

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Special Interest Group (FARSIG)

NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME GREETING FROM THE FARSIG CHAIR:

Annual Update

I am delighted to present to you our thirteenth annual newsletter. This newsletter covers 2018-19. I am very pleased to write to you about last year's activities and the future events of the group. Our main aim is to enhance the profile of financial accounting and reporting in both teaching and research, as well as informing policy and interacting with the profession. We have had another very busy year. Our events are now part of the international annual conference cycle.

In 2019 we had our January Symposium on *The Future of Financial Reporting* organised by Rhoda Brown and myself. Once more this was very successful. It was our thirteenth Symposium and was at the ACCA on 11th January 2019. As usual there were 5 speakers. In alphabetical order they were Andreas Bergman, University of Zurich and former chair of IPSASB. He presented a paper entitled *Current Developments in Public Sector Accounting*. Next, Professor Shelia Ellwood, University of Bristol also talked on the *Controversies and Topical Issues in Public Sector Accounting*. The third paper was presented by Anne Kirkeby, the lead corporate reporting consultant at the Black Sun, on *The Black Sun Review of Trends in Corporate Reports 2018*. Then, there were two papers on the very important topic of the conceptual theory. First, Dr Jianqiao Lu from the IASB, formerly of the Chinese Ministry of Finance, talked on *Conceptual Frameworks of Financial Reporting (2018)-the IASB View*. Then, Professor Geoffrey Whittington, Emeritus Professor University of Cambridge, spoke on *The Conceptual Framework of Financial Reporting After the 2018 IASB Revisions*. These wide ranging and interesting presentations provoked some very active question and answer sessions.

During this period we had an important change in the committee. Richard Slack, who had done

a brilliant job as secretary for many years, stood down. He was replaced by Penny Chaidali.

The Financial Reporting and Business Communication Conference in 2019 was our 23rd conference. It was kindly sponsored by the ICAEW and held as a joint FARSIG/University of Reading event, hosted by Bristol University Accounting Department on 4 and 5 July 2019. It was organised by myself and Gunnar Rimmel, University of Reading. Once again it was very international, attracting delegates from countries across the world. There were around 80 delegates and three streams; the main stream with discussants, a developmental stream and a PhD stream. The guest speakers were Carlos Larrinaga who spoke on *Research Perspectives in CSR* and Professor Andrea Melis who talked about the first FRBC conference to go overseas to the University of Cagliari on July 2nd and 3rd 2020. We hope that you all will be able to attend. The main sessions and the PhD stream were also a great success.

We have also granted two accounting bursaries on the Sue Hrasky Scholarship during the year, details of which are provided on page 10. In addition we have begun a Doctoral Bursary Scheme, details on page 9.

I would finally like to thank all the committee members for their hard work behind the scenes.



Mike Jones
BAFA FARSIG
Chair

EDITORIAL NEWS

Welcome to the thirteenth issue of the Financial Accounting and Reporting SIG newsletter. The main objective of this newsletter is to communicate details of on-going research projects, publications, and important developments in the practice of financial reporting, new ideas and reflections on the teaching of financial accounting and reporting, as well as information on forthcoming events.

First, I would like to draw your attention to a couple of relevant dates to note in your diary:

Following last year's successful event, the thirteenth one-day FARSIG symposium will be held on January 10th 2020 (see the flyer opposite for more details). The BAFA annual conference will take place from Monday 30th March to Wednesday 1st April 2020) at the University of Southampton. Information about other conferences and symposiums can be found on page 5.

Pages 5 to 8 provide interesting information about on-going projects and publications that has been brought to our attention by the ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW and ICAS. Last but not least, I would like to draw your attention to the Bursary Scheme provided by FARSIG with the aim to assist PhD candidates (see page 9 for more details). I am sure that all remaining content will be informative to you.

We would be very pleased to receive submissions from readers on anything along these lines for consideration in future publications.

As a concluding remark, I would like to thank Mike Jones and the SIG committee members for their contribution to the preparation and production of this newsletter.

