University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Department of Accountancy and Finance

2024 (June) PhD Workshop

Semester 1, 2024

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Background

The PhD workshop is designed by Professor Jin Zhang for all PhD students in the Department of Accountancy and Finance at the University of Otago to present their research progress, offer comments and support each other. This is a semi-annually departmental event, which has run since 2015.

The workshop aims to stimulate our research progress and communication. It is a perfect time for postgraduate students to know each other's research interests. All PhD students (including MCom students) are required to attend the workshop. Every presenter is assigned 6 minutes (5 minutes speech plus 1 minute Q&A) for their presentation. The order of the presentations will be based on PhD seniority. Those who joined our department earlier will present first.

In June 2024, awards for Outstanding Research Contribution, Presentation, and Impact were introduced.

The **Outstanding Research Contribution** Award recognizes PhD candidates whose work has significantly advanced knowledge and understanding in Accountancy or Finance. This award acknowledges research that has profoundly impacted the development of new theories, methodologies, or empirical analyses that have expanded the boundaries of knowledge.

The **Outstanding Research Presentation** Award recognizes a PhD candidate who has given an excellent oral presentation of their research findings during the PhD symposium. This award recognizes the high quality of the research and the ability to communicate and connect with audiences, promoting knowledge sharing effectively.

The **Outstanding Research Impact** Award recognizes a PhD candidate whose research findings make a significant societal, economic, environmental, or cultural impact extending beyond academia. This award acknowledges the ability to transform new knowledge into real-world benefits for communities, industries, policymaking, or other stakeholders, ultimately promoting positive change and innovation.

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2024 June PhD Workshop Programme

Department of Accountancy and Finance

Otago Business School

10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 4 June 2024

OBS2.19/2.20 (Boardroom)

Organizer: Pakorn (Beam) Aschakulporn

Welcome & Introduction, 10:00 − 10:15

→ Prof. Jin E. Zhang – Head of Department

→ A.Prof. Helen Roberts – Acting/Deputy Head of Department

→ Dr. Olena Onishchenko – Chair of the Postgraduate Committee

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Presentations, 10:15 − 12:00

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1. Helen Sadgrove

   Title: Governance of WHS in NZ Crown Entities

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, A.Prof. Felicity Lamm

2. Xiaoxu Zhang

   Title: Board gender diversity and trade credit demand: Evidence from UK private firms

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, Dr. Pallab Biswas, Dr. Dinithi Ranasinghe

3. Junxiu Lyu

   Title: Distracted investors and corporate political activities

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, A.Prof. Muhammad Nadeem, Dr. Rashid Zaman

4. Arung Mayapada

   Title: Board Gender Diversity and UK Charity Performance

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Pallab Biswas, A.Prof. Helen Roberts

5. Weihan Li

   Title: The Rare Disaster Concern Index: RIX

   Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, A.Prof. Xinfeng Ruan, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

6. Andre Poyser

   Title: Indigenous Culture, Collective Ownership and ESG

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Sebastian Gehricke, A.Prof. Katharina

7. Abdullahi Bala

   Title: Audit committee attributes and financially material sustainability reporting: An emerging market evidence

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Mariela Carvajal Gallardo, A.Prof. Muhammad Nadeem

8. Duminda Karunarathne

   Title: ESG controversies and firm-level political risk : Cross-country evidence

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi

9. Amelia Limijaya

   Title: Professional Accountancy Bodies in Indonesia: Examining National-Foreign Interactions and the Practice of Accreditation in Accounting Undergraduate Programs

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Nicola Beatson, Prof. Ralph Adler

10. Wen Xu

    Title: Heterogeneous Volatility Information Content for the Realized GARCH modeling and forecasting Volatility

    Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

11. Yaseen Hezam

    Title: Balanced scorecard communication and impacts: A machine learning approach

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong

12. Abrar Hussain

    Title: Unmasking the impact of ESG decoupling on Stock Price Crash Risk: Along with Investor Optimism Dynamics Moderation Analysis

Supervisor(s): Dr. Muhammad Cheema, A.Prof. Borhan Bhuiyan

13. Mesfin Yasin

    Title: ESG Performance and Earnings Management in ANZ: Role of Firm Size, Ownership Structure, and Earning Volatility.

