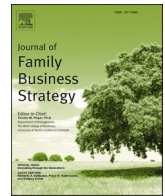




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Bringing entrepreneurship and family business fully into a home in management departments

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ABSTRACT

Many young entrepreneurship and family business scholars reside in management departments. However, too often these departments do not recognize publications on entrepreneurship and family business as equivalent to publications in management journals. Such arguments around journal quality are more than simply esoteric debates. Indeed, the acknowledgement of entrepreneurship/family business journal quality is critical since young scholars' progress to tenure and promotion around the world hinges on publications in high quality journals. However, since scholars in business are evidence-based we argue that academics' views can be shifted. Therefore, we initially present evidence on three facts about the entrepreneurship journals whose domains partially include family business. We should shift the view of management scholars on these journals' quality. We then discuss the implications of these arguments for the dedicated family business journals and how they also can enter the top tier of academic publications.

"To move from the old to what is about to come is the only tradition worth keeping."

Marcus "Dodde" Wallenberg, Jr.

1. Introduction

Issues around the perception of academic disciplines, and their related journals' quality, are socially constructed over time (Astley, 1985; DuBois & Reeb, 2000). Associate and full professors today typically have a socially constructed view of their discipline and journal quality based in large part on something that some senior faculty member taught them in their doctoral program years ago (Lowry et al., 2013; Rainer & Miller, 2005). This engrained view of the positioning of disciplines and journals is particularly relevant to entrepreneurship and family business faculty as these domains are relatively new and their faculty primarily reside in management departments (Priem & Alfano, 2016). Yet, management scholars tend to look at the entrepreneurship/family business discipline and its journals as they did years ago when those faculty were doctoral students, and these domains were substantially different. Such perceptions are more than an esoteric issue

for scholars, particularly for young scholars as they go up for tenure or promotion. Such biases against the entrepreneurship/family business discipline and journals can significantly have negative impacts on young scholars and their careers.

While it can be a challenge for any individual to change their socially constructed views, academics tend to be especially intransigent (Aguinis, Cummings, Ramani, & Cummings, 2020a; Aguinis, Cummings, Ramani, & Cummings, 2020b; Bartunek, 2020; Köhler, DeSimone, & Schoen, 2020; Rasheed & Priem, 2020; van Helden & Argento, 2020). Our profession tends to not focus on change, as illustrated by the fact that, at annual graduation ceremonies, faculty members around the world wear robes based on academic garb from seventeenth-century Europe. Many universities in Europe hold firmer still to traditions that originate from this ancient time. For example, part of the dissertation defense in at least one Finish university involves giving the successful candidate a sword, a tradition that goes back to the late Middle Ages when scholars carried swords to prevent attacks by townspeople. The reliance on such ceremonies reflects a strong tendency by academics to embrace tradition and to change slowly. However, as the above quote from one of Sweden's most famous business leaders, Marcus "Dodde" Wallenberg Jr., indicates while tradition may have value there is strong

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Table 1

Entrepreneurship/Family Business Publications per Year Compared to Management.

Year	ET&P + JBV + SEJ	SMJ	JAP	AMJ
2020	159	92	127	74
2019	133	92	84	76
2018	110	138	87	93
2017	112	145	109	95
2016	124	163	110	95
2015	137	122	122	79
2014	138	123	91	78
2013	138	91	71	80
2012	123	81	94	66
2011	126	76	99	60
2010	126	74	95	71
2009	126	72	117	63
2008	129	77	110	62
2007	134	73	138	93
2006	100	65	113	74
2005	81	70	104	73
2004	79	70	86	62
2003	84	79	92	55
2002	44	71	111	77
2001	51	63	115	82
2000	51	71	87	68
1999	52	63	81	49
1998	57	72	82	50
1997	56	66	80	70
1996	52	72	71	67
1995	62	44	61	76
Total	2,584	2,225	2,537	1,888

Table 2A

Top 20 Management Scholars in Management Journals (sorted by number of management articles).

Rank	Author Name	Publication Number	AMJ	SMJ	JAP
1	Timothy A. Judge	53	7	0	46
2	Paul R. Sackett	40	0	0	40
3	Filip Lievens	37	0	0	37
4	John R. Hollenbeck	32	14	0	18
5	Mo Wang	32	6	0	26
6	Jason A. Colquitt	31	11	0	20
7	Will Mitchell	30	4	26	0
8	Russell E. Johnson	28	4	0	24
9	Michael A. Hitt	27	15	12	0
10	John E. Mathieu	27	6	0	21
11	Daan van Knippenberg	27	11	2	14
12	Remus Ilies	26	5	0	21
13	Jason Shaw	26	9	4	13
14	Hui Liao	26	9	0	17
15	John M. Schaubroeck	26	9	0	17
16	Jeffery A. LePine	25	6	1	18
17	David A. Harrison	25	8	1	16
18	Donald C. Hambrick	25	11	14	0
19	Jeffrey J. Reuer	25	7	18	0
20	Frederick P. Morgeson	23	0	0	23

value in looking forward and embracing change. Academics, as an evidence-based profession should embrace change when evidence supports that change. Thus, we believe the evidence presented here can lead management faculty to recognize that their socially constructed views of entrepreneurship/family business journals are no longer be accurate.