Omiros Georgiou,
Editor, Financial Accounting and Reporting
SIG newsletter
Omiros.georgiou@manchester.ac.uk

NEWS

SUMMARY 23RD FRBC CONFERENCE, 4TH-5TH JULY 2019, HENLEY BUSINESS SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OF READING

The 23rd FRBC conference was hosted at Henley Business School's Whiteknights Campus in Reading, 4th-5th July 2019. First, FARSIG thanks the ICAEW's charitable trusts for their generous support of the conference. Second, we are very grateful to Gunnar Rimmel, Ekililu Salifu, Stephanie Liu and Adriana Diaz Rizo, the Local Conference Organisers team, for all their efforts in organising this conference. Third, we would like to thank all the chairs and discussants and our colleagues for their support.

The conference was considered a good success with full and developmental paper streams, as well as a full doctoral stream with 22 presentations.

Overall, the conference attracted 76 delegates from across the world, as has always been the case, with delegates from Europe, Canada, USA, Far East and Australia. In total, there were 44 paper presentations split between full papers (10,000-12,000 words) with discussants and developmental papers (5,000 words). All papers were streamed into topic areas.

There was one excellent plenary speaker, Professor Carlos Larrinaga from Universidad de Burgos in Spain, who gave a thought-provoking presentation on Accounting and Sustainable Development.

As in prior years, applications were invited for the Sue Hrasky Doctoral Scholarship Award and four scholarships were awarded to Alina Leonie Sigel (University of Hohenheim), Evangelos Seretis (University of Glasgow), Gitae Park (Lancaster University) and Hesham Bassyouny (University of Portsmouth).

The next FRBC conference 2020 will be organised by Prof. Andrea Melis and take place in Cagliari, Italy. The first call for papers is on page 10 of this newsletter.

Gunnar Rimmel

Symposium on The Future of Financial Reporting 2020: Communication, Standard Setting, Intangibles and Audit

A one-day event supported by the British Accounting and Finance Association
Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group
and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants



10th January 2020
9.30am-4.00pm
Hosted by the ACCA
The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London, WC2N 6AU



Financial reporting is still subject to many changes. These affect regulations and annual reports and other publications. This year the symposium deals with important issues such as: communication through the financial statements, accounting standards, intangibles, integrated reporting and auditing.

This symposium brings together a series of high profile speakers to discuss these developments and their effect on the future of financial reporting. The symposium provides a forum for both practitioners and academics to hear and engage in the debate with the following well-informed speakers. The symposium presentations and discussions should also serve as a valuable teaching aids for those academics engaged in teaching financial reporting and contemporary issues in accounting at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

- Ann Tarca** Board Member of the International Accounting Standards Board: *The IASB and Better Communication Projects: Improving Communication through the Financial Statements*
- Richard Barker** Professor, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford: *Should the IFRS Foundation be Responsible for Setting Standards for Nonfinancial Information?*
- Andrew Lennard** Director of Research, Financial Reporting Council (FRC): *The Future of Corporate Reporting: How do Intangibles Figure?*
- Neil Stevenson** Director, Deloitte: *Integrated Approach to the Corporate Reporting Standard Setting of the Future*
- Jayne Kerr** Director, Audit Strategy and Public Policy, PwC UK: *The Future of Audit*

REGISTRATION FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

There is a registration fee of £27.54 (£25 standard ticket + £2.54 fee) towards the cost of the event, which includes a buffet lunch and afternoon tea. The registration fee for PhD students or retired persons is £16.76 (£15 reduced ticket + £1.76 fee).

To register for this event please use following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-on-the-future-of-financial-reporting-2020-tickets-78146053951>

If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Publicity Officer Professor Tamer Elshandidy (t.elshandidy@ajman.ac.ae) or the organisers: Professor Mike Jones, Chair FARSIG, Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Bristol (Michaeljohn.Jones@Bristol.ac.uk) and Dr Penny Chaidali, Secretary of FARSIG, Accounting and Finance Section, Cardiff University (chaidalip@cardiff.ac.uk).