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Yimei Man, Dr. Muhammad Cheema

14. Ramez Hussein

    Title: The Role of Accounting Students' Online Learning Self-Efficacy in Academic Performance and Creating Academic Citizenship: The Mediating Role of Satisfaction

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Nicola Beatson

15. Ruizi Hu

    Title: Option Pricing Under Gram-Charlier Density

    Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

Lunch, 12:00 − 12:45

Presentations, 12:45 − 14:15

16. Tianjiao Li

    Title: VIX term structure and realized volatility

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn, Prof. Jin Zhang

17. Tingting Wang

    Title: Extreme Temperature and Financial Reporting Quality in Asian countries

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Mariela Carvajal Gallardo, Dr. Tahir Suleman

18. Syed Rizvi

    Title: Extreme temperature heat spells and default risk: Evidence from non-financial firms in Eurozone countries

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi

19. Xi Xu

   Title: Is the unreal world real? Corporate fraud and investment credibility

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn, A.Prof. Annie Zhang

20. Post Pokharel

   Title: Immigrant employees and firm-level performance: Evidence from New Zealand

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Toan Nguyen

21. Yi Shi

   Title: The impact of Fintech engagement on Chinese stock price crash risk

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi, Dr. Tahir Suleman

22. Xiaoning Tian

   Title: Considering the black box of analysts, what do analysts' reports bundling bring? Evidence from China's listed companies.

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, A.Prof. Xinfeng Ruan

23. Jing Zhang

   Title: Exploring the Role of GPT in Accounting Student Success: An Investigation into Procrastination

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Yimei Man, Dr. Nicola Beatson, Dr. Muhammad Cheema

24. Saif Choyi Valappil

   Title: Financial crime, terrorism risk and cryptocurrency adoption: international evidence

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Tahir Suleman

25. Budianto

   Title: The Influence of Environmental Policy Stringency on Companies' Climate Disclosure Quality

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Sebastian Gehricke, Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Dinithi Ranasinghe

26. Md Humayun Kabir

   Title: Three Essays on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, Dr. Pallab Biswas, Dr. Hoa Luong

27. Thin Pham

    Title: Bank risk in the rise of Fintech

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Yimei Man

Self-Introductions, 14:15 − 14:30

28. Muhammad Taufik

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Mariela Carvajal Gallardo

29. Dauda Abdulsalam

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Olena Onishchenko, Dr. Tahir Suleman

Awards Announcement, 15:00

Absences

Excused

30. Tan Do

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Muhammad Cheema, A.Prof. Tom Vanacker

    Submitting

31. Dhanushika Samarawickrama

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Pallab Biswas, A.Prof. Helen Roberts

32. Ling Liao

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi, Prof. Ivan Diaz-Rainey

Abstracts

1. Helen Sadgrove

   Title: Governance of WHS in NZ Crown Entities

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, A.Prof. Felicity Lamm

   Abstract: When governance fails, human harm can result. The aim of this research is to apply the well-studied attributes of 'effective teams' to Boards undertaking WHS governance within NZ Crown Entities. An exploratory sequential mixed methods design (QUAL → quan) is used. The qualitative stage identified the attributes of effective teams and contextualized those through semi-structured interviews and Board observations to boards in the public service and the topic of WHS. This informed the development of a quantitative survey instrument which will be used to determine the presence of those attributes in the target population.

2. Xiaoxu Zhang

   Title: Board gender diversity and trade credit demand: Evidence from UK private firms

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, Dr. Pallab Biswas, Dr. Dinithi Ranasinghe

   Abstract: This paper investigates the relationship between UK private firm trade credit demand and board gender diversity. Leveraging a comprehensive dataset spanning 22,621 firms from 2006 to 2021, we find a significant negative correlation between board gender diversity and the propensity for private firm trade credit acquisition. Our empirical evidence highlights the pivotal role of women directors in mitigating trade credit demand by virtue of their heightened sensitivity to risk. This research not only adds depth to the ongoing global dialogue on board gender diversity but also sheds light on its nuanced implications for the financial decisions of private firms.

3. Junxiu Lyu

   Title: Distracted investors and corporate political activities

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, A.Prof. Muhammad Nadeem, Dr. Rashid Zaman

   Abstract: Investors distracted by exogenous shock shifting their attention to irrelevant portions of investors' portfolios tend to loosen their monitoring of focal firms. This lessened oversight may induce managers to pursue personal interests at the expense of shareholders. This paper directly tests this explanation in the corporate political activities (CPA) setting. Our identification approach relies on a firm-level measure of institutional investor distraction and CPA. We aim to support the limited attention hypothesis that when investors have limited attention or their attention is diverted, managers are likely to engage in CPA to exploit the loosening in monitoring intensity. We evaluate the economic significance of distraction effects, thus provide practical implications for investors and firms.

