DART-Accounting Workshop 2025

On January 9th and 10th, CAR hosted the annual DART Workshop at the University of Graz. The workshop, organized by CAR's Rainer Niemann, brought together participants from the University of Graz, University of Vienna, the University of Frankfurt, and the University of Mannheim. The workshop featured a broad range of research topics, covering both analytical and archival empirical methods. Key themes included corporate disclosure, auditing, behavioral conservatism, and ESG reporting. DART student Kerstin Trummer presented her paper, "The Entry of Financial Audit Firms into ESG Audits under Capacity and Quality Considerations", which was discussed by DART student Lisa Bodlos-Walcher. DART student Emanuel Lederer presented his paper, "Regulatory Implications of the Introduction of Audits of Nonfinancial Reports in Different Legal Regimes", which was discussed by Doron Reichmann. CAR's Theresa Wittreich presented her paper, "ESG Reporting and Strategic NGO Communication", which was discussed by Erika Bognar. Additionally, CAR's Martin Klösch served as a discussant for a paper presented by Yasmin Hoffmann. The discussants and participants at the workshop provided many valuable suggestions and comments on how to improve the working papers, highlighting the papers' strengths as well as identifying critical points and offering ways forward during the workshop sessions and subsequent discussions. The lunches, coffee breaks, and dinner on the first evening provided an informal atmosphere for the DART students to expand their academic and social network.

„Incentive effects of tax transparency: Does country-by-country reporting call for arbitration?" - JAPP

In this article, published in the Journal of Accounting and Public Policy (JAPP) in January 2025, CAR's Rainer Niemann, together with Jan Thomas Martini, Dirk Simons, and Dennis Völler, study the OECD mandatory fiscal arbitration proposal as a means of dispute resolution between tax authorities to avoid double taxation of multinational enterprises' profits. They investigate the effects of mandatory fiscal arbitration on tax-audit qualities in a two-country setting with country-by-country reporting (CbCR) and a tax rate differential. Their analytical model shows that tax-audit quality in the high-tax country increases under CbCR because finer information increases tax-audit effectiveness. In contrast, the low-tax country refrains from auditing as it benefits from profit shifting. While arbitration resolves double taxation, its effects on tax-audit quality depend on the procedure in place. An approach based on exogenous negotiation powers lowers audit quality, a final-offer arbitration preserves audit quality, and an independent-opinion arbitration with minimum-quality requirement offers the strongest audit incentives: even the low-tax country engages in auditing. Their findings contribute to the policy debate about interdependencies between firm-level tax policies, national fiscal enforcement, and international fiscal cooperation.

„Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung für KMU"

CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer and Theresa Wittreich have written a chapter in the book "Nachhaltigkeit – Wiener Bilanzrechtstage 2024", recently published by Linde Verlag. The chapter provides an overview of the current state of sustainability reporting standards for SMEs in the EU. The authors describe the basics of sustainability reporting in the EU and discuss why standards for SMEs are considered necessary. The authors explain the conceptual principles of the (then) draft standards for listed SMEs (LSME) and for non-listed SMEs (VSME), both published in January 2024. For LSME, the authors focus on the differences from standards for large companies, while for VSME, the authors focus on the modular structure and the potential for success of such a voluntary standard.

ARFA Workshop 2025 in Graz

This year's Analytical Research in Financial Accounting (ARFA) Workshop took place at the University of Graz from March 13th to 14th, 2025. CAR's Georg Schneider organized this year's workshop. Among various faculties and students from several Austrian, German, French, and Swiss Universities, CAR members and DART students from Graz participated in this years workshop.
CAR's Theresa Wittreich („ESG Reporting and Strategic NGO Communication") and Martin Klösch („Economic Effects of Sustainability Reporting Regulations When Investor Awareness is Endogenous"), as well as DART student Lisa Bodlos-Walcher („Green Supplier Selection and Commitment to Transparency under Market Competition"), presented their recent working papers during the workshop. The workshop fostered a collegial and dynamic atmosphere, characterized by lively discussions and constructive exchanges. Presenters received valuable feedback as participants highlighted the strengths of the papers and identified critical areas for refinement. The coffee breaks and the dinner on the first evening created an informal and welcoming environment, allowing participants to connect, exchange ideas, and broaden their academic and social circles.

EAA Event: „Identifying Research Opportunities on IFRS 18"

On February 24th, the Financial Reporting Standards Committee of the European Accounting Association (EAA) in cooperation with the IASB and EFRAG organized a workshop, which aimed to inform researchers on the type of information standard setters would welcome in order to evaluate the implementation of IFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements'. In this workshop CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer acted as one of the academic contributors, alongside with Ana Marques (University of East Anglia) and Thorsten Sellhorn (LMU Munich). They illustrated current available academic evidence that responds to the questions of the standard-setter and pointed at opportunities for novel academic research able to provide results that are informative to standard setters when evaluating whether IFRS 18 reached its intended objectives. The presentations were followed by discussions with input from the workshop participants about additional future research opportunities.

CAR improves in BYU Accounting Ranking

In February, Brigham Young University (BYU) published its annual update of the Accounting Ranking. In the 2024 ranking, the University of Graz is ranked 8th in the citation-based ranking for analytical accounting research in the last 6 years. With 338 citations, the University of Graz continues to be the highest-ranked university in Europe in this field and second-highest non-US university following the University of Hong Kong, improving its standing from the 9th rank in 2023. In the ranking over "all years", the University of Graz ranks 6th (12th in 2023), with CAR's Ralf Ewert, Rainer Niemann, Georg Schneider, and Alfred Wagenhofer as the main contributors for the placement. It should be noted that the BYU ranking is somewhat US-centric in its coverage of top accounting journals, ignoring several international journals.

Legend: Rank {Authors} [Articles] (Citations)

University	All Years	Last 6 Years
University of Chicago	1 {6} [35] (9,530)	14 {3} [5] (182)
University of Pennsylvania	2 {8} [33] (7,968)	17 {5} [9] (159)
University of Minnesota	3 {5} [31] (5,861)	31 {2} [3] (83)
Northwestern University	4 {4} [37] (5,670)	20 {3} [4] (135)
Stanford University	5 {7} [34] (4,671)	1 {6} [18] (947)
University of Graz	6 {4} [14] (4,588)	8 {2} [7] (338)
University of Mannheim	7 {2} [28] (3,892)	62 {1} [1] (28)
University of Southern California	8 {5} [7] (3,793)	56 {1} [1] (35)
The Ohio State University	9 {7} [76] (3,771)	9 {3} [15] (319)
University of California, Los Angeles	10 {6} [21] (3,761)	15 {2} [8] (170)

Imprint:

Editor in Chief: Alfred Wagenhofer| Contributors: Martin Klösch, Kerstin Trummer, Lisa Bodlos-Walcher, Alfred Wagenhofer, Theresa Wittreich
Layout: Martin Klösch | Pictures: Private, JAPP, Linde, BYU, SBESS

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Date of Publication: March 2025