



FORDFOUNDATION



Welcome

In a year which has presented previously unimagined challenges for all of us, I am delighted to be able to share some of the highlights of our activities from across 2020.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, we saw with ever-increasing clarity the importance of responsible ownership for strong businesses and societies. We have had the privilege to walk alongside owners in a time of crisis, observing how agility, flexibility and long-term stewardship can prove to be strengths times of great duress.

I'm delighted to share this snapshot of our recent work with you and invite you to learn more on our [webpage](#) and via future editions of this newsletter, which we will send several times annually.

To receive these updates, please [sign up to our mailing list](#).

Best wishes from Oxford on behalf of our entire team.

Mary



Dr Mary Johnstone-Louis
Senior Research Fellow and
Programme Director The Ownership
Project at Oxford Saïd

Leadership in extraordinary times: Doing now what the world needs next

Family Advisory Council member and Vice-Chair of Roche Holdings, André Hoffmann, spoke to Dean Peter Tufano and Dr Mary Johnstone-Louis of the Ownership Project about responsible family ownership and what motivates him as the company enters its 125th year. It's part of our series of virtual events to help leaders respond to an unprecedented period of turmoil.

[Watch the video](#)

[Listen to the podcast](#)



Photo by Jonathan Riley, Unsplash

COVID-19 is a call to action for family business

Why do some businesses appear to be acting more responsibly than others during the pandemic? Dr Bridget Kustin and Dr Mary Johnstone-Louis [spoke to business owners](#) from our Family Advisory Council and asked how they have been able to exert their influence in a crisis.

What to read next...

In conversation with: Dee Poon, MD, Brands and Distribution, Esquel Group, on [Esquel's response to the COVID crisis](#), and the advice she would give to her family peers.



Business in times of crisis

Now is the time for businesses to redress the low public esteem in which they are often currently held. Can businesses demonstrate that they have a vital role to play in addressing the problems that currently confront us? In this article published in the Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Professor Colin Mayer CBE FBA, Dr Mary Johnstone-Louis, Dr Bridget Kustin and Dr Boya Wang ask, [‘What should we expect of business in this pandemic?’](#)

Oxford conversations on ownership: Hiro Mizuno

‘We need to understand different types of ownership in order to make that ownership responsible.’

Recently appointed Executive in Residence to the School, Hiro is a former Executive Management Director and CIO of the Government Pension Investment Fund of Japan, with assets under management totalling \$1.5 trillion. [Read his interview with us here.](#)



Hiro Mizuno (fourth from left) on his recent visit to the School

The Board's role in sustainability

As part of our work on ownership and governance, the [Harvard Business Review](#) featured a piece by Professor Robert G Eccles, Dr Mary Johnstone-Louis, and Professor Colin Mayer CBE FBA. For more information, see the [Enacting Purpose Initiative](#), an ongoing partnership between Oxford Saïd, University of California, Berkeley, Federated Hermes, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, and the British Academy.



Professor Robert G Eccles

Stay in touch with us – for regular updates on our research, teaching and events, join our mailing list!

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