To build our case, we will initially examine three leading entrepreneurship/family business journals: *Entrepreneurship Theory & Practice* (ET&P), *Journal of Business Venturing* (JBV), and *Strategic Entrepreneurship Journal* (SEJ). These journals broadly address entrepreneurship with a view that family business is part of the broad domain. In examining these journals we present facts that these journals are equivalent to those leading management journals: *Academy of Management Journal* (AMJ), *Journal of Applied Psychology* (JAP), and *Strategic Management Journal* (SMJ). These facts include:

- Leading faculty in both entrepreneurship/family business and management publish in their respective top journals at equivalent levels and their scholarship has an equivalent impact on the broader academic domain.
- The entrepreneurship/family business field has grown to represent a major segment of academic life rather than the small niche some academics assume.
- The measures of quality of the leading entrepreneurship/family business journals are equivalent or greater than those in the two largest arms of management – organizational behavior and strategic management.

We next examine three journals that are exclusively dedicated to family business research: *Family Business Review* (FBR), *Journal of Family Business Strategy* (JFBS), and *Journal of Family Business Management* (JFBM). These journals, while younger and gaining impact, appear on a similar path to the entrepreneurship journals. We discuss how these journals can continue to build their impact. Overall, we seek to address more broadly how the field of family business should evolve to maximize its impact and support those junior scholars publishing in the field.

2. Entrepreneurship/family business vs. management journals

We want to initially establish that the entrepreneurship/family business journals should be considered equivalent to the leading management journals. Therefore, we will initially compare the three widely acknowledged leading empirical entrepreneurship/family business journals to the leading empirical management journals. The three-leading entrepreneurship/family business journals are those that are part of the *Financial Times 50* (FT 50)¹: ET&P, JBV, and SEJ. These three journals publish not only a wide range of entrepreneurship topics but also family business scholarship. For management, we take the leading empirical journal that crosses domains, and the leading empirical journal for the two key elements of management – organizational behavior and strategic management (Morrison, 2010). Thus, the leading empirical management journals we examine are AMJ, plus the leading journal for organizational behavior, JAP, and the leading journal for strategic management, SMJ.² All these three journals are again part of the FT50 journals for the business school. We will initially address three domains – faculty impact, growth in the domain, and citation impact of the journal.

2.1. Faculty impact

We argue that a look at the academic careers of leading academics in management and entrepreneurship/family business will show that their academic impact is largely equivalent. We initially identify the pre-eminent scholars in the field of entrepreneurship/family business and those in management effectively over 26 years (from the beginning of 1995 through the end of 2020) based on number of publications. However, citations indicate that individuals have created an idea, or their findings have made important theoretical and empirical contributions, which others employ to build their own research. Building on this insight about the role of citations we next compare the citation impact of these two

¹ The reason we relied on the FT 50 journals list is that this list has a greater potential for name recognition among business schools and is widely used in the faculty research publication ranking of business schools (Christensen, Peirce, Hartman, Hoffman, & Carrier, 2007; Wright & Hitt, 2017).

² It should be noted that a number of authors in the management domain publish in all three journals. It may be argued there is a need for an organizational behavior list and a strategic management list. But the fact that a number of authors publish in all three journals and that most departments are management departments with management faculty and are not separated by organizational behavior and strategy leads us to combine them in this way here.

Table 2B

Top 20 Entrepreneurship/Family Business Scholars in Entrepreneurship Journals (sorted by number of entrepreneurial articles).

Rank	Author Name	Publication Number	ET&P	JBV	SEJ
1	Dean A. Shepherd	75	32	40	3
2	Mike Wright	40	18	16	6
3	Johan Wiklund	38	23	14	1
4	Shaker A. Zahra	35	14	18	3
5	James J. Chrisman	32	27	5	0
6	Jeffrey G. Covin	25	16	7	2
7	Robert A. Baron	23	3	13	7
8	Holger Patzelt	22	11	11	0
9	Lowell W. Busenitz	21	10	10	1
10	Garry D. Bruton	21	12	7	2
11	Donald F. Kuratko	20	13	7	0
12	Justin W. Webb	19	9	8	2
13	Harry J. Sapienza	17	5	10	2
14	William B. Gartner	17	7	9	1
15	Kimberly A. Eddleston	17	12	5	0
16	Pankaj C. Patel	17	10	2	5
17	Franz W. Kellermanns	17	13	4	0
18	Moren Lévesque	17	5	10	2
19	Per Davidsson	16	9	7	0
20	R. Duane Ireland	16	9	3	4

Table 3A

Top 20 Management Scholars Citations in Articles in the Six Journals.

Author Name	Publication Numbers	Google Scholar Citation 12/31/2020
Timothy A. Judge	53	51,469
Paul R. Sackett	40	10,738
Filip Lievens	37	4,608
John R. Hollenbeck	32	7,243
Mo Wang	32	4,203
Jason A. Colquitt	31	30,415
Will Mitchell	31	9,217
Russell E. Johnson	28	3,233
Michael A. Hitt	36	32,617
John E. Mathieu	27	10,691
Daan van Knippenberg	27	10,191
Remus Ilies	27	15,949
Jason Shaw	26	9,394
Hui Liao	26	8,785
John M. Schaubroeck	26	7,131
Jeffery A. LePine	25	29,758
David A. Harrison	25	16,976
Donald C. Hambrick	26	10,706
Jeffrey J. Reuer	28	5,317
Frederick P. Morgeson	23	14,968
Total	606	293,609

groups over time.

The appendix has more specifics on the methods, but in examining the results presented it should be noted that the number of articles published in combination of the three entrepreneurship/family business journals (*ET&P*+*JBV*+*SEJ*) per year is approximately the same as the number of articles published in *JAP* or *SMJ* alone (see [Table 1](#)). Thus, the three entrepreneurship/family business journals together publish as many articles as the major organizational behavior and the major strategic management journal do separately. This is in addition to the fact that *AMJ* is typically also viewed as more accessible to organizational behavior and strategic management scholars than to entrepreneurship/family business scholarship. Thus, the results we present here on comparing the relative publications and citations of management and entrepreneurship/family business are relatively conservative since there are greater numbers of journal articles publication possibility for management.