4. Arung Mayapada

   Title: Board Gender Diversity and UK Charity Performance

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Pallab Biswas, A.Prof. Helen Roberts

   Abstract: This study investigates the impact of trustee board gender diversity on charity performance. Using a panel data sample of UK charities from 2007 to 2019, we find that charities with a greater proportion of women trustees report higher charitable program efficiency ratios. Additional analysis reveals a critical mass effect for boards with more than 20% women trustees. Propensity score matching, Heckman two-stage, instrumental variable and difference-in-difference estimations that address endogeneity concerns confirm the robustness of our findings. Our research contributes to the ongoing discourse examining the relationship between performance and women on boards in the charity sector. The results suggest that stakeholders, including donors, policymakers, and regulators need to promote charity trustee gender equality.

5. Weihan Li

   Title: The Rare Disaster Concern Index: RIX

   Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, A.Prof. Xinfeng Ruan, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

   Abstract: This study aims to deepen the understanding of the Rare Disaster Index (RIX) by redefining its concept, developing its exact model within the Gram-Charlier density, and constructing its time series to enhance its theoretical foundation and numerical application in capturing market tail risks. Through comparative analysis with conventional indices across various term structures, we uncover the superior capability of the RIX as an indicator of tail risks in financial markets. Our findings demonstrate the heightened sensitivity of the RIX to extreme market movements, especially during bear markets, emphasizing its importance in strategic risk management and investment decision-making.

6. Andre Poyser

   Title: Indigenous Culture, Collective Ownership and ESG

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Sebastian Gehricke, A.Prof. Katharina

   Abstract: Using the institutional setting of the asset holding entities of Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, this paper formalizes the theoretical link between societal culture and corporate culture. We use survey data to examine the interaction between societal culture and corporate culture. Our survey of Māori trustees and executives finds that indigenous Māori culture adopted as corporate culture is associated with a preference for environmental considerations in investment decisions. The relationship stems mainly from the cultural identity of the trustees and executives within these indigenous firms. Collective ownership also explains the relationship.

7. Abdullahi Bala

Title: Audit committee attributes and financially material sustainability reporting: An emerging market evidence

Supervisor(s): Dr. Mariela Carvajal Gallardo, A.Prof. Muhammad Nadeem

Abstract: This study examines the relationship between audit committee attributes and financially material sustainability reporting in Nigerian listed firms for the period 2011–2020. Using 980 firm-year observations, sustainability reporting disclosure and financially material sustainability information proxies, we find larger audit committees, more frequent meetings, and female members presence are positively associated with better sustainability reporting. Audit committees chaired by shareholder representatives are negatively associated with sustainability reporting. No significant association exists between audit committee financial expertise and sustainability reporting. The study provides insights into Nigeria's sustainability reporting state that could guide regulators and practitioners on leveraging audit committees to enhance financially material sustainability information disclosure.

8. Duminda Karunarathne

Title: ESG controversies and firm-level political risk : Cross-country evidence

Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi

Abstract: This paper studies the association between ESG controversies and firm-level political risk. Utilising a sample of firms from G7 countries spanning the 2002-2021 period, encompassing 12,517 firm-year observations, we find a positive and significant relationship between firm-level political risk and ESG controversies. Our findings align with the moral disengagement perspective. We further identify that Paris agreement and global financial crisis moderate this relationship. Additionally, we report that the relationship is more pronounced in the absence of environmental initiatives. Overall, our study offers practical implications and contributes to the ESG and political risk literature.

9. Amelia Limijaya

Title: Professional Accountancy Bodies in Indonesia: Examining National-Foreign Interactions and the Practice of Accreditation in Accounting Undergraduate Programs

Supervisor(s): Dr. Nicola Beatson, Prof. Ralph Adler

Abstract: This research aims to examine the interactions between national and foreign professional accountancy bodies (PABs) in Indonesia and the practice of PABs accreditation in accounting undergraduate programs (AUPs). This study gathers views from PABs and AUPs. Accordingly, a qualitative approach is employed, where data is collected primarily through semi-structured interviews with 33 institutions (43 interviewees), with supporting documents utilised to support the interview findings. Thematic analysis is used to analyse the data, which reveals several themes emerging from the interview. Ecological-institutional theory of professions and institutional theory are proposed to frame the first and second objectives of the thesis, respectively.

