



43rd Congress of the European Accounting Association (EAA)

The Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association (EAA) 2021 was held virtually from May 25-28. After the congress had to be canceled in 2020 due to the Corona pandemic, the implementation of an online format enabled to connect a large number of researchers to discuss their current research. Rainer Niemann presented a paper, which is co-authored by former DART student Peter Krenn, and DART alumni Nikolina Krneta presented her current research project. Moreover, DART students Matthias Müllner and Thomas Müllner had the chance to present their latest work and received valuable feedback. Besides paper presentations, the EAA organized inspiring keynote speeches and a broad variety of virtual social activities to interact with fellow researchers.

DART-Accounting Workshop



In July, this year's second virtual DART workshop took place at the University of Graz. The workshop was organized by CAR's Rainer Niemann. Eight DART students presented their current working papers. These include Daniel Fabisch, Anna Kasmanhuber, Viktoria Kern, Martin Klösch, Matthias Müllner, Thomas Müllner, Anisa Vrenozi, and Bianca Weidinger. The papers were individually discussed by fellow DART students Peter Habiger, Bettina Mandl, Matthias Müllner, Anisa Vrenozi, and, Theresa Wittreich as well as by Post-Doc Reinhard Schrank, Dominik Theveßen from Goethe University Frankfurt and former DART student and current assistant professor at the University of Mannheim Sebastian Kronenberger. The audience consisted of participants from the University of Graz, University of Vienna, Goethe University Frankfurt, and

University of Mannheim. The discussants and general audience provided many valuable suggestions for improving the papers by identifying critical issues and offering solutions within the session and in the subsequent discussions.

New AFRAC Working Group for Sustainability Reporting

Due to the increasingly strong dynamic in the development of non-financial reporting, the Austrian Financial Reporting and Auditing Committee (AFRAC) set up a permanent working group on the topic of sustainability reporting. The tasks of the working group, which includes CAR's Georg Schneider and Alfred Wagenhofer, is to engage with and to comment on EFRAG's development of European Sustainability Reporting Standards and to give guidance for Austrian preparers of sustainability reports.

Workshop at Rice University

CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer was invited to give a research workshop at Rice University, Houston, TX on September 24. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the workshop was held online. Wagenhofer presented his recent working paper "Economic Effects of Increasing Litigation Risk on Corporate Disclosure and Innovation" (joint with Stefan Schantl) and made several online office visits with faculty and PhD students.

„Pro und contra der Vermögensteuer“

In this article, coauthored by CAR's Rainer Niemann and Anna-Maria Anderwald (University of Graz) and published in "Recht der Wirtschaft" (RdW), the authors discuss arguments for and against the reintroduction of a wealth tax, which have been put forward in the literature. In particular, they point out the economic and legal problems that may arise from an introduction. As a result, the authors suggest that the introduction of an inheritance tax may be a more feasible approach for wealth redistribution than the wealth tax.



“Motivating Managers to Invest in Accounting Quality: The Role of Conservative Accounting”



In this article, published in “Contemporary Accounting Research” (CAR) in September, CAR’s Ralf Ewert and Alfred Wagenhofer study how owners can motivate managers to invest in accounting quality even though it is costly to the managers. Using an agency model, they establish that a sufficiently conservative accounting system (which tends to understate performance) is necessary to induce a manager to invest in accounting quality, and more conservatism increases this investment. The reason is that higher accounting quality mitigates the expected reduction of the manager’s compensation from conservatively measured performance. Higher accounting quality makes the performance measure more precise, and the owner optimally lowers incentives, even though that entails some loss of productivity. In total, more conservatism increases both firm value and accounting quality. Their findings suggest that striving for neutral accounting can counteract incentives to improve accounting quality, and they provide support to considering conservatism in empirical studies on financial reporting quality.

12th Accounting Research Workshop (ARW)

The biannual Accounting Research Workshop (ARW) of the universities of Basel and Zurich took place online from June 24-25. The workshop was co-organized by Hui Chen, Robert Göx, and Ulf Schiller. Judson Caskey (UCLA) and Mirko Heinle (Wharton) delivered keynote speeches on current research topics in accounting. Prior to the workshop, the keynote speakers taught a doctoral course on analytical accounting research, which several DART students attended. At the ARW, former DART students Elisabeth Plietzsch and Stefan Schantl presented recent papers, joint with Phillip Stocken and CAR’s Alfred Wagenhofer, respectively. Alfred Wagenhofer also acted as discussant of one of the other

presented papers. Additionally, current DART students Daniel Fabisch, Matthias Müllner, and Thomas Müllner had the opportunity to present their papers and to network with the participants that included researchers from Asia, Europe, and the US.

Presentations at GEABA Young Scholars

On September 17, the German Economic Association of Business Administration (GEABA) Young Scholar conference was held online. DART student Daniel Fabisch presented his paper “The Real Effects of Mandatory ESG Disclosure”, and DART student Kristoffer Uhlenkamp presented the paper “Private Benefits of Control, Mandatory Disclosure, and the Choice Between Public and Private Debt”, which is joint work with Benedikt Franke (University of Mannheim) and former DART student Felix Niggemann (University of Zurich).

Accounting for Transparency

CAR’s Alfred Wagenhofer was invited to give a presentation on Disclosure Theory in the online course “Research on Corporate Transparency”, organized by Joachim Gassen (HU Berlin) on May 3. The course was part of the German SFB TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency. It addressed a wide audience of research-oriented master students, pre-docs, and post-docs. The course consisted of seven units with presentations by guest speakers from Europe and the U.S. who gave their perspectives on the respective topic and engaged in discussions with the participants. Materials are publicly available at <https://github.com/trr266/rescorptrans>.

Announcement: CAR-Symposium

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, the Center for Accounting Research will be holding a symposium on Friday, November 12 at the University of Graz. The symposium will include a keynote by Robert Göx (University of Zurich) and the presentation of the Richard Mattessich Award. The Symposium will be followed by a ceremony to award an honorary doctorate to Caren Sureth-Sloane (University of Paderborn). More information is available via the following link: <https://centeraccountingresearch.uni-graz.at/en/>

Imprint:

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