As noted, we initially identify the preeminent top 20 scholars in management and entrepreneurship/family business based on the

Table 3B

Top 20 Entrepreneurship/Family Business Scholars Citations in Articles in the Six Journals.

Author Name	Publication Numbers	Google Scholar Citation 12/31/2020
Dean A. Shepherd	86	23,678
Mike Wright	42	15,076
Johan Wiklund	41	20,415
Shaker A. Zahra	41	31,297
James J. Chrisman	33	16,586
Jeffrey G. Covin	28	17,172
Robert A. Baron	28	14,635
Holger Patzelt	24	4,595
Lowell W. Busenitz	23	12,949
Garry D. Bruton	26	8,779
Donald F. Kuratko	21	10,791
Justin W. Webb	22	4,101
Harry J. Sapienza	24	15,405
William B. Gartner	17	9,901
Kimberly A. Eddleston	20	5,707
Pankaj C. Patel	30	5,245
Franz W. Kellermanns	17	4,231
Moren Lévesque	18	3,010
Per Davidsson	17	13,538
R. Duane Ireland	20	12,142
Total	578	249,253

number of their publications in the specified journals for each domain over the last 26 years (see [Table 2A](#)³, [Table 2B](#)⁴ and [Table 2C](#)⁵ for list of scholars by total publications in their domain). Note, we used three different methods, as detailed in the Appendix section, to validate this list of preeminent scholars and their number of publications.

From [Table 3A](#)⁶ and [Table 3B](#)⁷, we find that the preeminent scholars in each group generate equivalent numbers of articles and citations.⁸ The number of articles generated by each group is also approximately the same – the management (organizational behavior and strategic management) group published 606 articles while the entrepreneurship/family business group published 578 articles. Because the data is abnormally distributed, we employ Mann-Whitney *U* test to determine differences in publication number and citation impact between management group and entrepreneurship/family business group and found no differences ($p > 0.05$, see specific results in the Appendix – [Tables A2 and A3](#)) (Dinneen & Blakesley, 1973). Therefore, the publication number and citation impact between the two groups generate no significant differences. The two sets of leading scholars are largely

³ In this paper, we employed the without skipping duplicates method in the sequence to rank scholars' the publication number in entrepreneurship/family business and management domain; two authors with the same publications are listed by citations number from their publications in the six journals retrieved from Google Scholar.

⁴ The number of Dr. Timothy A. Judge's publications in management journals is 53, ranked 1st. We compared the results of Mann-Whitney *U* Test with his publication number and citation number in and out of the analysis, found the evidence that his publication and citation will not drive the results. See Appendix [Tables A2 and A3](#) for these results.

⁵ The number of Dr. Dean A. Shepherd's publications in entrepreneurship/family business journals is 75, ranked 1st. We compared the results of Mann-Whitney *U* Test with his publication number and citation number in and out of the analysis, found the evidence that his publication and citation will not drive the results. See Appendix [Tables A2 and A3](#) for these results.

⁶ Top 20 scholars in management sorted by total publications in management.

⁷ Top 20 scholars in entrepreneurship/family business sorted by total publications in entrepreneurship/family business.

⁸ Note [Table 3A](#) sort scholars by total publications in management and [Table 3B](#) sort scholars by total publications in entrepreneurship/family business.

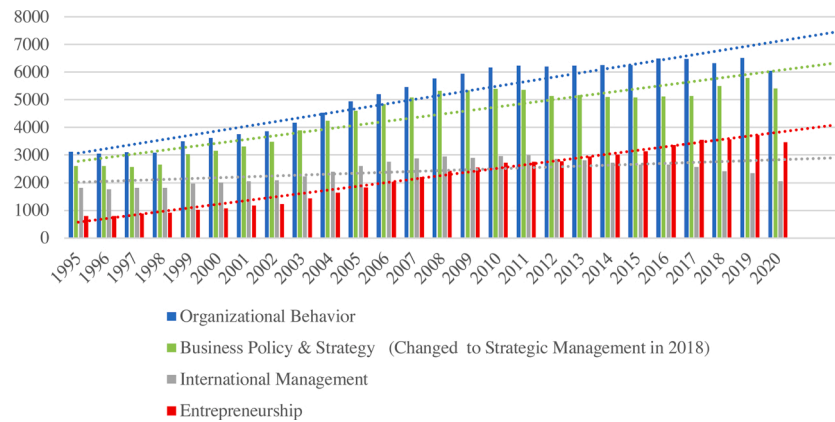


Fig. 1. Academy of Management Data as of July 1st each Year.

comparable both in number of publications for the total list of scholars and their citation impact.

As we note in the Appendix, we provide the number of citations only for articles in the six journals we examined, but clearly almost all of the leading scholars have published in other journals and have a greater number of citations. Building on the fact that authors publish in other outlets than in their specialty journals, we also find that 18 of the entrepreneurship/family business scholars have published in the leading management journals and five of the management scholars have published in the entrepreneurship/family business journals; the majority of the entrepreneurship/family business scholars publish in the leading management journal *AMJ* or the strategic management journal *SMJ*; while all domains can publish in *AMJ*, the clear majority of its scholarship involves organizational behavior or strategic management. All academics choose their research domains based on their interests or preferences (Lowry et al., 2013). However, the preeminent scholars in the entrepreneurship/family business domain are academics who have substantial impact on the broader academy. They are indistinguishable in what they do as they generate similar levels of research with management domain scholars and their citation impact is the same for that research.

