

1st Workshop on
Sustainability Reporting, Regulation & Practice
Virtual Event 2021 ♦ Thursday 29th and Friday 30th April



Essex Business School (EBS) and Norwich Business School welcome you to the first edition of the Workshop on *Sustainability Reporting, Regulation and Practice*. The workshop brings together researchers, practitioners and policy-makers with a common interest on environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosure and performance in organisations. This workshop also aims to identify emerging themes for future research.

The idea of organising this workshop came about two years ago with the aim of creating an interdisciplinary network among academics and practitioners interested on various topics related to sustainability in accounting and finance. The funding by the EASTERN ARC has given us the opportunity to work on a research project specifically on the effects of the 2014 European Union (EU) Directive on Sustainability Reporting. The project is entitled: [A pilot study on the effect of the EU Directive on Sustainability Reporting in large EU financial and non-financial firms](#). Our study contributes to the debate of whether information disclosure should be mandatory or left voluntary and suggests that regulation has not only a positive effect in terms of corporate transparency, but also in terms of environmental, social and financial performance. This workshop gives us a great opportunity to disseminate the preliminary results and to interact with world-class scholars.

We are honoured to have as keynote speakers:

Giovanna Michelin
(University of Bristol)

Luc Renneboog
(Tilburg University)

Jeffrey Hales
(Chair of the Standards Board, SASB and University of Texas at Austin).

We are also pleased to announce the contribution of the following high-level discussants:

Diogenis Baboukardos (EBS), **Barbara Casu** (Cass Business School), **Franco Fiordelisi** (EBS), **Philippe Lassou** (University of Guelph), **Teerooven Soobaroyen** (EBS) **John O.S. Wilson** (University of St Andrews) and **Jose Linares-Zegarra** (EBS).

We hope you enjoy the event and we look forward to seeing you in the virtual sessions!



Francesca Cuomo
Norwich Business School



Silvia Gaia



Claudia Girardone
Essex Business School

EASTERN ARC

The [Eastern Academic Research Consortium](#), or Arc, brings together three radical, interdisciplinary universities on the eastern seaboard of England: the University of East Anglia, the University of Essex, and the University of Kent. For fifty years they have been home to socially aware, radical and disruptive research and education, forged in communities built on equality, respect, and intellectual freedom.

EASTERN ARC is one of twelve regional consortia, each with a different focus and set of strengths. What sets them apart is their ambition to deliver real and tangible change through a close collaboration to address pressing issues of sustainable development.



Phil Ward
EASTERN ARC
Director

DISCUSSANTS ASSOCIATED WITH SPECIAL ISSUE: ACCOUNTING FORUM

The 1st Virtual Workshop on Sustainability Reporting, Regulation & Practice is associated to the Accounting Forum Special Issue "Non-financial Reporting Regulation: Role, Process and Consequence". Papers presented at the workshop and that fall into the scope of the Special Issue may be invited for submission to the Special Issue. There is no obligation to attend the workshop to be considered for the special issue. For more information click [here](#).

Diogenis Baboukardos
EBS



Silvia Gaia
EBS



Philippe Lassou
University of Guelph



Teerooven Soobaroyen
EBS



DISCUSSANTS: BANKING & FINANCE

Barbara Casu
The Business School
(Formerly Cass, London)



Franco Fiordelisi
EBS



John O.S. Wilson
University of St Andrews



Jose Linares-Zegarra
EBS



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Giovanna Michelin is Professor of Accounting at the University of Bristol. She obtained her PhD from the University of Padova. Broadly speaking, her research interests are in the field of sustainability accounting and reporting, while her published work has focused on the governance process and systems that underpin corporate actions and accountability on sustainability issues, as well as on the role that sustainability information plays in capital markets. Giovanna has more than 40 publications in leading academic journals such as, among others, the *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, *European Accounting Review*, *Accounting Auditing and Accountability Journal*, and *Journal of Business Ethics*. Highly engaged with both the academic community and practitioners, she is currently Editor of *Accounting*

Forum, where she advocates and promotes the diversity of interests and epistemologies in accounting research and also serves on the editorial board of several Journals. She is Chair of the European Accounting Association (EAA) Virtual Activities Committee, and a member of the EAA Management Committee and EAA Publications Committee. She is a Council member of the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (University of St. Andrews) and Chair of the ACCA Global Forum for Governance, Risk and Performance where she helps setting the research agenda of this professional body in the fields of corporate governance and risk management.



Luc Renneboog is Professor of Corporate Finance at Tilburg University. He also holds a visiting professorship at the University of Ghent. He is a research member of TILEC (Tilburg Law and Economics Center) and ECGI (European Corporate Governance Institute, Brussels). Before joining Tilburg, Luc was on faculty of the Catholic University of Leuven and Oxford University. He also held visiting positions at the London Business School, Cambridge University, HEC Paris, Venice University, University Paris-Dauphine, University of Cardiff, CUNEF, and European University Institute (Florence).