FARSIG COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019

During 2019, there were two FARSIG committee meetings including the Annual General Meeting held at the Financial Reporting and Business Communication (FRBC) annual conference. Dates and venues of the meetings were as follows along with a synopsis of the relevant minutes:

11TH JANUARY 2019: ACCA OFFICES LONDON, FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL FARSIG SYMPOSIUM

FARSIG symposium: Formal thanks were recorded to all of the speakers and also to ACCA for hosting the event. For 2019, the event had seen an increase in delegates with the programme agreed well in advance and advertised. The five speakers were excellent and very engaging as evidenced by lively Q&A sessions at the end of each presentation. The committee expressed thanks to Rhoda Brown for her proactive management and support of the symposium. The symposium for 2020 was set for Friday 10th January at ACCA Adelphi offices, London. **For further details see page x of the Newsletter.**

FRBC conference: It was confirmed that the 23rd FRBC will take place in Reading, 4th-5th July 2019. Application has been made to ICAEW for support of the event and thanks again recorded for their support in 2018. A first call for papers has already been circulated. As in prior years, the Sue Hrasky Scholarship has been included in the call for papers for doctoral applicants. The committee discussed future venues for FRBC. For 2020, a formal proposal has been submitted by Andrea Melis (committee member) for Cagliari to host FRBC. This was consistent with the international composition of FRBC and was supported by BAFA.

GDPR: The need for GDPR compliance and the onus on all SIGs under the BAFA umbrella as a result of this legislation were again outlined. All future FARSIG multiple mailings (such as bursary schemes, newsletter) email or hard copy, are to be through the BAFA portal. Private mailings to personal contacts are unaffected as are calls for papers (e.g. for FRBC) through journals.

Finances: The FARSIG reserves policy had been submitted to BAFA and agreed with the BAFA treasurer. FARSIG still retains a cash surplus due to the success of FRBC conferences and the symposium. The reserves need to be managed in line with BAFA as a charity. Bursary schemes and the Sue Hrasky Scholarship schemes as part of FRBC will be continued. See page 10 for details of the latest PhD bursary call.

Committee and BAFA membership: Resignations from Pauline Weetman, Rhoda Brown and Tony Hines had been received. The committee formally accepted the resignations and expressed their sincere thanks for the work that all had done for FARSIG over many years as committee members. In addition, Richard Slack tendered his resignation as secretary to the committee, but confirmed that he would remain on the committee. The committee endorsed this decision and agreed that the secretary role would be advertised through BAFA to ensure equality of opportunity consistent with BAFA policy.

Following FRBC in 2018 and prior FARSIG events, three expressions of interest had been received to join the FARSIG committee: Christian Stadler (Royal Holloway); Diogenis Baboukardos (Essex) and Marco Papa (Bari Aldo Moro). All three were formally approved by the committee to be co-opted members.

Finally, it was emphasised that as FARSIG is within BAFA, all FARSIG committee members should be BAFA members at the appropriate membership category.

4TH-5TH JULY 2019: FINANCIAL REPORTING AND BUSINESS COMMUNICATION/FARSIG CONFERENCE AND AGM, HELD AT HENLEY BUSINESS SCHOOL IN READING

FRBC conference 2019: The committee thanked Gunnar Rimmel and Reading as host for FRBC in 2019, which was successful. Thanks were also recorded to ICAEW for the support of the conference. For full details, please see FRBC conference report page 2.

FRBC conference 2020: This will be held in Cagliari, Italy: For further details and the call for papers, see page 10.

FARSIG symposium: It was confirmed that planning for the symposium was well underway for Friday 10th January hosted at ACCA.

Finances: An overview of current finances and level of reserves was provided. Due to the favourable position of finances there is a need for continuation of the Sue Hrasky awards and the ECR and doctoral scholarships. Yannis Tsalavoutas and Richard Slack confirmed that they will continue to short-list future applications for consideration by the committee. A new PhD bursary scheme will be available in January 2020, see page 9.

Constitution: The need to adopt the BAFA constitution subject to any amendments proposed by the committee had been outlined. The committee endorsed the Executive positions for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and discussed the number of Executive Officers that could be elected in addition to the named Executives. This latter issue would be raised with BAFA. All Executive Officers would serve for a three-year term with an advertised re-election in accordance with the constitution and BAFA equality, inclusivity and diversity policy. The committee unanimously adopted the BAFA constitution with one abstention.