2.2. Growth in domain

The entrepreneurship/family business domain also represents a major and significant academic domain with large numbers of scholars, not a niche as some management scholars argue. The number of scholars studying entrepreneurship/family business has continued to grow substantially over recent years. Organizational behavior and strategic management have also experienced growth, but the nature of the growth in entrepreneurship/family business is significantly different. The growth in entrepreneurship/family business has been exponential, as visualized in Fig. 1 below. The membership statistics across different divisions were taken from the *Academy of Management (AOM)* division report.⁹ As inferred from Fig. 1 and Table 1, the absolute numbers of scholars in the domains for management (organizational behavior and strategic management) remains larger than entrepreneurship/family business domain. But the percentage growth in entrepreneurship/family business is significantly larger.

Readers should note several important facts as they examine this figure. Specialty groups represent all the different disciplines discussed here. Thus, not all faculty in a given domain will join and necessarily be

a member of *AOM*. Additionally, the boundaries between the areas of entrepreneurship/family business, organizational behavior, and strategic management are permeable, so people can consider themselves in more than one domain. But we hope that scholars view these numbers as a general indicator of faculty interest and participation rather than an absolute number. We included the numbers for the international management division to indicate that all domains of scholarship have not had the same levels of growth. Thus, the growth of entrepreneurship/family business reflects something special.

The growth in entrepreneurship division membership agrees with other indicators of the growth in entrepreneurship/family business faculty, such as the growth in the number of entrepreneurship centers in the United States. There were 108 university entrepreneurship centers in 2020 (*The State of University Entrepreneurship Centers [UECs] - Fall 2020 Report, 2020*), far more than for similar centers focused on organizational behavior or strategic management domains. Another indicator of the growth of entrepreneurship/family business is that at the 2014 World Economic Forum in Davos, the Chinese government advocated “mass entrepreneurship and innovation” in the World Economic Forum at Davos. In response, the Chinese government established entrepreneurship/family business education programs that now teach entrepreneurship/family business in 82 % of all universities in the nation (Hu, 2015). The Chinese government also hold innovation and entrepreneurship competitions for college students around the country and encourage them to start their own businesses with policy supports in financing, network building, managerial operation, and their subsequent degree pursuit. As a result, China has advanced entrepreneurship/family business as a legitimate academic field/discipline. No similar requirements exist for any other business domains in the nation.

Thus, scholars in organizational behavior or strategic management should not view entrepreneurship/family business as niche. Indeed, scholars should view entrepreneurship/family business as a significant domain of scholarship and education that has a worldwide following and impact. Again, such prominence stresses the growth in maturity that the domain and its journals reflect.¹⁰

2.3. Journal citation impact

The final element of our argument is journal quality. We illustrate this fact in Fig. 2¹¹, below, using one-year citation impact.

Though scholars frequently hear about the impact of citations,

⁹ There are a number of divisions in the *AOM* and members of the association get to join two different divisions as part of their annual membership, thus there may be overlap in the members in these divisions. The *AOM* itself consists of a wide set of disciplines from ethics, to gender studies, to production/operations.

¹⁰ For further evidence on the growth of the family business domain, please see Stewart and Miner (2011).

¹¹ From the InCites Journal Citation Reports in Web of Science, the earliest year of journal impact factor we could obtain for *AMJ*, *JAP*, *SMJ*, and *JBV* are 1997, *ET&P* is 2005, *FBR* is 2007, *JFBS* is 2014, and *SEJ* is 2010.

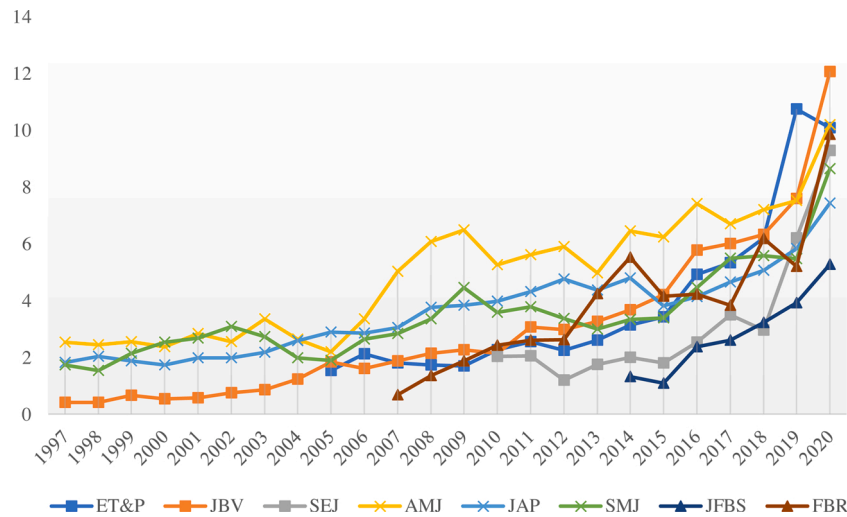


Fig. 2. Journal Impact Factor over the last 23 Years for Journals in Entrepreneurship, Family Business, and Management.

Table 4
T-Test.

