



**JOHAN KARLSSON** started his undergraduate studies in economics at Örebro University in 2011. Upon receiving his master's degree in 2015 (*civilekonom-examen*), Johan enrolled at the doctoral program in economics. During his doctoral studies, Johan has been working closely with Statistics Sweden. This collaboration has resulted in the production of the world's first total population register on family ownership. These data constitute the foundation of this thesis.

The overall focus of this thesis concerns the implications of family ownership and perceived growth barriers on firm decision-making and firm performance. The first paper examines the current and potential role of family business in economic teaching and research. The second paper presents the characteristics and macroeconomic significance of family firms. The third paper analyzes the role of regional context for family firm employment growth. The fourth paper studies the representation of women in top management teams across family firms and non-family firms. The fifth paper studies the relationship between perceived growth barriers and firm size using a novel, data-driven method.

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Essays on Family Firms and Firm Growth Barriers

Doctoral Dissertation

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*Economics*

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ISSN 1651-8896  
ISBN 978-91-7529-325-7

ÖREBRO  
STUDIES IN  
ECONOMICS  
43  
2020

Örebro Studies in Economics 43 | ÖREBRO 2020