He has graduated from the Catholic University of Leuven with a BSc/MSc in Business Engineering and with a BA in philosophy, from the University of Chicago with an MBA, and from the London Business School with a PhD in Financial Economics. His research interests span: -Corporate finance and corporate governance; Corporate social responsibility, socially responsible investing; the economics of art, markets for art, diamonds and other alternative investments; Experimental economics: managerial overconfidence, bonus systems. On these topics, he has published in the *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Management Science*, *Organization Science*, *American Economic Review*, *Review of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, and others.



Jeffrey Hales serves as the Chair of the Standards Board at Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB). In his role as Chair, he oversees the agenda setting and due process associated with the SASB standards development and maintenance. Before serving on the Standards Board, he chaired the Standards Council for the SASB. Jeffrey Hales teaches at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is the Charles T. Zlatkovich Centennial Professor of Accounting. He is a graduate of the accounting program at Brigham Young University and received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research interests centre on accounting standard setting and regulation, individual decision making, and behavioural finance, using techniques from applied game theory, experimental economics, and psychology. His research has appeared in *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accounting Research*, *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *Review of Accounting Studies*, and the *Journal of Financial Economics*, among other journals. He has previously been an editor for *Contemporary*

Accounting Research and *Accounting Horizons* and has served on the editorial boards of several journals. During the 2009-10 academic year, Dr. Hales was a Research Fellow at the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in Norwalk, CT. In addition, he served as a member of the FASB's Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council from 2016-2019. In the United Kingdom, he served on the Financial Reporting Council's Future of Corporate Reporting Advisory Group from 2018-2020, and he has been a member of the Climate Disclosure Standards Board since 2018.


PROGRAMME
Day 1 – 29th April

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| Plenary morning session 1 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/95854656662 | |
| 09:55am-10:15am | Welcome from the Organisers and from Guest Editors <i>Accounting Forum</i> Special Issue |
| 10:15am-10:30am | Welcome from Phil Ward (EASTERN ARC). |
| 10:30am-11:00am | Preliminary Results EASTERN ARC Project The Effects of the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive on Firms' Corporate Social Responsibility Transparency and Performance , Francesca Cuomo (University of East Anglia), Silvia Gaia (University of Essex), Claudia Girardone (University of Essex), Stefano Piserà (Università di Udine). Discussant: Barbara Casu |
| Morning Papers Parallel Sessions | |
| Morning Papers Parallel Session1 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/91680268407 Chair: Teerooven Soobaroyen | |
| 11:00am-11.30am | Filling the Voids in Political CSR? Materiality and Labour Rights Reporting on Global Value Chains , Sepideh Parsa (Middlesex University), Ian Roper (University of Essex), Iris Maurer, (Vienna University of Economics and Business), Michael Müller-Camen (Vienna University of Economics and Business). Discussant: Philippe Lassou |
| 11:30am-12:00pm | Harmonisation of Non-Financial Reporting Regulation? Analysis of a Contested Arena , Hammed Afolabi (University of Reading), Ronita Ram, (University of Reading), Gunnar Rimmel (University of Reading). Discussant: Philippe Lassou |
| 12:00pm-12:30pm | Managerial Implications of Non-Financial Disclosure Regulation: Directive 2014/95/EU , Carla Antonini (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Pablo Gomez Carrasco (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Jacobo Gomez-Conde (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid), Mercedes Luque Vílchez (Universidad de Córdoba) Discussant: Teerooven Soobaroyen |
| Morning Papers Parallel Session 2 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/95084668242 Chair: Silvia Gaia | |
| 11:00am-11.30am | The Effect of the EU Directive on Non-Financial Disclosures of Firms in the Oil and Gas Industry , Mona Al-Dosari (University of East Anglia), Ana Marques (University of East Anglia), Jenny Fairbrass (University of East Anglia). Discussant: Diogenis Baboukardos |
| 11:30am-12:00pm | The Impact of Board Composition Diversity and Environmental Governance Policy on Carbon Emission Performance Under the Mandatory Non-Financial Reporting Regulation , Dewan Muktadir Al-Mukit (University of Liverpool), Firoz Haroon Bhaiyat (Sheffield Hallam University). Discussant: Diogenis Baboukardos |