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						95 % Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	MD	Std. Error Difference		Lower	Upper
JIF	Equal variances assumed	0.033	0.865	-1.497	4	0.209	-1.7216667	1.1501220		-4.9149172	1.4715839
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.497	3.996	0.209	-1.7216667	1.1501220		-4.916943	1.4728609

scholars often do not digest the meaning of this concept and how it reflects on journal quality (Stewart, 2021). Citation impact is the number of citations that each article in a journal generates and is measured as the average number of citations received by papers published in the journal during the two preceding years (Clarivate Analytics, 2020). We employ the one-year citation impact figures here since they allow us to make a clear argument that articles in entrepreneurship/family business are generating as much or more interest as those in management (Stewart, 2021). According to the 2020 Journal Impact Factor (JIF) from Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics, 2020), the JIF was: 1) Management: AMJ - 10.194, SMJ - 8.641, and JAP - 7.429; 2) Entrepreneurship: ET&P - 10.075, JBV - 12.065, and SEJ - 9.289. To analyze these normally distributed data ($p > 0.05$), we ran two independent-samples T tests to detect differences in the citation impact between management and entrepreneurship/family business journals. As Table 4 indicates, we found no differences in the citation impact between management journals and entrepreneurship/family business journals ($p > 0.05$). We also found a similarity in the acceptance rates of the various journals as all of them accept less than 10 % of the articles submitted.¹²

Thus, we again feel confident in arguing the articles generated in the three leading entrepreneurship/family business journals equate in quality to the leading journals in management. Leading journals in any domain will reflect the overall maturing of a field. The articles in the leading entrepreneurship/family business journals are now producing an impact equivalent to those in management due to their rigor in theory and methods (Priem & Alfano, 2016; Wright & Kellermanns, 2011). Overall, the field of entrepreneurship/family business has largely

matured to a similar level as that as management and its two arms organizational behavior and strategic management. As a result, the leading faculty careers in entrepreneurship/family business and management largely look the same. Similarly, the size of the faculty in the entrepreneurship/family business domain is similarly large and established, although still growing. Logically, then, the journals themselves associated with the maturing of the entrepreneurship/family business field have also matured in a fashion to be equivalent in measures of such items as the management domain's leading journals.

2.4. Summary

We believe we have established a clear maturing of the entrepreneurship/family business domain. The domain has grown in participation to where it is a major field of academic research. Plus, entrepreneurship/family business scholars and journals have matured to the point that their impact equates to that of the two major arms of the management domain (organizational behavior and strategic management). Therefore, we expect the evidence we present to help shift scholars' socially constructed image of the entrepreneurship/family business leading journals to where they largely see management and entrepreneurship/family business as equivalent.

3. Overview of the three dedicated family business journals

The question that we address next is then looking more specifically at the implications of these findings for the family business domain. Earlier work by Rovelli, Ferasso, De Massis, and Kraus (2021) examined the three dedicated family business journals –FBR, JFBS, andJFBM – and identified top scholars. In contrast, we identified preeminent scholars in the above six journals and examined their connections with the family business domain. Specifically, in Table 5 we can see the connection between the entrepreneurship and family business domain is clear with

¹² The Strategic Management Society (SMS) does not report the acceptance rate for its journals (SMJ nor SEJ), we calculated their acceptance rates based on the publishing numbers and submission numbers provided by their official websites. The other journals acceptance rates were taken from Cabell's Analytics.

Table 5

Top 20 Scholars of Management and Entrepreneurship/ Family Business in Traditional Top Family Business Journals.

Domain	Author Name	FBR	JFBS	JFBM
MNGT	Timothy A. Judge	0	0	0
MNGT	Paul R. Sackett	0	0	0
MNGT	Filip Lievens	0	0	0
MNGT	John R. Hollenbeck	0	0	0
MNGT	Mo Wang	0	0	0
MNGT	Jason A. Colquitt	0	0	0
MNGT	Will Mitchell	0	0	0
MNGT	Russell E. Johnson	0	0	0
MNGT	Michael A. Hitt	1	0	0
MNGT	John E. Mathieu	0	0	0
MNGT	Daan van Knippenberg	0	0	0
MNGT	Remus Ilies	0	0	0
MNGT	Jason Shaw	0	0	0
MNGT	Hui Liao	0	0	0
MNGT	John M. Schaubroeck	0	0	0
MNGT	Jeffery A. LePine	0	0	0
MNGT	David A. Harrison	0	0	0
MNGT	Donald C. Hambrick	0	0	0
MNGT	Jeffrey J. Reuer	0	0	0
MNGT	Frederick P. Morgeson	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Dean A. Shepherd	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Mike Wright	0	2	0
ENT/FB	Johan Wiklund	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Shaker A. Zahra	4	1	0
ENT/FB	James J. Chrisman	12	4	1
ENT/FB	Jeffrey G. Covin	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Robert A. Baron	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Holger Patzelt	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Lowell W. Busenitz	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Garry D. Bruton	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Donald F. Kuratko	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Justin W. Webb	1	1	0
ENT/FB	Harry J. Sapienza	0	0	0
ENT/FB	William B. Gartner	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Kimberly A. Eddleston	2	6	0
ENT/FB	Pankaj C. Patel	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Franz W. Kellermanns	14	12	1
ENT/FB	Moren Lévesque	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Per Davidsson	0	0	0
ENT/FB	R. Duane Ireland	0	1	0
Total		39	27	2

that fact that about 60 % of the top 20 scholars in *ETP*, *JBV*, and *SEJ* also publish actively in the top three dedicated family business journals (Rovelli et al., 2021). The top 20 scholars from the entrepreneurship/family business journals generated 67 articles in the dedicated family business journals; it should be noted that one scholar is responsible for about 40 % (27 out of 67) of the dedicated family business journal articles – Franz Kellermanns.

