ACTIVITY REPORT
2019-2020
SHEIKH SAOUD BIN KHALID BIN KHALID AL-QASSIMI
CHAIR IN FAMILY BUSINESS AT AUS
TEACHING
• Two different courses in family business at the American University of Sharjah
• Guest Lecture Series “Family Business Around the World”

RESEARCH
• Published Articles in Academic Peer-Reviewed Journals
• Editorial Special Issues
• Conferences
• Academic Organisations
• Editorial Board Member
• Visiting PhD Student at Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business
• Research practice at Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business
• Visiting Professor
• Peer Review Activities

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER
• Workshops
• Keynote Speaker
• STEP Project Webinar Series
• Published Case Studies
• Published Reports
• Newspaper Articles

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020
INTRODUCTION

Since its establishment in 2015, the Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business at the American University of Sharjah continues its mission to become a recognized family business knowledge hub in the United Arab Emirates. The 2019-2020 academic year was particularly important and exceptional in terms of the challenges faced and the accomplishments achieved.

Despite the challenges brought by the global pandemic, our team managed to design, develop, and promote a set of research, teaching, and knowledge-transfer activities to generate ground-breaking knowledge of family businesses and provide support for family businesses and regional communities.

The Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business extends special thanks to all the individuals and institutions that support our mission and collaborate with us in our research and other activities. At the Chair, we continue with our robust commitment towards enhancing and promoting the knowledge of family businesses and contributing knowledge and support to the local community of family businesses.
The Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business continues delivering course “Fundamentals of Family Business”.

During the academic year 2019-2020, a new family business course “Applied Family Business” was introduced. This is the second-level course in family business at the American University of Sharjah. The “Applied Family Business” course prepares students to better understand the challenges of developing and creating cross-generational value and wealth in family firms.

More than 50 students have received education and training on how to govern and manage family businesses through the “Fundamentals of Family Business” and “Applied Family Business” courses.

**Guest Lecture Series “Family Business Around the World”**

- Guest speaker: Silvana Mariel Muñoz, Family Business Executive, Coach, & Mentor shared her experience with the Family Business Class.

**STUDENTS’ COMMENTS**

“Thanks a lot professor for your efforts and for guiding us so well throughout the semester. I am more than happy to have signed up for your Applied Family Business course. What a great and smooth experience!”
Published Articles in Academic Peer-Reviewed Journals


Editorial Special Issues

- **James, A; Hadjielias, E.; Guerrero, M.; Discua Cruz, A., & Basco, R.** (2020). Entrepreneurial Families in Business across Generations, Contexts, and Cultures. in *Journal of Family Business Management*


Conferences


Academic Organisations

- Dr. Rodrigo Basco was elected as a Global Board Chairperson in STEP (Successful Transgenerational Entrepreneurial Practices) Project Global Consortium for the period 2020-2021.

Editorial Board Member

- Journal of Family Business Strategy
- Journal of Family Business Management
- Journal of Business Strategy
- Business Research Quarterly
- European Journal of International Management
Rocio Arteaga, visiting PhD Student at American University of Sharjah

Project “Family Business in the Arab World”

Rocio Arteaga (Visiting PhD student)

Rocio earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and MBA in Family Business at Universidad de Salamanca, Spain. She earned her Master Degree in Finance from Universidad de Oviedo, Spain. Later, she was a Visiting PhD at the Centre for Family Enterprise and Ownership CeFEO, Jönköping University, Sweden.

Visiting PhD Student at Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business

ROCIO’S EXPERIENCE

“The visiting PhD opportunity I had with the Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business was a great chance for personal and professional development. Therefore, I consider myself a very lucky person as I was provided with an opportunity to be part of it. I am also grateful for having a chance to meet so many wonderful people and professionals at the Department of Management of AUS who led me through this visiting period. I would particularly like to single out Dr. Rodrigo Basco who warmly welcomed me at the Chair. His careful and precious guidance were extremely valuable for my research providing me new not only professional but also personal perspectives.

My stay at AUS was in the middle of an outbreak of the COVID-19. It was inevitable to feel a certain level of stress and anxiety in this unprecedented moment in time. Thank you AUS community for your useful resources and advice that help build up my resilience over time. I perceive this opportunity as a big milestone in my career development. I will strive to use gained skills and knowledge in the best possible way, and I will continue to work on their improvement.

My stay at the Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business was a wonderful gift!”
Rana Hamdan (Research Assistant)

Rana earned her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and her Master of Science of Accounting degree from the American University of Sharjah. During her master studies, she has participated in research related to family business, Islamic finance, and corporate governance.

RANA’S EXPERIENCE

“I consider my experience at the Sheikh Saoud bin Khalid bin Khalid Al-Qassimi Chair in Family Business as one of the most valuable for my personal and academic development. I had a great opportunity to work on very interesting and important projects related to family businesses, entrepreneurship, and corporate governance. It was very insightful to take part in the high-quality research carried out at the Chair and be a part of such great research environment. I am so proud and grateful for the knowledge and skills I have developed and for the experience I have gained through working in the Chair.”

Visiting Professor

Dr. Rodrigo Basco is a Visiting Professor in “Management for Complex Systems, Family Business, Emerging Markets” at IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca (Italy), 2020-2021.

Peer Review Activities for

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Workshops
- Basco, R., “Managing Conflict in Family Business Workshop” in collaboration with Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance and Dubai International Financial Centre. Dubai, UAE, February 2020

Keynote Speaker

STEP Project Webinar Series

Presentation and discussion organized by Harvard Business Review Arabia

Mr. Anthony de Rothschild, Board Member at Rothschild & Co., and Dr. Rodrigo Basco, Board Chair at STEP Project Global Consortium at the event organized by Family Business Council-Gulf

Workshop led by dr. Rodrigo Basco at Hawkamah Institute for Corporate Governance
Published Case Studies


Published Reports

- “Student Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in United Arab Emirates” (2019) by Basco, R. & Hamdan, R.
- “Family Business Ecosystem in United Arab Emirates” (2020) by Basco, R., Abochkaier, L. & Omari, Y.

Newspaper Articles

- “Covid-19 is strengthening UAE family businesses’ corporate governance structure” (The National, 2020) by Basco, R. & Hamdan, R.
- “Qué Padre puede pensar que su hija tiene menos competencia que un hombre?” Interview with Basco, R. in Compusa [The University of Basque Country Magazine (Spain), 2019].
TEAM
Academic Year
2019–2020

Dr. Rodrigo Basco

Rana Hamdan
Abed El Hadi Kesrouan
Arpita Vyas

Dena Almalik
Fatima Ghaleb
Haneen Adour