



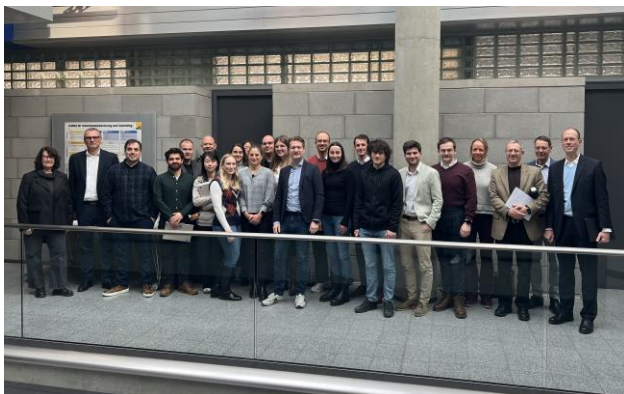
# Newsletter

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## DART Accounting Workshop 2026

In January, CAR hosted its annual two-day DART Workshop at the University of Graz, organized by CAR's Rainer Niemann. The event brought together participants from the University of Graz, the University of Mannheim, the University of Paderborn, the University of Vienna, and SKEMA Business School. DART students Lisa Bodlos-Walcher, Peter Habiger, Oliver Habijanec, Emanuel Lederer, Nicole Rauch, and Kerstin Trummer presented their current research projects. The presented analytical papers were discussed by DART students Yushan Guo, Bernhard Haberl, Peter Habiger, Sophie Sallmutter, and Kerstin Trummer, together with DART alumnus Martin Klösch (now a post-doc researcher at the University of Vienna) and CAR's Theresa Wittreich, Roland Königsgruber, and Thomas Kourouxous.

Overall, the workshop participants offered constructive suggestions to further improve the working papers, which addressed topics such as auditing, taxation, managerial reporting, and various forms of disclosures. The lunches, coffee breaks, and the joint dinner created a relaxed and collegial atmosphere, fostering lively academic exchange and networking among all attendees.



Participants of the DART Workshop 2026.

## Ulrich Schäfer joins CAR



Ulrich Schäfer has been appointed Professor of Accounting and Transparency at the Institute of Accounting and Reporting at the University of Graz and has joined the Center for Accounting Research as a faculty member. Previously, he served as Assistant Professor at the University of Vienna. His research has appeared in leading international journals, including *The Accounting Review*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, and the *Journal of Accounting Research* (forthcoming in 2026). He is a member of the Standing Scientific Committee of the European Accounting Association in the area of Analytical Modeling.

## CAR improves in BYU Ranking

In February, Brigham Young University (BYU) published its annual update of the Accounting Ranking. In the 2025 ranking, the University of Graz is ranked 5th in the citation-based ranking for analytical accounting research in the last 6 years. With 459 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 8th rank in 2024. In the ranking over "all years", the University of Graz ranks 6th (6th in 2024), 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.

University	Last 6 Years	Last 12 Years	All Years
University of Chicago	22 (2) [4] (128)	4 (4) [10] (1,390)	1 (6) [35] (10,028)
University of Pennsylvania	17 (5) [11] (171)	6 (6) [20] (1,054)	2 (8) [36] (8,555)
University of Minnesota	58 (1) [2] (27)	5 (2) [5] (1,130)	3 (4) [30] (6,127)
Northwestern University	34 (2) [2] (66)	37 (3) [7] (217)	4 (4) [37] (5,925)
Stanford University	1 (5) [15] (748)	1 (7) [26] (1,916)	5 (7) [35] (5,176)
University of Graz	5 (3) [7] (459)	17 (3) [10] (488)	6 (4) [15] (4,934)

## Wagenhofer appointed to IFRS Advisory Council



In January 2026, CAR's Alfred Wagenhofer was appointed as a new member of the IFRS Advisory Council. He was nominated and supported by the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER) under the presidency of Katherine Schipper (Duke University, USA) and will represent the IAAER in this role. The primary objective of the IFRS Advisory Council is to provide strategic advice to the IFRS Foundation and, in particular, to the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).

## ARFA Workshop 2026 in Toulouse

This year's Analytical Research in Financial Accounting (ARFA) Workshop took place at the Toulouse campus of TBS Education from March 12th to 13th, 2026. Among faculty and students from several German, French, and Swiss universities, DART student Lisa Bodlos-Walcher and CAR members Georg Schneider and Theresa Wittreich participated in the workshop this year. Lisa Bodlos-Walcher ("Voluntary ESG Disclosure in Vertical and Horizontal Competition and ESG-Concerned Consumers") and Theresa Wittreich ("Information Spillovers and the Effectiveness of Mandatory E&S Reporting") presented their recent working papers during the workshop. The engaged audience provided many valuable suggestions for further research. The city walk and dinner on the first evening fostered an informal and welcoming atmosphere, providing opportunities for participants to connect, exchange ideas, and expand both their academic and social networks.



Königsgruber, Schneider, Wittreich, and Bodlos-Walcher.