Looking deeper at the dedicated family business journals, it can be seen that these journals are much younger than the three broadly focused entrepreneurship/family business journals (*ETP*, *JBV*, and *SEJ*). It is noted from Fig. 2, *FBR* has the longest citation history (since 2007), followed by *JFBS* (since 2014), *JFBM* which obtained its initial Social Science Citation Index (*SSCI*) ranking in 2021. Despite their comparatively young age, the citation impact of the dedicated family business journals is already significant. *FBR*'s 2020 *JIF* was 9.848, *JFBS*'s was 5.277, and *JFBM*'s 2.548. Thus, *FBR* already has a citation impact higher than three of the top six journals in the management and entrepreneurship/family business journals (*JAP*, *SMJ*, and *SEJ*). But as we note above, socially constructed perceptions of journals are more than one single factor. We will next lay out the suggestions on where the dedicated family business journals should move to increase the socially constructed perception among scholars for the domain of family business.

Table 6

Top 20 Scholars' Publications Involved with Family Business in the Six Journals.

Domain	Author Name	AMJ	ET&P	JAP	JBV	SEJ	SMJ
MNGT	Timothy A. Judge	0	0	1	0	0	0
MNGT	Paul R. Sackett	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Filip Lievens	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	John R. Hollenbeck	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Mo Wang	0	0	2	0	0	0
MNGT	Jason A. Colquitt	1	0	1	0	0	0
MNGT	Will Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Russell E. Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Michael A. Hitt	0	5	0	0	0	0
MNGT	John E. Mathieu	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Daan van Knippenberg	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Remus Ilies	2	0	2	0	0	0
MNGT	Jason Shaw	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Hui Liao	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	John M. Schaubroeck	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Jeffery A. LePine	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	David A. Harrison	0	0	1	0	0	0
MNGT	Donald C. Hambrick	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Jeffrey J. Reuer	0	0	0	0	0	0
MNGT	Frederick P. Morgeson	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Dean A. Shepherd	0	2	0	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Mike Wright	0	2	0	1	0	0
ENT/FB	Johan Wiklund	0	3	0	0	1	0
ENT/FB	Shaker A. Zahra	0	2	0	1	0	0
ENT/FB	James J. Chrisman	1	16	0	2	0	0
ENT/FB	Jeffrey G. Covin	0	1	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Robert A. Baron	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Holger Patzelt	0	1	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Lowell W. Busenitz	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Garry D. Bruton	0	1	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Donald F. Kuratko	0	2	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Justin W. Webb	0	2	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Harry J. Sapienza	0	0	0	0	0	1
ENT/FB	William B. Gartner	0	1	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Kimberly A. Eddleston	1	8	1	1	0	1
ENT/FB	Pankaj C. Patel	2	3	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Franz W. Kellermanns	0	11	0	2	0	0
ENT/FB	Moren Lévesque	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	Per Davidsson	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENT/FB	R. Duane Ireland	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total		7	62	8	8	1	2

3.1. Pushing the socially constructive perceptions forward for family business

There are three specific suggestions that seem relatively clear for the dedicated family business journals. These include continuing to increase the profile of scholars, accessing the *FT 50* listing, and considering a set of other actions to promote the domain. We will address each of these points in turn.

3.1.1. Scholar profile

One of the key differences that is notable in looking at the listing of the top 20 scholars in the three leading management journals and the listing of the top 20 scholars in the three entrepreneurship/family business journals is that, the entrepreneurship/family business scholars are much more likely to publish in the management journals than vice versa. But still, the top 20 management scholars have published 15 articles in the period examined in the three entrepreneurship/family business journals. However, examining the three dedicated family business journals there is far less overlap among top contributors. As we can see from Table 5, only one top management scholar, Michael Hitt, has published in any of the dedicated family business journals. Even among the top scholars in the three-leading entrepreneurship/family business journals participation is limited; if the scholars whose principal identification is family business are removed (Franz Kellermanns, James Chrisman, and Kimberly Eddleston), there are only 15 articles generated by nine top entrepreneurship/family business scholars in the dedicated family business journals.

This does not mean that there is not family business research occurring. Top scholars are publishing family business work in the top journals in management and entrepreneurship/family business. From Table 6, excluding again the above three scholars we identified as more purely family business, we identified 44 articles on family business published by the 37 non-family business scholars among our top 40 management and entrepreneurship/family business scholars. Thus, there is major work on family business but it not typically published in the dedicated family business journals by these leading scholars. The dedicated family business journals would be well placed to seek to build stronger bridges with the top scholars in the other leading journals (Priem & Alfano, 2016; Stewart, 2008). The 37 non-family business scholars are clearly individuals that setting a broad scholarship agenda; if these scholars would publish their scholarship in the three dedicated family business journals, they would not only contribute valuable perspectives and useful insights to family business research, but would also signal their validation of the value of these journals to their colleagues in their given domain.

3.1.2. FT 50 listing of top business journals

It is notable that there are three journals in the FT 50 list of top business journals for entrepreneurship/family business (ETP, JBV, and SEJ). The three journals in this domain are widely recognized as cooperative rather than competitive. The nature of citations is that no single journal can be successful by itself. What is published by one is cited by the other. Thus, the established entrepreneurship/family business journals typically are seen as supportive of each other and the domain. It is also notable that the addition of SEJ was accomplished through an active campaign in which individuals were asked to actively promote the journal. The success of SEJ has now led to more journals actively pursuing this strategy which makes success by another journal more challenging, however, this fact does not mean that such campaigns should not be pursued. The FT 50 list has its critics and some schools believe it should not be used as a quality guideline since several journals are of questionable status (Kulczycki, Hołowiecki, Taşkın, & Krawczyk, 2021). However, the FT list of journals is widely used by many schools to assess the tenure or promotion for young scholars, and as such is relevant to the social construction process of journal quality.