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| 12:00pm-12:30pm | <p>Non-Financial Reporting as a Value Driver for Sell-Side Financial Analysts: The ESG Disclosure Premium and Momentum, Enrica Bolognesi (Università di Udine), Alberto Burchi (Università di Perugia).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussant: Silvia Gaia</p> |
| 12:30pm-1:30pm - Lunch break with opportunity to meet Palgrave Editors https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/96342027278 | |
| Afternoon Papers Parallel Sessions | |
| Afternoon Papers Parallel Session 1 – Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/95959287150 Chair: Francesca Cuomo | |
| 1:30pm-2:00pm | <p>Accounting for Human Rights: Evidence of Due Diligence in EU-listed Firms’ Reporting, Michael Rogerson (University of Bath), Francesco Scarpa (Università di Bergamo), Annie Snelson-Powell (University of Bath).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussant: Teerooven Soobaroyen</p> |
| 2:00pm-2:30pm | <p>Corporate Sustainability Reporting Related Policy-Making in Bangladesh Bank: A Case Study, Aatur Belal (University of Sheffield), Mohammed Mehadi Mazumder (Northumbria University), Javed Siddiqui (University of Manchester).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussant: Teerooven Soobaroyen</p> |
| Afternoon Papers Parallel Session 2 –Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/91835629522 Chair: Diogenis Baboukardos | |
| 1:30pm-2:00pm | <p>Non-Financial Reporting Regulation: How Has Impacted on the Practice of Sustainability Reporting in Spanish State-Owned Enterprises, Francisco Javier Andrades Pena (Universidad de Cádiz), Domingo Martinez-Martinez (Universidad de Cádiz), Manuel Larran Jorge (Universidad de Cádiz).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussant: Silvia Gaia</p> |
| 2:00pm-2:30pm | <p>Employee Representatives, Employee-related disclosures, and the implementation of the Non-Financial Reporting Directive, Conny Overland (University of Gothenburg), Svetlana Sabelfeld (University of Gothenburg) Niuosha Samani (University of Gothenburg).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Discussant: Diogenis Baboukardos</p> |
| Plenary afternoon session 2 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/97802763887 | |
| 2:30pm-3:30pm | <p>Keynote talk 1:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> <p><i>Some Reflections on the Evolution of Sustainability Reporting: Purpose(s), Users’ Needs and Regulation</i></p> <p>Giovanna Michelon (University of Bristol)</p> </div> </div> |
| 3:30pm-4:00pm | Final note from the Guest Editors and Organisers |

Day 2 – 30th April 2021

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| Plenary morning session 1 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/93197429527 | |
| 10:00am-10:15am | Welcome |
| 10:15am-11:30am | Morning Papers Session. Chair: Francesca Cuomo |
| 10:15am-10:40am | Corporate Social Responsibility and Firm Survival: Evidence from the Climate Change and Pandemic Crises , Thomas J. Chemmanur (Boston College), Dimitrios Gounopoulos (University of Bath), Panagiotis Koutroumpis (Georgia Institute of Technology, Queen Mary University London), Yu Zhang, (University of Bath). Discussant: José Linares-Zegarra |
| 10:40am-11:05am | The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Stakeholder Conflicts? Evidence from Labour Strikes , Steven Xianglong Chen (University of Liverpool), Edward Lee (University of Manchester), Konstantinos Stathopoulos, (University of Manchester) Discussant: John O.S. Wilson |
| 11:05am-11:30am | Who Pays Attention to Climate Change? , Giuseppe Galloppo, (University of Viterbo La Tuscia), Franco Fiordelisi (University of Essex, Viktoriia Paimanova (Università di Roma Tor Vergata). Discussant: John O.S. Wilson |
| 11:30am-12:30pm | Keynote talk 1: Sustainable Finance Luc Renneboog (Tilburg University)  |
| 12:30pm-1:30pm - Lunch break with opportunity to meet Palgrave Editors https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/97468488359 | |
| Plenary afternoon session 2 - Link: https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/97637571777 | |
| 1:30pm-2:45pm | Afternoon Papers Session. Chair: Claudia Girardone |
| 1:30pm - 1.55pm | Hidden Social Responsibility Costs of Brexit , Stefano Piserà (Università di Udine). Discussant: Franco Fiordelisi |
| 1:55pm-2:20pm | The Role of Foreign Institutional Investors in Sustainability Assurance , Kholod Alshali (University of East Anglia), Ricardo Malagueño (University of East Anglia), Ana Marques (University of East Anglia). Discussant: Franco Fiordelisi |
| 2:20pm-2:45pm | Quality of ESG Reports in European Companies , Andreas G. Koutoupis (University of Thessaly), Apostolos T. Pourgias (University of Thessaly). Discussant: Claudia Girardone |

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| <p>2:45pm-3:45pm</p>  | <p>Keynote talk 2:</p> <p><i>An Update on Sustainability Standard Setting and Disclosure Regulation</i></p> <p>Jeffrey Hales (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board – SASB; University of Texas at Austin)</p> |
| <p>3:45pm-4:15pm</p> | <p>Networking session and feedback</p> |

PALGRAVE VIRTUAL STAND

Opportunity to meet with Editors of:

Palgrave MacMillan, an imprint of Springer Nature



Main contacts*:

*[Ruth Jenner](#) Editor, Economics & Finance

[Tula Weis](#) Executive Editor, Scholarly & Professional Finance.

Palgrave Editors will be available during the lunch breaks in the Zoom room below.



- Lunch break (Thursday) <https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/96342027278>
- Lunch break (Friday) <https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/97468488359>

You can also book a virtual appointment at any other time by emailing Ruth Jenner at Ruth.Jenner@palgrave.com.