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Overview

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In this volume, we scan a sample of empirical work on family businesses – focusing on Anglo cluster. The Anglo cluster is based on several factors including ethnic and linguistic similarities, and migration patterns originating centuries ago from areas now identified as Northern Europe. These migrants fused their culture with the local Celtic culture in Britain, giving rise to an Anglo culture that later diffused to Ireland, the US, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, as the English migrants penetrated these societies (Gupta and Hanges, 2004).

Family businesses are an important form of organization in the Anglo cluster. Seventy five percent of 800,000 companies in Australia (Baring, 1992), 76 percent of the top 8,000 companies in the UK (Stoy Hayward, 1989), and about 90 percent of all businesses in the US (Pistrui, Welsch, Wintermantel, Liao and Pohl, 2000) are estimated to be family businesses. The findings related to the other cultural clusters will be reported separately.

The sample of selected articles in the Anglo cluster is given in Table 1. The articles cover four countries – US, Canada, UK, and Australia. A diversity of research methodologies is represented – primary survey, interviews, secondary data set, and in-depth case studies.