

Research Seminar 4 May 2016, 13.00 hrs.

Location: Sala de Recepcions, Av. Diagonal 696.

Title: “Corporations and entrepreneurship in the world plasma industry: the Grifols case 1909-2016”

By: **Paloma Fernández**, University of Barcelona

Abstract: The world plasma industry is one of the most dynamic ones in terms of annual growth of investments, innovations, and acquisitions across borders. In the US it is the second one after the software industry in investing in new start-ups. In 2015 the Spanish-based Grifols' world market share was 24%, making it one of the top three world corporations in the industry. Little is known about the pioneering entrepreneurs and firms that started the industry right after World War II. And still less about their long-term accumulation of technological, financial, and organizational innovations. The paper presents first results of a two years research project on the Grifols corporate archive, authorized by the company, which has received financial support from one of the first FBBVA Ayudas a la Investigación en Socioeconomía 2013

(http://www.fbbva.es/TLFU/dat/NdP_Ayudas_Proyectos_investigacion_y_mapas.doc)

Bio

Paloma Fernández is currently Professor of International Business History and Family Businesses at the Department of Economic History, Institutions, Political Economy, and International Economy of UB. Expert in long-term research in family businesses, networks, and the influence of social capital in developing economies in past, and present times. She has recently coedited a book on Latin American and Spanish Family Business in the last century, in Spanish in 2015 with FBBVA, and in English in 2016 with Edward Elgar Publishers. Currently she is preparing a book, articles, and conferences about the history of the world plasma industry with particular attention to the economic growth and history of internationalization of Grifols. She coedits the journals Business History and Journal of Evolutionary Studies in Business, and is Principal Researcher in two competitive research projects. Awardee of two Icrea Academia distinctions in 2008 and 2013.