10. Wen Xu

Title: Heterogeneous Volatility Information Content for the Realized GARCH modeling and forecasting Volatility

Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

Abstract: As the demand for accuracy in volatility modeling and forecasting increases, the literature tends to incorporate different volatility measures with heterogeneous information content to construct the hybrid volatility model. This study focuses on the Realized Generalized Autoregressive Heteroskedasticity (Realized GARCH) and embeds various volatility measures to examine their heterogeneous impact on conditional volatility estimation and forecasting. Our results that VIX is the most informative volatility. Although VIX1D is overemphasized by the literature, its importance in volatility forecasting is still significant. Finally, we propose the combination of "one risk-neutral plus multiple different physical measures" to construct the Realized GARCH to obtain the optimal forecasts.

11. Yaseen Hezam

Title: Balanced scorecard communication and impacts: A machine learning approach

Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong

Abstract: In the first stage, we create a balanced scorecard dictionary using machine learning techniques, the word embedding model from 209,480 earnings call transcripts. In the second stage, we score the four dimensions of the balanced scorecard, namely financial, customer, internal business processes, and learning and growth for 62,664 firm-year observations over the period 2001–2024. We demonstrate that these balanced scorecard metrics provide a broader understanding of organizational performance beyond traditional financial measures. In the third stage, we examine how balanced scorecard dimensions correlate with business outcomes, including operational efficiency, risk-taking, earnings management, executive compensation design, firm value, and deal-making, with consideration to exogenous shocks and major corporate events.

12. Abrar Hussain

Title: Unmasking the impact of ESG decoupling on Stock Price Crash Risk: Along with Investor Optimism Dynamics Moderation Analysis

Supervisor(s): Dr. Muhammad Cheema, A.Prof. Borhan Bhuiyan

Abstract: This study examines the impact of ESG decoupling (ESGD) on stock price crash risk (SPCR) and the moderating role of investor sentiment (IS) in different market contexts. Using data from 2841 US and 877 Chinese firms (2008-2022), it finds ESGD does not affect SPCR in the US but increases SPCR in China. In the US, only social decoupling reduces SPCR, while in China, no individual ESG dimension affects SPCR. High investor sentiment (HIS) does not moderate the ESGD-SPCR relationship in either country but strengthens the social decoupling effect on SPCR in China. Robustness tests show Chinese markets are more prone to SPCR, with COVID-19 intensifying ESGD's impact. The findings highlight differing effects of ESG decoupling between developed and developing economies, offering insights for regulatory bodies and stakeholders on the importance of thorough ESG evaluation to mitigate SPCR.

13. Mesfin Yasin

   Title: ESG Performance and Earnings Management in ANZ: Role of Firm Size, Ownership Structure, and Earning Volatility.

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Yimei Man, Dr. Muhammad Cheema

   Abstract: This study investigates the link between Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance and earnings management (EM) among publicly listed firms in Australia and New Zealand. It explores whether high ESG performance enhances financial reporting quality and reduces information asymmetry, thus minimizing EM. Key findings include: (1) high ESG performance reduces EM, (2) the effect is stronger in larger firms and those with higher managerial and lower institutional ownership, and (3) high ESG performance is linked to high EM in firms with high earnings volatility. The main results are robust to different robustness testing methods and align with existing literature, suggesting that firms prioritizing long-term stakeholder relationships and ethical practices achieve higher ESG performance, improving financial information quality and reducing EM. The findings highlight the significance of firm characteristics like size, ownership structure, and earnings volatility, offering valuable insights for investors and policymakers on the importance of promoting higher ESG performance.

14. Ramez Hussein

   Title: The Role of Accounting Students' Online Learning Self-Efficacy in Academic Performance and Creating Academic Citizenship: The Mediating Role of Satisfaction

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Nicola Beatson

   Abstract: Accounting education is challenging, especially for beginners, and online learning adds pressures like limited interaction, technological barriers, financial burdens, and high self-discipline. This study explores whether accounting students' online learning self-efficacy enhances their satisfaction and academic performance. It also examines if self-efficacy and satisfaction motivate academic citizenship behaviors (ACBs). The study population consists of business students enrolled in compulsory accounting courses within two leading universities in both New Zealand and Egypt. The study uses a survey to collect data.

