Dr. Claire Seaman Reader in Enterprise and Family Business Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh



Dr Claire Seaman is Reader in Enterprise and Family Business at Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh. She has published over 30 journal articles on family businesses in the UK, New Zealand and Latin America and is a regular contributor to family business conferences worldwide. Her recent book, The Modern Family Business, was developed with colleagues and published by Palgrave McMillan. She is a frequent speaker at gatherings of family businesses and professional advisors. This interaction enables her to share insights from evidence based research with practitioners, while ensuring that her research focuses on areas of importance to the family business community, and has lead directly to current research that focusses on the European Family Business Associations. Experiences and close interactions with business and business support agencies help keep her professional work rooted into the realties and complex dynamics of families in business who create enterprises that dominate the economic and societal landscape around the world.

Researching gender in the context of family business succession has lead to interesting insights in the little-researched area that looks at how mothers lead and later hand over the family business to their children. The role women play in agriculture, with particular reference to small farms in Scotland and Nepal, is another area of current research alongside research that considers vital but often less-visible role of women in the family businesses run by members of Scotland's ethnic minority communities. In addition, Claire is supervising PhD and Professional Doctorate candidates exploring family businesses and business education in communities worldwide, often where gender roles and expectations are very different from those in the UK. Claire is a member of the Advisory Board of Family Business United Scotland and the Research Strategy Board for the Institute of Family Business.