Committee and succession: The current Executive Officers were confirmed as: Penny Chaidali (Secretary) who was elected following BAFA election procedures (April 2019) and confirmed in office by the committee. Richard Slack remains on the committee. Yannis Tsalavoutas (Treasurer) who would continue in role but has announced his intention to step down after the receipt of financial information regarding FRBC 2019. Yannis expressed his intention to remain on the committee. Mike Jones (Chair) who would continue in role but will step down after the FRBC 2021 conference. It was confirmed that

any future change in FARSIG Executive Officers would trigger a formal replacement process to ensure equality of opportunity consistent with BAFA policy.

Post-meeting note: Yannis Tsalavoutas submitted his resignation in September 2019. Yannis confirmed he would remain a committee member. A formal replacement process has been put in place to ensure equality of opportunity consistent with BAFA policy.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FARSIG Symposium 2020,
January 10th, see page 3

BAFA 2020 Annual Conference,
30th March-1st April,
University of Southampton

EAA 2020 Bucharest,
Romania, 27th-29th May 2020

**24th Annual Financial Reporting and
Business Communication Conference,**
University of Cagliari,
2nd-3rd July 2020 see page 10

EUFIN Workshop 2020,
The 16th Workshop on European Financial Reporting,
in collaboration with EAA's journal *Accounting in Europe*,
University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK,
3rd and 4th September 2020

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JOIN THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In keeping with FARSIG's goal of acting as an interface between accounting academics and the profession, the technical committee submits comments-letters grounded in academic research to the IASB, FASB, European Commission and professional institutes on current proposals.

The overall aim of the FARSIG technical committee is to increase the relevance of academic accounting research to professional practice. The committee's latest submission is a response to the ICAEW's report *What's Next for Corporate Reporting: Time to Decide*, which was also presented to the academic panel of the Financial Reporting Council.

After twelve years in office as chair of the technical committee, David Oldroyd has handed over the reins to Christian Stadler. David will remain a member and is looking forward to supporting Christian in his new endeavour.

The committee meets up in person at least once a year normally at the annual FARSIG symposium on the future of financial reporting held in London in January. We would welcome enthusiastic new members, and if you are interested in joining the committee please contact Christian Stadler at: Christian.Stadler@rhul.ac.uk

ACCA PUBLICATIONS

Insights into Integrated Reporting 3.0: The Drive for Authenticity

This report examines the reporting practices of organisations in the International Integrated Reporting Council's Business Network. It highlights the progress made towards integrated reporting over the past year, discusses the challenges that preparers face, and gives practical recommendations to guide more organisations on the path to integrated reporting. There has been progress in terms of the explicit commitment to integrated reporting, the gathering momentum of reporting against UN Sustainable Development Goals, innovations in assurance, and improvements in terms of materiality determination and the conciseness of reports. However, the quality of reporting has declined in some crucial areas including:

- reporting in a balanced way – such that the report doesn't read like a marketing document
- reporting performance against strategic objectives
- reporting on risks and opportunities
- describing the business model.

The Capitalisation Debate: R&D Expenditure, Disclosure Content and Quantity, and Stakeholder Views

As part of the wider debate on intangibles, this report looks at the extent to which companies using IFRS recognise development costs as assets in different countries and in different sectors. It investigates the factors that may lie behind that asset recognition and makes some suggestions as to how reporting of R&D might be improved. The great majority of companies report no R&D activity at all in terms of:

- asset recognition
- specified expense in the financial statements.

This is despite the definition of development costs in IAS 38 being widely drawn, including those of:

- new products
- processes
- systems
- services.

Social and Environmental Value Creation

Governments, their citizens and investors want economies to recognise the totality of the value and impacts that they create to be able to distribute resources in a way that generates inclusive and sustainable prosperity. This report explores these complex challenges. It examines the role of business in rethinking value creation and the rise of importance in environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues for investors. Using big data analysis from insights provider Datamaran, it examines corporate disclosures on key ESG issues before outlining five disclosure and decision-making approaches that can support business to meaningfully engage with complex challenges to create inclusive and sustainable value over the long-term.

These are:

- climate risk reporting
- natural capital
- circular business model innovation
- social impact and the SDGs
- purpose-led strategies.

