Preface

I feel privileged to work with business families. Being a family business researcher implies an opportunity to dive into both tacit human aspects, like the ones discussed in this book, as well as organisational features such as leadership, governance and strategy. What I find especially fascinating is to explore the ways in which human and organisational issues interact with and influence each other. It is this complex multi-dimensionality that makes family business research challenging and rewarding at the same time. And it is this dynamic complexity that makes working with business families so very exciting.

Exploring the interconnectedness of human and organisational issues requires closeness to the business families and the individual family members. This book could never have been written if the owner-family of Indiska had not so generously allowed me such closeness. I am deeply grateful to all of you for giving me your time and trust. I would like to express my heartfelt thank you for all the interesting discussions and for sharing with me not only factual information about the business and its development but also your thoughts and emotions related to the dynamics in your family business. Thank you also for your hospitality and

for making me feel welcome to Indiska over and over again.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the former owning family of Atlet and the owning family of 'ACTAB'. You too contributed a great deal to the understanding provided by this book. A warm thanks to each and every one of you!

Doing research is easier and more joyful in a good research environment. My colleagues at the Centre for Family Enterprise and Ownership (CeFEO) at Jönköping International Business School, Sweden, contribute all in their own ways to a stimulating research atmosphere. Thanks to all of you!

A special thank you to Professor Leif Melin, who opened my eyes to the field of family business, and to qualitative, interpretive research methodology, and who always provides valuable comments for improved quality of research. Thank you also to my colleagues at Jyväskylä University, Finland for several years of fruitful collaboration around family business research and education.

A big thanks goes also to Lisa Hall for the fantastic book cover! I provided Lisa with the title of the book, explained its content and asked for an illustration. What Lisa came up with is, I believe, a wonderful representation of family business dynamics. As the family business the picture can be seen as a whole. However, at a closer look the whole is made up of similar, yet different parts. And it is these integrated differences that render a dynamic to the whole – just as the

individual family members, different yet related, bring dynamics to the family and its business. Lisa is educated at the College of Printmaking Arts in Stockholm, Sweden. More of her work can be found at www.lisahall.se

Finally I would like to express my deepest appreciation to my own family – Henrik, Markus and Anna – for the intellectually stimulating, joyful and loving dynamic you bring to my life every day! Thanks for letting me be part of your lives! Thanks for always being there!