

Preface

Thus far, writing this dissertation has been one of my most demanding personal challenges. I could not have accomplished this feat without the support, guidance, and criticism of many people, and I would like to thank those who have supported my project (and me) during the last three years.

Foremost, I would like to thank my first supervisor, Prof. Dr. Andreas Hack, for giving me enough freedom and time away from the day-to-day business at WHU- Otto Beisheim School of Management to focus on this project. Frequently discussing various research models was extremely inspiring and helpful in developing my final research model. I would also like to thank him for giving me the opportunity and financial support to visit the University of Tennessee in Knoxville (U.S.).

I am grateful to Prof. Franz W. Kellermanns (Ph.D.), my second supervisor, for teaching me statistical methods. During my time at the University of Tennessee, he was always available for discussion and was very helpful as a local tour and restaurant guide. I would like to thank him and his Ph.D. students, in particular, Blake Mathias, Kincy Day, and Laura and Tim Madden, for an unforgettable and memorable time in the U.S.

I would also like to thank all my colleagues at the INTES Institute for Family Businesses at WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management, especially Dr. Carolin Decker, Pedram Faghfour, Veronika Rettenmeier, Thomas Rieg, Viktoria Siebke, and Jutta Walendy.

Further, I am grateful for the support of other doctoral students at WHU. I would like to thank Julia Fröhlich, Dr. Stefan Hahn, Dr. Julian Horstkotte, Rene Kemmerling, Dr. Jochen Mahadevan, Dr. Maximilian Müller, Casper Peter, and Sara Keller for endless nights discussing relevant research questions, dramatic moments on the soccer field, and helpful conversations.

A number of good friends made my leisure time during this project always enjoyable. Thanks to Christian Broscheit, Robert Messling, Fabian Metz, Alexis Kauth, Rene Kiwitt, Jens Quellmelz, Henning Schlieper, and Marcus von der Gathen for sharing countless hilarious moments with me.

Although he is now deceased, I would like to thank Ulrich Groote for supporting me, in particular, during the last phase of this project, which was particularly challenging. His cheerfulness, reliability, and capability to motivate made him a dear friend, making it difficult to accept his passing.

Above all, I would like to thank my parents, Chung-Ok and Heinz, as well as my sister, Helen, and my brother, Erik, for their constant and unflagging support. I am happy to have you in my life and am grateful for your encouragement and love.

Finally and in particular, I would like to thank my grandfather, Heinrich, who has taught and showed me how to be strong and positive despite life's difficult moments.

Nils Kraicz

Innovations in Small and Medium-Sized Family Firms
An Analysis of Innovation Related Top Management
Team Behaviors and Family Firm-Specific Characteristics

Kraiczy, N.

2013, XIX, 173 p. 13 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-658-00062-2