurship (corporate venturing), innovation and long term orientation within the family business acts and processes. Finally, the brawn research networks deal with the entrepreneurial ecosystem and the business environment challenges as the antecedents of the family entrepreneurship structure development.

In addition, this bibliometric analysis reveals the mains and most impactful scholars in the domain of family entrepreneurship. Also, our study identifies the mains institutions and countries that contribute in a significant way to the development of this research area.

However, some limitations could be reproached to this research work. These are mainly methodological limits. Firstly, our study is mainly based on the analysis of the publications collected in the three databases "Scopus, Web of sciences, Jstor" without taking into account the other databases. Also, the single keyword of "family entrepreneurship" used to search and collect the databases may limit the scope of our bibliometric analysis.

For the research avenues and perspectives, it would be worthwhile to undertake further studies dealing with the 8 streams and clusters have been generated through our thematic analysis (figure 5), in order to better comprehend the reality and behavior of the family entrepreneurship organizations. In light of the findings of our bibliometric analysis, we would like to emphasize the importance of analyzing and understanding the family system (in terms of the family culture, its system and composition, the family members' behaviors and attitudes toward risk, entrepreneurship and business, the family members career plans and the entrepreneurial intentions, etc.) before shedding light on the business system. For this purpose, qualitative and interpretative research based on in-depth case study strategies, life stories, ethnographic and phenomenological studies need to be carried out in order to understand the family system and therefore be able to approach, analyze and comprehend the whole family business system reality.

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