## TTR 266 Seminar Series at Humboldt University Berlin

In February, CAR's David Windisch was invited to present at the TRR 266 Seminar Series hosted by Humboldt University of Berlin. The TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency is a trans-regional collaborative research center funded by the German Research Foundation, with Caren Sureth-Sloane, an advisory board member of CAR, serving as spokesperson of the center. As part of the seminar series, David Windisch presented his current working paper "Measuring Accounting Comparability". In this paper, he and his co-authors develop and estimate a pairwise measure of accounting comparability derived from firm-level time-series properties of earnings.

## "Business Analytics und Künstliche Intelligenz im Spannungsfeld regulatorischer Anforderungen der Rechnungslegung"

In their article, published in IRZ - Internationale Rechnungslegung in January 2026, CAR's Georg Schneider and Theresa Wittreich examine the growing importance of artificial intelligence in controlling and reporting, particularly in the context of business analytics tools. They emphasize that, from a corporate perspective, decisions on implementing AI applications must be carefully assessed within the broader legal framework - including existing accounting regulations - as well as the specific competitive environment in which a firm operates.

## „Klimarisikoanalysen: Herausforderungen in der Praxis - Eine Analyse des ESRS-Reporting zum Klimawandel“

In a joint project with KPMG Austria, CAR's Birgit Beinsen, Alfred Wagenhofer, and Theresa Wittreich investigate the practical challenges associated with climate risk analysis under the European Sustainability Reporting Standards on climate change (ESRS E1). The study analyzes the content and quality of disclosures to assess the existence and effectiveness of internal processes that enable firms to manage climate-related challenges. Drawing on a sample of 74 sustainability reports for 2024 from firms in four climate-intensive sectors, the findings indicate substantial practical challenges, particularly in the areas of management and strategy. While the collection of climate-related metrics shows some progress, establishing clear objectives and a coherent strategy remains considerably more challenging. This gap is especially

evident in the omission of disclosures of the anticipated financial effects of climate-related risks and opportunities. Despite the ongoing efforts by the European Commission to streamline reporting, the disclosure requirements in the final draft of the amended ESRS E1 provide little substantive relief. Accordingly, the insights from this study are also applicable to the future requirements under the amended ESRS. On March 20, CAR's Birgit Beinsen and Theresa Wittreich, together with Thomas Gaber (Head of Sustainable Finance, KPMG Austria and former CAR student), presented the study in a joint webinar with KPMG. The study is available at: <https://kpmg.com/at/de/insights/2026/03/klimarisiko-analysen--herausforderungen-in-der-praxis.html>

### Defense of Stefanie Pendl

On January 26, 2026, Stefanie Pendl successfully defended her doctoral thesis, "The Role of External Tax Service Providers in Tax and Audit Outcomes," at the University of Graz. The dissertation was supervised by Rainer Niemann and Silke Runger; Harald Amberger (WU Vienna) served as external committee member. Stefanie's cumulative dissertation comprises three papers analyzing the role of external tax service providers from different angles, both theoretically and empirically. The first paper uses a principal-agent model to explore the dynamics between two agents providing tax planning effort and their effect on a firm's overall level of tax avoidance. The second paper, co-authored with Dan Lynch (University of Wisconsin-Madison), empirically examines how tax uncertainty influences the purchase of auditor-provided tax services (APTS) and the impact of related regulatory restrictions. The third paper, co-authored with former CAR student Benedikt Sieghartsleitner, studies the consequences of APTS restrictions on audit outcomes. Stefanie will continue her academic career as a post-doc researcher at WU Vienna.



Pendl with dean of studies Klamler and her supervisors Niemann, Runger and Amberger.

### Lunch Workshops Winter Term 2025/26

During the winter term, CAR once again hosted several workshops with international scholars. DART Lunch Workshops were held on October 28, 2025, December 2, 2025, and January 3, 2026. Panagiotis Skartados (University of Crete) presented "Endogenous Disclosure Regime of Contract Terms and Bargaining in Vertical Markets", Robert Stoumbos (ESSEC Business School) introduced his working paper "Voluntary Public Disclosure of Revenues by Private Companies in the United States", and Svea Holtmann (University of Mannheim) presented "Income Shifting Aggressiveness and the Regulatory Environment".

### Is Tax Transfer Pricing Harmonization a Panacea? Real Effects of Global Tax Transparency and Standards Consistency



In their paper titled "Is Tax Transfer Pricing Harmonization a Panacea? Real Effects of Global Tax Transparency and Standards Consistency", published in The Accounting Review, CAR's Georg Schneider together with Markus Diller (University of Passau), Johannes Lorenz (Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg), and Caren Sureth-Sloane (Paderborn University, Vienna University of Economics and Business) investigate the impact of the harmonization of tax transfer pricing across jurisdictions on multinational companies' reporting and tax authorities' auditing strategies. Using a game-theoretic approach, the authors assess how enhancing standards consistency and global tax transparency influences tax avoidance and double taxation, producer and consumer surplus, and countries' tax revenue. Their results show that the effect of increased transparency in discouraging tax avoidance vanishes when standards are inconsistent. Furthermore, they demonstrate that global tax transparency and consistent standards maximize global social welfare.

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