

Prize of the Verein Steirische Steuerberater und Wirtschaftsprüfer

DART alumni Anisa Vrenozi was awarded the second prize at the “Forschungspreis 2023 des Verein Steirische Steuerberater & Wirtschaftsprüfer” granted by the “Kammer der Steuerberater und Wirtschaftsprüfer”. Anisa received the prize for her dissertation, “Accounting & Innovation: Accounting Conservatism, Financing Opportunities & Earnings Management: Theoretical Insights & Empirical Evidence”. The prize was handed over at a ceremony held on November 21, 2023. Additionally, DART student Kerstin Trummer was awarded a recognition prize for her master thesis, “Transfer pricing regulations and their impact on tax avoidance by Austrian companies: A comparison between national and multinational companies”.



Trummer and Vrenozi at the KSW Styria.

DART-Accounting Workshop 2024

On January 11 and 12, CAR hosted the annual DART workshop at the University of Graz. The workshop was organized by CAR’s Rainer Niemann and featured participants from the University of Vienna, the University of Frankfurt, and the University of Mannheim. DART students Viktoria Kern, Klaus Haider, Bettina Mandl, Lisa Walcher, and Stefanie Pendl (Institute of Accounting and Taxation) presented their recent research. DART students Emmanuel Lederer, Kerstin Trummer, and Lisa Walcher as well as CAR’s Martin Klösch and Theresa Wittreich, and Bernhard Haberl (Institute of Accounting and Reporting), Thomas

Kourouxous (Institute of Accounting and Taxation), and Benedikt Sieghartsleitner (Institute of Accounting and Auditing) discussed papers by PhD students from Vienna, Frankfurt, and Mannheim. The papers presented covered analytical and archival empirical research methods and addressed topics such as voluntary disclosure, auditing, taxation, managerial overconfidence, and ESG disclosures. 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.



Participants of the DART-Accounting Workshop in Graz.

“Connectivity von Finanz- und Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung”

In this expert commentary, published in *IRZ – Zeitschrift für Internationale Rechnungslegung* in December 2023, CAR’s Wagenhofer discusses how the introduction of a comprehensive sustainability reporting mandate in accordance with the ESRS is or should be related to financial reporting. Both EFRAG and the IASB are currently analyzing whether changes in the IFRS Accounting Standards are required. The commentary shows various facets of connectivity and discusses its possibilities and limitations.



Wagenhofer elected as AFRAC Vice Chairman

At the plenary meeting on September 13th, 2023, the Austrian Financial Reporting Advisory Committee (AFRAC) elected CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer as new Vice Chairman. He succeeds Prof. Christian Nowotny, who had been a member of the AFRAC Executive Committee since its foundation.

Schneider reelected to EAA Board

CAR's Georg Schneider has been reelected to the Board of the European Accounting Association (EAA) as the National Representative for Austria. The term of office is three years (2024-2027) and will commence after the General Assembly of the EAA Congress 2024. Until 2025, Georg Schneider is also a part of the Standing Scientific Committee, advising the scientific programme of the Annual Congress.

CAR improves in BYU Accounting Ranking

In February, Brigham Young University (BYU) published its annual update of the Accounting Ranking. In the ranking for 2023, the University of Graz has been ranked 9th in the citation-based ranking for analytical accounting research in the last 6 years. With 263 citations, the University of Graz continues to be the highest-ranked university in Europe in this field and second-highest non-US university, improving its standing from the 12th rank in 2022. In the ranking over "all years", the University of Graz ranks 11th (13th in 2022), 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.

"Internal Performance Measures and Earnings Management" (TAR)



In this paper, published in *The Accounting Review* in January 2024, CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer and David Windisch together with Christian Gross (former PhD student at the Institute of Accounting and Control, now Kelag AG) examine whether the design of a firm's internal management accounting system is associated with GAAP earnings management. They exploit the fact that ASC 280 mandates a "management approach" requiring multisegment firms to disclose their segment earnings as defined internally by their management accounting system. They posit that the more aligned segment earnings are with

GAAP earnings, the higher are the costs of earnings management because earnings management of GAAP earnings spills over to segment earnings and distorts information used for internal decision-making. They predict that firms with more decoupled segment earnings engage in more earnings management. Using a large sample of U.S. firms from 1998 to 2020, they find support for this prediction. They also find that the decision usefulness of segment earnings for segment investment purposes decreases as earnings management increases, where this association is more pronounced for firms with less decoupled segment earnings measures.

Niemann receives Golden Ring of Honor of the University of Graz

On February 5th, CAR's Rainer Niemann received the Golden Ring of Honor of the University of Graz. The University can award this ring to particularly deserving representatives of public life or science. This is the university's highest award and recognizes Niemann's ten years of service as Chairman of the Senate. He particularly oversaw two rector elections and led the Senate during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rainer Niemann and rector Peter Riedler.

AFRAC International 2023

On November 10th, AFRAC organized its annual "AFRAC International" event, which provided an opportunity to discuss recent developments in financial and sustainability accounting with high-ranking members of the IASB, ISSB, and EFRAG. The event was organized and chaired by CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer, vice chairman of the AFRAC.

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