Closing the Expectation Gap in Audit

This report uses a survey of 11,000 members of the public to better understand the audit expectation gap. It explores a new approach for understanding the expectation gap, in terms of a knowledge gap, a performance gap and an evolution gap. It proposes a multi-stakeholder approach to closing the expectation gap, by reference to these three gaps. Although the expectation gap in audit was defined in a number of different ways throughout the years, it is most commonly known as 'the difference between what the public expects from the auditing profession and what the auditing profession actually provides'. However, ACCA defines the expectation gap in audit as 'the difference between what the general public thinks auditors do and what the general public would like auditors to do'. Key findings from the survey are that:

- The public sees audit as part of the solution for preventing company failure.
- The public demands more responsibilities for auditors in identifying and reporting fraud.
- The public believes audit should evolve in a way that prevents company failure.

The above are a selection of reports from ACCA in 2019. The full list of reports from ACCA's Professional Insights can be found at: <https://www.accaglobal.com/uk/en/professional-insights.html>

CIMA RESEARCH NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

FRC Stewardship Code Consultation

In March the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants (the unified voice of AICAP and CIMA) responded to the Financial Reporting Council paper on the Stewardship Code. We welcomed the fact that the new code emphasizes critical new developments in ESG reporting and investing and seeks to embed the core values of purpose and long-termism into the marketplace. We were also pleased that the 'comply or explain' principle is extended and the link to the different parts of the investment chain is made more explicit. However, we still feel that the code could go further in integrating the principles with investment decisions and their consequent outcomes.

'Purpose and Profit' Value of Value: Board-Level Insights

This report, co-produced with Black Sun and the IIRC, follows on from the 2018 report *Purpose Beyond Profit*. It finds that business leaders agree organizations need to shift their focus from pure shareholder value creation to wider value considerations, such as value to society and co-creation of value through other external relationships. 96% of them feel that it's important that they can effectively explain how

their organization creates value for their key stakeholders in the long term. Use the 10 questions in this report to help develop your value creation stories. This report and other CGMS Thought Leadership can be accessed at: cgma.org/resources/reports

Academic Research

CIMA is a leading global funder of high quality management accounting research of relevance to practitioners.

This year we have published four Executive Summaries from four research projects.

The Implementation and Usefulness of Environmental Management Accounting

Ki Hoon Lee. Griffith University.

Examines the adoption, drivers and barriers of environmental management accounting (EMA) in Australia and Sri Lanka.

Is the Stewardship Code Fit for Purpose?

Julia Mundy. University of Greenwich.

This research study sought to understand the nature of engagement and stewardship as practiced in major UK-based asset management firms with long-term shareholdings

Proxy Advisory Firms: Information Intermediaries or Standard Setters?

Marshall Vance and Christie Hayne. University of Illinois.

Outlines the findings of a research study which investigated how internal stakeholders, (i.e., board directors, HR executives and compensation consultants) who are responsible for executive compensation design, view PAs and their influence.

Investigating Natural Capital Accounting in Practice

Stephen Jollands. University of Exeter.

This Case Study examined how Forestry Enterprise England has utilised natural capital accounting and the challenges it has faced.

The full list of our academic research reports and more information on our academic research programme can be found at:

www.cimaglobal.com/Research--Insight/Research-Funding/

ICAEW THOUGHT LEADERSHIP AND RESEARCH

Forthcoming events

Information for Better Markets Conference 16th-17th December 2019

Don't miss out on this annual event, aimed at academics and practitioners. This year's conference considers *The Real Effects of Financial Reporting*.

Leading academic speakers from the UK and USA will look at the effects of financial reporting on innovation, financing and investing and remuneration. To see a full list of speakers and topics, and to book your place, visit:

www.icaew.com/ifbm2019

The event takes place at Chartered Accountants' Hall in London and is free to attend.

Special issue ABR

The 2018 Information for Better Markets conference looked at *Financial scandals*. The papers are now available under open access in *ABR* (volume 49, issue 5) and include papers by Kees Camfferman, John Coffee, Steve Toms and Penelope Tuck.

The special issue also includes a paper by Craig Lewis and Steve Young on *Automated Analysis of Financial Text and its Implications for Corporate Reporting*.