There are multiple possible strategies possible for the family business journals in reaching the FT list. One strategy is to seek to replace an existing entrepreneurship/family business journal like SEJ in the FT 50 listing. Alternatively, focused family business journals may seek to cooperate with the existing entrepreneurship/family business journals to expand their impact. Finally, family business journals may seek to build a narrative that, like business ethics, family business is a separate from entrepreneurship in the business school. Whichever of these strategies there are several factors that should be stressed. First, family business as a domain, and among its journals need to be supportive of each other as they do. The cooperation among family business scholars is far more impactful and important than competition. Additionally, a key element in any of these strategies is the recognition that family business is the broadest and most encompassing domain in the business school (Bird, Welsch, Astrachan, & Pistrui, 2002) since the vast majority (upward of 80 %) of all business organizations are family owned and/or family managed (IFERA (International Family Enterprise Research Academy), 2003). No matter the strategy pursued, recognizing the prevalent role of family influence will create more applicable and deepen our understanding of the family business phenomena, and increase more meaningful insights into business that will ultimately benefit from more responsible research (Astrachan, 2003).

3.1.3. Other actions

The entrepreneurship/family business domain has other insights that family business scholars should recognize. Historically, there is a unique entrepreneurship/family business research conference presented each year by Babson College. This conference has not only promoted

excellent research but allowed entrepreneurship/family business scholars from around the world to gather and promote a view of the field as distinct. While there are a number of family business conferences around the world, such as The International Family Enterprise Research Academy (IFERA) (Stewart & Miner, 2011), more family business conferences that generate a similar unifying effect and encourage world class research among family business scholars would be useful. There is history of such conferences. For example, the annual Theories of Family Enterprise (ToFE) conference that initiated by James Chrisman, Jess Chua, and Lloyd Steier in 2001 generated 17 special issues from 2001 to 2019. These conferences/special journal issues not only build bridges that help family business scholars publish at ETP and JBV, but also extend the theoretical horizons of family business research by bringing scholars from mainstream together with scholars in family business management (Chua, Chrisman, & Steier, 2003; Sharma, Chrisman, Chua, & Steier, 2020). While a number of special issues focused on family business have occurred in recent years, future conferences tied to special issues of major journals would be a particularly powerful path forward to promote the family business domain widely.

It was previously noted that there has been a rapid development of entrepreneurship centers in business schools. These centers are most typically focused on pure entrepreneurship with numerous student activities such as business plan competitions and outreach to high technology entrepreneurs in the community (Finkle, Menzies, Kuratko, & Goldsby, 2013). The creation of similar related specialty centers focused on family business in turn help to build that recognition of the family business domain in the broader community and to promote among students a clear focus on the domain. Although upward of 80 % of all United States businesses are family businesses, often the entrepreneurship centers do not focus typically on family business (Pieper, Kellermanns, & Astrachan, 2021). Thus, such family business centers could fill a significant gap that now exists.

In addition, there is a lot of “non-consumption” of family business education in that there is a large section of the economy that goes under addressed by business education. There is a need to change the traditional business school curriculum to become more meaningful to a large section of the economy – family business. Journals are part of the non-consumption problem as domains such as venture capital which in fact is such a small percent of the economy holds disproportionate impact in the journals while domains like family business, over 80 % of the United States business, remains relatively limited in examination or in the course work of the business school. Making family business a standard part of business school curriculum and ensuring it is represented widely in the published research will help not only give the family business field legitimacy, but help to have students and academics better address the actual nature of business in the United States (Sharma, Hoy, Astrachan, & Koironen, 2007).

3.1.4. Summary for the dedicated family business journals

If the assumption of this article is accepted, there is a socially constructed view of the quality of journals, then the three dedicated family business journals would be well advised to begin to act in manner to shape that social construction. The involvement of top scholars from other disciplines, seeking to promote the journals as a group broadly in a coherent strategy for entering the FT 50 listing, generating specialty conferences, creation of family business, and integration of family business into the standard business school curriculum all need to be pursued. If this is done it is far more likely that the dedicated family business journals will enter into consideration as premier journals equivalent to the three management journals or the three-broad entrepreneurship/family business journals examined here.

4. Discussion and conclusion

There is an old professor's joke:

Question – How do you know a journal is an “A” journal?

Answer – It is the journal I publish in.

Too often the socially constructed views of journals make this joke a reality.

Socially constructed views can change as we argue previously keeping change can also be a tradition. The year we started our examination here, 1995, China would be widely classified as an emerging economy. The European Union in 1995 was just growing from 12 nations to 15 nations (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom were the members and that year the European Union added Austria, Finland, and Sweden). Finally, the United States was on the verge of passing the Defense of Marriage Act to define marriage as only between a man and woman.

Today, China is an aspirant country moving from an upper middle-income country to a high-income country according to the World Bank, rather than emerging economy (Bruton, Ahlstrom, & Chen, 2021); in fact, China today is the leading country in the world in many technology domains (Chen & Guan, 2011; Deloitte, 2019; Islam & Miyazaki, 2010; Moody, 2020). The European Union now has 27 members, which no longer include the United Kingdom. Finally, in the United States same sex marriage is the law of the land and widely accepted. Thus, the facts and socially constructed views on all these issues have changed over the last 26 years. We can quite reasonably expect, then, that evidence-based domains like scholars can shift. We believe we have established the evidence here that broadly the leading management and entrepreneurship/family business journals are now equivalent. The next challenge will be for the three dedicated family business journals to begin to actively shape the socially constructed views of those journals.

