



Georg Schneider elected to EAA Board

Georg Schneider has been elected to the Board of the European Accounting Association (EAA) as the National Representative for Austria. In this position, he follows Ralf Ewert (also CAR-member). The period as National Representative commences immediately after the General Assembly of the EAA Virtual Congress 2021, and the term of office is three years (2021-2024). The Board is an important part of the EAA governance structure. It is composed of the EAA's officers (e.g., the President and the Treasurer), the National Representatives, the Chairs of EAA Committees, and the Editors of EAA Journals.

Elisabeth Plietzsch now Assistant Professor at BI Norwegian Business School



DART Alumna Elisabeth Plietzsch has accepted an assistant professor position at the Department of Accounting, Auditing, and Business Analytics at the BI Norwegian Business School starting in February 2021. The BI Norwegian Business School is the leading provider of research-based

knowledge on business and management disciplines in Norway and provides an excellent research and teaching environment. Previously, Elisabeth had a position as a Doctoral Research Fellow at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. Elisabeth thanks especially Prof. Christopher Bleibtreu, Prof. Ralf Ewert, Prof. Phil Stocken, and Prof. Alfred Wagenhofer for their support with her application.

New Citation Ranking with Top Places of CAR Researchers

Brigham Young University (BYU) has published rankings for accounting researchers worldwide for many years. Previously, author rankings included only rankings based on the number of publications. A new ranking is based on citations that provide an indication of the impact of research an author has achieved.

Recently, the 2020 Accounting Citation Ranking has been published. In the ranking for Analytical Research (BYU distinguishes Analytical, Archival, Experimental, and Other Methods), which is the most appropriate for CAR's research method, Wagenhofer is in the excellent 9th place (2,135 citations) and Ewert in 33rd place (999 citations) of the ranking that includes 432 researchers worldwide. It is also noteworthy that the University of Graz is ranking 10th in the 2020 University Citation Ranking for Analytical Accounting Research out of 232 universities.

It should be noted that the BYU ranking is U.S.-centric in the coverage of journals. They include the top-quality journals based mostly in the U.S. but few in other countries. Moreover, it does not include articles in journals other than accounting, even if the content is also accounting-related, such as economics or finance.

Author Citation Ranking For Analytical (all topics) 2020

Author Name	Interest Areas	Rank All Years
Ohlson, James A. - Hong Kong Polytechnic University		1 [16] (15411)
Verrecchia, Robert E. - University of Pennsylvania		2 [22] (11207)
Kim, Oliver - University of Maryland		3 [8] (4575)
Lambert, Richard A. - University of Pennsylvania		4 [5] (4250)
Reichelstein, Stefan - University of Mannheim		5 [26] (3205)
Dye, Ronald A. - Northwestern University		6 [19] (2821)
Leuz, Christian - University of Chicago	AUD FIN OTH NON ANA ARC FIN MAN NON	7 [1] (2589)
Gigler, Frank B. - University of Minnesota	FIN ANA FIN	8 [14] (2354)
Wagenhofer, Alfred - University of Graz	AUD FIN MAN ANA FIN MAN	9 [6] (2135)
Hemmer, Thomas - Rice University		10 [22] (2102)

Article in F.A.Z.

CAR's Ewert and Wagenhofer published a press article in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on 28 December 2020, which discusses what we should learn from the Wirecard case regarding improvements in enforcement of financial reporting. The German government published a draft legislation, the "Finanzmarktintegritätsstärkungsgesetz" (FISG), which contains many proposals. Several proposals aim at tightening auditor regulation, including auditor rotation and separating auditing and consulting further. Most of these proposals have been discussed for many years, and they had been tightened already. The authors' view is that there are more promising proposals, all of which induce more transparency in the governance and enforcement system. They propose the following measures:

- (i) More transparency in audit quality. Currently, audit oversight evaluates audit firms, but the findings of their inspections are obscure and go almost unnoticed. More transparency of outcomes of inspections, particularly if

they identify issues, would help trigger reputation effects from capital market participants.

(ii) More transparency of internal controls. An effective internal control system is key to prevent fraud and misrepresentation. The authors suggest that firms should be required to report inefficiencies in their internal controls, as is required, for example, in the U.S.

(iii) More transparency in the enforcement system. This system includes many institutions, which appear to work with little or no information exchange and coordination among each other. Allowing, and requiring, coordination should improve the effectiveness of the enforcement system.

Nikolina Krneta now Post-Doc at University of Vienna



In January 2020 I graduated from the University of Graz, DART Doctoral Program and received a Doctoral Degree in Accounting, Auditing, and Taxation. Over the past year, I also engaged as an intern in the KPMG audit department with a desire to enrich my academic knowledge with a practical approach. Since 2021, I am a member of the

University of Vienna. I will continue with my academic career as a Post-Doc in the team of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Ulrich Küpper at the Department of Accounting, Innovation, and Strategy. My obligations will include teaching and research. I really appreciate the opportunities that are available with this position, and I am very glad to carry on with research in corporate governance and enforcement.

Smart Regulation Symposium

The “field of excellence” Smart Regulation, in which the CAR researchers are active together with researchers in other fields, such as law and psychology, held its first large joint conference, the “Smart Regulation Symposium” in October 2020.

In four interdisciplinary panels, speakers from Austria, Germany, and Great Britain gave lectures, including

CAR’s Ralf Ewert, Rainer Niemann, Georg Schneider, and Alfred Wagenhofer, who i. a. gave lectures on standardsetting and enforcement on the corporate sector and CSR disclosure.

The conference proceedings will be published by Mohr Siebeck and are scheduled to be available soon.

Non-financial Reporting in the Focus of Standard Setter

Non-financial reporting (NFR) has recently gained increasing attention by companies, investors, other stakeholders, and therefore also standard setters around the world. In his role as chair of the Working Group International Financial Reporting at the Austrian standard setter AFRAC, CAR’s Wagenhofer was involved in preparing comment letters on two of these initiatives. The first one was the IFRS Foundation’s consultation on sustainability reporting, which asked for comments on whether the Foundation should become engaged in developing sustainability reporting standards, besides their work on International Financial Reporting Standards. The second comment letter pertains to the EFRAG chair, Jean-Paul Gauzès’ consultation on how EFRAG can integrate NFR into its organization. Both initiatives are predominantly reactions to the wide attendance and push NFR received from the European Commission’s initiatives in sustainable finance.

DART Accounting Workshop

In January, the annual DART-Accounting Workshop took place virtually at the University of Graz. The workshop was organized by CAR’s Rainer Niemann. DART-students Peter Habiger, Matthias Müllner, Thomas Müllner, Eva Putz, Kristoffer Uhlenkamp, Anisa Vrenozzi, Bianca Weidinger, and Theresa Wittreich had the opportunity to present their current working papers.

DART-students Daniel Fabisch, Klaus Haider, Anna Kasmanhuber, Viktoria Kern, Martin Klösch, and Bettina Mandl, as well as Post-Doc Thomas Kourouxous discussed research papers by fellow PhDs. Overall, the engaged audience and the discussants provided many valuable suggestions on how to improve the papers by identifying critical points and offering solutions within the session and in discussions afterwards.

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