And you can also view the lectures, on which the papers are based, on the ICAEW website at: www.icaew.com/bettermarkets

Latest academic research report

You can find our academic research reports at: www.icaew.com/academic, including *Economic Impact and Statistical Significance: Interpreting Accounting Research for Evidence-Based Policy Making* published earlier this year. All reports are free to download.

Latest financial reporting and thought leadership resources

See our new climate hub at: www.icaew.com/climate which includes a series of videos, developed in collaboration with Deloitte, that help finance professionals recognise the impact of climate change on business.

Read our new report *Financial Reporting: Who Does What?* This is the first in a series of succinct, high-level essays on the future of audit which will help to inform the various independent reviews of audit and regulation currently in progress. The paper explains the complex relationships between boards, auditors, shareholders and others, and the regulatory regime within which those relationships operate. You can access the report from: www.icaew.com/futureofaudit

For questions about our corporate reporting thought leadership work, contact Alison Dundjerovic at: alison.dundjerovic@icaew.com or +44 (0)20 7920 8502.

For information about our research activities, including funding, contact Gillian Knight at: gillian.knight@icaew.com or +44 (0)20 7920 8478.

ICAS RESEARCH NEWS

Subscribe to the ICAS research e-news service by visiting the ICAS website at: www.icas.com/professional-resources/research/Research-at-ICAS/research-funding-at-icas to ensure you receive notification of ICAS funding opportunities, events and publications. For further information on any of the below please email: research@icas.com

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ICAS funds policy-relevant and impactful research from academics based anywhere in the world. We have two streams for research applications: pro-active applications, where the ideas come from the applicants, and our calls for research, where ICAS identifies specific research topics or themes. Calls for research are advertised on our website or you can be notified

by email by subscribing to ICAS research e-news. At ICAS we recognise the importance of receiving pro-active applications to ensure that we continue to fund original, innovative and leading research projects. Whilst we will continue to issue calls for research, the pro-active stream of applications is vital to our portfolio of research projects. Although the idea for research will come from you we will help you to develop the project, whilst allowing you to maintain your independence, and will work with you to maximise the impact of your research. In addition to the research funding available, we offer additional benefits such as collaboration with an influential professional body which has close links to policy makers, and access to our team of technical staff and committee experts ensuring that you receive quality feedback at all stages of your project. For further information on research funding please visit: icas.com or email: research@icas.com

RECENT ICAS PUBLICATIONS

The below publications are available at

www.icas.com/professional-resources/research:

- *Non-Financial Performance: Are Your Non-Financial KPIs Useful?*
Lyndie Bayne, Martin Wee and Ann Tarca, University of Western Australia and Australian National University.
- *Are Non-Financial KPIs in Annual Reports Really 'Key'? An Investigation of Company Disclosure and Analyst Reports in the UK*
Laura Bini, Lorenzo Simoni, Francesco Giunta and Francesco Dainelli, University of Florence.
- Two linked research reports on the topic of Whistleblowing:
 - *Speak up? Listen up? Whistleblow? A Survey of ICAS members.*
Catriona Paisey, Nicholas Paisey, Ioannis Tsalavoutas
 - *Speak up? Listen up? Whistleblow? In their own words – insights into the ethical dilemmas of ICAS members*
Catriona Paisey, University of Glasgow.

ICAS PUBLICATIONS COMING SOON

The below publications will be available by searching on icas.com

- *Unlocking the Black Box in Fair Value Measurement (FVM): Examining how Valuation Specialists Prepare and Evaluate FVMs*
Dereck Barr-Pulliam, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jennifer R. Joe, University of Delaware; Stephani A. Mason, DePaul University; and Kerri-Ann Sanderson, Bentley University.
- *The Theory and Practice of Discounting in Financial Reporting Under IFRS' Black Box Accounting: Discounting of Decommissioning Provisions*
Giovanna Michelon, Mari Paananen and Thomas Schneider, Exeter University and Ryerson University.
- *The Theory and Practice of Discounting in Financial Reporting Under IFRS*
Iain Clacher, Mark Freeman and Con Keating, Leeds University and University of York. This grant was awarded jointly by ICAS and EFRAG.

