

**Socioemotional wealth and innovativeness in small- and medium-sized family enterprises:
A configuration approach**

Abstract

What enables small- and medium-sized family enterprises (family SMEs) to engage in innovation? Some family firm dynamics promote innovation, yet others hinder it, and it remains unclear whether combinations of family firm dynamics allow family SMEs to innovate. Our configurational perspective of socioemotional wealth (SEW) unravels determinants of family SMEs' innovativeness. We conduct a fuzzy set qualitative comparative analysis on a sample of 452 Swiss family SMEs. In doing so, we categorize relevant antecedents of innovativeness based on socioemotional wealth dimensions into configurations of necessary and sufficient conditions. These findings offer important implications for the development of theory regarding family SMEs' innovativeness because they reveal that focusing on the effect of the interplay of individual SEW dimensions is appropriate, and multiple SEW configurations can lead to high innovativeness. Moreover, the insight that SEW and its dimensions are not inherently negative for family SMEs' innovativeness is of practical relevance since it offers practitioners a better framework to acknowledge the possible implications of family owners' non-economic, socioemotional goals for innovation.