Change is hard. But as scholars we must actively seek to shape those perceptions if our domains are to move forward. Such movement in perceptions is central to the lives of young scholars as they seek to advance in their careers as these perceptions in turn impact the response of their colleagues to their publications as they seek tenure and promotion. Our hope is that this article lays not only the establishment of the current entrepreneurship/family business journals as high quality but also starts an active discussion of how we move the dedicated family business journals to a similar socially constructed recognition.

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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Appendix A

To generate the scholar's relevant publication information, we initially searched the Scopus database, which provides results by journal, year, and author. We specifically searched the database for papers with the following terms “Academy of Management Journal”, “Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice”, “Journal of Applied Psychology”, “Journal of Business Venturing”, “Strategy Entrepreneurship Journal”, “Strategic Management Journal” from 1995 to 2020. We only searched *SEJ* starting

in 2007 which is the year it was founded. We next searched the official websites of all included journals to avoid any missing papers. We identified an additional 335 studies in this step. This process generated 9,234 articles with duplication deleted (see Table 1).

In the third step, we restricted our studies to research articles; thus, we deleted erratum, editorial, in-press/online status article, issue information, book review, dialogue, announcement, invited commentary, introductions to special issues, teaching case, etc. The result was to delete 837 papers from our database. In addition, the first two issues of *SEJ* in 2007 were invited so we did not include those articles in our totals which deleted 35 articles from consideration.

Thus, our final list comprises 8,362 studies (See Table A1), which forms a comprehensive yet manageable base for analyzing scholar's citation impact. Please see Table A1 for a summary of how we developed the total publications for the above six journals over the past 26 years. We total the publications for each author in the 8,362 articles. The preeminent scholars are the individuals who had the most articles within management or entrepreneurship/family business domain in this search process. If any scholar is preeminent in both management and entrepreneurship/family business domain, we categorize him/her into one domain where he/she had the most articles. For example, we place Dr. Pankaj C. Patel in entrepreneurship/family business domain as he has 17 publications in entrepreneurship/family business while 13 publications in management.

To validate our methodology for identifying authors and their number of publications, we took the preeminent scholars in each domain and then searched by their name in the six journals' websites and by using their name plus six journals in EBSCOHost database. This allows us to confirm the total number of articles these scholars generated in the time period examined. We also validated the preeminent scholars' publications by searching their vitas obtained from their university website or google scholar webpages. We could obtain 36 scholars' vitas (90 %, 36 out of 40) and validated their publications. These three validating searches generated the exact same number of articles for all 40 cases confirming that our methodology was robust for generating our list of articles by author.

In order to address the implications for family business domain, we again searched scholars' name in the three traditional family business focused journals (“Family Business Review”, “Journal of Family Business Strategy”, and “Journal of Family Business Management”) to identify scholars' publications. Again, we restricted scholars' publications to research articles only and validated all the publications through EBSCOHost database and scholars' vitas.

To identify the citation impact of scholars, we searched the Google Scholar database since it is more inclusive and international than Web of Science or other sources, for example, it covers citation not only by Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) journals but also non-SSCI journals. We first searched the article title in Google Scholar to obtain the article citation. Then, we added up each author's citation impact by their publications and then ranked according to their total citation impact.

Table A1
Number of Articles Used to Rank Scholars.

First Search - Scopus Database	Added by Manual Check	Deleted for Specific Type of Article – i.e. teaching case, dialogue, etc	Two Issues of <i>SEJ</i> in 2007	Total Articles Used to Rank Scholars
8,899	+335	–837	–35	8,362

Table A2

Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney *U* test without the Publications of Dr. Timothy A. Judge and Dr. Dean A. Shepherd – Top Scholars in Management and Entrepreneurship/Family Business.

Ranks				
Domain		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Publication	Management	19	22.89	435.00
	Entrepreneurship/Family Business	19	16.11	306.00
	Total	38		
Citation	Management	19	19.26	366.00
	Entrepreneurship/Family Business	19	19.74	375.00
	Total	38		
Test Statistics ^a				
		Publications		Citation
Mann-Whitney U		116.000		176.000
Wilcoxon W		206.000		366.000
Z		−1.888		−.131
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		0.059		0.895
Exact Sig. [2*(1-tailed Sig.)]		0.061 ^b		0.908 ^b
Median				
Domain		Publications		Citation
Management		27.00		10191.00
Entrepreneurship/Family Business		24.00		12142.00
Total		26.50		10698.50

^a Grouping Variable: domain.

^b Not corrected for ties.

Table A3

Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney *U* test with the Publications of Dr. Timothy A. Judge and Dr. Dean A. Shepherd – Top Scholars in Management and Entrepreneurship/Family Business.

Ranks				
Domain		N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Publication	Management	20	23.70	474.00
	Entrepreneurship/Family Business	20	17.30	346.00
	Total	40		
Citation	Management	20	20.45	404.00
	Entrepreneurship/Family Business	20	20.55	416.00
	Total	40		
Test Statistics ^a				
		Publication	Citation	
Mann-Whitney U		136.00	199.000	
Wilcoxon W		346.00	409.000	
Z		−1.735	−.027	
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		0.083	0.978	
Exact Sig. [2*(1-tailed Sig.)]		0.086 ^b	0.989 ^b	
Median				
Domain		Publication	Citation	
Management		27.00	10441.00	
Entrepreneurship/Family Business		24.00	12545.00	
Total		27.00	10722.00	

^a Grouping Variable: domain.

^b Not corrected for ties.

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