RESEARCH NEWS CONT'D

NEW CALLS FOR RESEARCH

ICAS recently issued three separate calls for research on the topics of Intangibles and Technology, the details for which can be found on icas.com, as follows:

- Intangibles – A positioning paper and call for research
- Real and quick-time data: A challenge to reporting and assurance?
- Ethics and technology: What are the challenges to the profession?

The calls closed on 30th September and the successful applications for which grants have been awarded will be disclosed shortly.

Both the Intangibles and Technology topics nonetheless form part of wider programmes of research, and further calls will be issued. In the meantime, pro-applications on those topics are encouraged.

CONSTITUTION

The main purposes of the FARSIG are to:

1. Encourage research and scholarship in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
2. Establish a network of researchers and teachers in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
3. Enhance the teaching of Financial Accounting and Reporting.
4. Provide support for PhD students in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
5. Develop close links with the accounting profession so as to inform policy.
6. Publish a newsletter and organise targeted workshops.
7. Develop and maintain relationships with the British Accounting and Finance Association and the Professional Accountancy Institutes.

SIG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Michael Jones

School of Economics, Finance and Management
University of Bristol
30-32 Tyndall's Park Road
The Priory Road Complex
Priory Road, Clifton, BS8 1TU
Michaeljohn.Jones@bristol.ac.uk

Secretary

Penny Chaidali

Cardiff Business School
Cardiff University
Aberconway Building
Colum Drive
Cardiff CF10 3EU
chaidalip@cardiff.ac.uk

Acting Treasurer

Yannis Tsalavoutas

Adam Smith Business School
University of Glasgow
Room 683 - Gilbert Scott Building
University Avenue
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Ioannis.Tsalavoutas@glasgow.ac.uk

Newsletter Editor

Omiros Georgiou

Alliance Manchester Business School
University of Manchester
Booth Street West
Manchester M15 6PB
omiros.georgiou@manchester.ac.uk

Chair of Technical Committee

Christian Stadler

School of Business and Management
Royal Holloway University
Egham Hill,
Egham TW20 0EX
Christian.Stadler@rhul.ac.uk

Publicity officer

Tamer Elshandidy

College of Business Administration
Ajman University
University Street
Al Jerf 1, Ajman, United Arab Emirates
t.elshandidy@ajman.ac.ae

Nana Akubelem

Nottingham Business School
Nottingham Trent University
50 Shakespeare Street
Nottingham NE1 4FQ
oiza.akubelem@ntu.ac.uk

Diogenis Baboukardos

Essex Business School
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester, CO4 3SQ
d.baboukardos@essex.ac.uk

Mark Clatworthy

School of Economics,
Finance and Management
University of Bristol
8 Woodland Road
Bristol BS8 1TN
Mark.Clatworthy@bristol.ac.uk

Richard Martin

ACCA
The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6AU
richard.martin@accaglobal.com

Andrea Melis

Department of Economics
and Business
University of Cagliari (Italy)
Viale S. Ignazio 17
melisa@unica.it

David Oldroyd

Newcastle University Business School
5 Barrack Road
Newcastle NE1 1SE
david.mccollum-oldroyd@newcastle.ac.uk

Marco Papa

Department of Economics and Finance
University of Bari 'Aldo Moro'
Piazza Umberto I, 1, 70121
Bari BA, Italy
marco.papa@uniba.it

Gunnar Rimmel

Henley Business School
University of Reading
Greenlands
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 3AU
g.rimmel@henley.ac.uk

Richard Slack

Durham Business School
Queen's Campus
Ebsworth Building
University Boulevard
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees TS17 6BH
Richard.Slack@durham.ac.uk

Geoffrey Whittington

Judge Institute of Management
University of Cambridge
Trumpington Street
Cambridge CB2 1AG
gw12@cam.ac.uk

Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group (FARSIG) **DOCTORAL BURSARY SCHEME 2020**

FARSIG has a commitment to encourage research and scholarship in financial accounting and reporting. An inherent part of this commitment is to support doctoral students in financial accounting and reporting subject areas. The subject range is wide ranging across all aspects of financial accounting and reporting.

FARSIG is now inviting doctoral students in financial accounting and reporting to apply for financial support to help with their doctoral studies. A maximum of three bursaries are available, each bursary to a maximum application of £1,000.

Application:

- A statement as to why you are applying for the bursary.
- A two-page summary of your doctoral research, research aims, current progress and plan to submission.
 - There is no proforma application.
- Clear costings and timelines to support bursary application:
 - This would normally be data collection costs, transcription costs or other direct costs in supporting you with your research data and writing up;
 - Fees and conference attendance are not part of the bursary scheme;
 - Expenses will only be reimbursed on production of supporting invoices.
- You must be a current registered doctoral student, either full time or part time.
- A signed formal letter of support from your principal supervisor must be provided with the application.
- It is a condition of any bursary award that the doctoral student will present their research at a future Financial Reporting and Business Communication Conference (FRBC) – normally within 2 years of the bursary award.

Each application received will be reviewed by members of the FARSIG committee. The committee will determine the final bursary awards and applicants will be informed.

The closing date for applications is 28th February 2020 and all applicants will be informed of the decision by 30th April 2020.

Applications and letters of support should be emailed as PDF attachments to Richard.Slack@durham.ac.uk or loannis.tsalavoutas@glasgow.ac.uk

The email title should state: FARSIG Bursary application: applicant name



Financial Reporting and Business Communication, 24th Annual Conference

**University of Cagliari (Sardinia, Italy), Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd July 2020
First Call for Papers**

We are pleased to announce the 24th Annual Financial Reporting and Business Communication (FRBC) Conference organised by the University of Cagliari and the BAFA FARSIG. The University of Cagliari is located on the island of Sardinia in Italy. This is one of the premier conferences of its kind worldwide and attracts an international audience. The conference, supported by ICAEW charitable trusts, comprises parallel **full paper with discussants**, **developmental paper sessions** and a **doctoral stream**.

The conference addresses key areas of Accounting and Financial reporting, which are of interest to accounting academics and practitioners and includes:

- The purpose of the modern corporate report
- The effectiveness of financial reporting standards
- Accounting measurement and disclosure
- Sustainability, integrated and environmental reporting
- The composition and format of corporate reports and the role of the visual
- Corporate governance and sustainability
- Corporate reporting and accountability in the public sector
- The role of financial reporting and corporate governance in capital markets
- Historical perspectives on accounting or corporate reporting

Papers are invited on these topics and on other aspects of financial and non-financial reporting and business communication. Papers may take empirical, theoretical and conceptual approaches, including case studies or experiments.

Abstracts or full papers can be submitted by 1st April 2020 by emailing frbc@unica.it. For informal queries you can email melisa@unica.it OR michaeljohn.jones@bristol.ac.uk. Please submit an abstract and full paper (up to 12,000 words) for parallel sessions. Discussants will be allocated to full paper submissions and we expect that all presenters of full papers will be prepared to act as discussants on other papers. Please submit an abstract (maximum 500 words) or short developmental paper (up to 5,000 words) for developmental paper sessions. Exceptionally good papers are welcomed for submission for a **fast-track review in *European Management Journal***.

For doctoral students wishing to present in the doctoral stream, a 500 word abstract should be submitted by 29th March 2020 to richard.slack@durham.ac.uk. A Sue Hrasky Scholarship is available for 2020 to doctoral students in the doctoral stream. This comprises a doctoral fee waiver, receipted travel in Italy to the conference and subsistence and accommodation costs related to the conference. Applications should be in the form of a structured abstract and email entitled FRBC Scholarship/authors name. The award of the Scholarship will be announced by the end of April 2020.

Andrea Melis
melisa@unica.it

Mike Jones
Michaeljohn.jones@bristol.ac.uk

PHOTOS OF 2019 FRBC CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS



PHOTOS OF 2019 FARSIG SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Photo of 2019 FARSIG Symposium keynote speakers and organisers. Names from left to right are: Rhoda Brown (Loughborough University), Jianqiao Lu (IASB), Geoffrey Whittington (University of Cambridge), Andreas Bergman (University of Zurich), Shelia Ellwood (University of Bristol), Anne Kirkeby (Black Sun), Mike Jones (University of Bristol).

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

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