15. Ruizi Hu

    Title: Option Pricing Under Gram-Charlier Density

    Supervisor(s): Prof. Jin Zhang, Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn

    Abstract: The Gram-Charlier density has become popular in finance as it is an extension of the normal density where the skewness and kurtosis that directly appear as parametrical coefficients of Hermite polynomials. In option pricing, this has been widely used to model risk-neutral asset price distributions. This paper is the first to present the option pricing formula under the Gram-Charlier density using the inverse Fourier transformation. We present a proof showing that it is equivalent to previous derivations. Furthermore, we investigate the cumulants of the model under risk-neutral measure and share measure.

16. Tianjiao Li

    Title: VIX term structure and realized volatility

    Supervisor(s): Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn, Prof. Jin Zhang

    Abstract: Since May 13, 2022, the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) has issued shortdated SPX options, known as SPXW, to establish the CBOE 1-Day Volatility Index (VIX1D). This development led Zhang et al. (2023) to explore whether short-term VIX exhibits stronger predictive capabilities for realized volatility. Expanding upon the findings of Zhang et al. (2023), this study examines various term structures of VIX to forecast realized volatility. Consequently, we find that VIX1D is the best predictor for only one day realized volatility. And VIX9D is the best predictor for short-term realized volatility, while VIX2M is the best predictor for mid-term realized volatility.

17. Tingting Wang

Title: Extreme Temperature and Financial Reporting Quality in Asian countries

Supervisor(s): Dr. Mariela Carvajal Gallardo, Dr. Tahir Suleman

Abstract: Extreme temperatures have been increasing overtime worldwide and are affecting companies in several corporative areas. This study examines the relationship between extreme temperature and financial reporting quality. I focus on listed firms in 28 Asian countries for the period 1990–2023. I argue that extreme temperature is negatively associated with financial reporting quality in Asian firms. I use data from databases and also hand-collect data to test the hypothesis, heat spell as the proxy of extreme temperature and several measures of financial reporting quality. This study will provide further evidence to the climate risk and environmental accounting literature.

18. Syed Rizvi

Title: Extreme temperature heat spells and default risk: Evidence from non-financial firms in Eurozone countries

Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi

Abstract: We investigate the impact of extreme high-temperature heat spells on the default risk of non-financial firms in the Eurozone. Analysing an extensive dataset from 19 Eurozone countries spanning from 1992 to 2023, this study predicts that firms located in countries with greater exposure to climate risk have a higher probability of default than firms located in countries with less exposure to climate risk. Specifically, we hypothesize that extreme temperature heat spells lower default risk in cooler regions but increases in hotter regions.

19. Xi Xu

Title: Is the unreal world real? Corporate fraud and investment credibility

Supervisor(s): Dr. Pakorn Aschakulporn, A.Prof. Annie Zhang

Abstract: Based on China's unique regulatory environment for corporate fraud, this study examines the impact of metaverse investments on firms with prior information disclosure violations (IDV) from 2021 to 2023. Through classifying and analyzing 1,217 announcements from 573 companies, we find a significantly positive market reaction to the Metaverse-related investment. With PSM-DiD method, we find IDV firms achieve lower value and face higher idiosyncratic risk but lower systematic risk compared to non-IDV firms. This underscores the importance of fraud history in investment risk assessment and calls for increased transparency and regulatory support for corporate investment.

20. Post Pokharel

Title: Immigrant employees and firm-level performance: Evidence from New Zealand

Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Toan Nguyen

Abstract: This research explores the impact of immigrant employees at the firm level in New Zealand, amidst a backdrop of rising net migration and increasing participation of non-New Zealand citizens in the workforce. Utilising firm-level data from the Longitudinal Business Database and Integrated Data Infrastructure provided by Statistics NZ, this study will investigate the relationship between immigrant employees, firm performance, and multidimensions of corporate governance with exogenous shocks. The research aims to provide evidence-based insights for managing human capital and leveraging migrant talent to build resilient businesses. The anticipated findings will enhance understanding of the impacts of immigrant employees on firm-level performance.

21. Yi Shi

Title: The impact of Fintech engagement on Chinese stock price crash risk

Supervisor(s): Dr. Duminda Kuruppuarachchi, Dr. Tahir Suleman

Abstract: We develop a fintech engagement index (FEI) based on textual analysis on annual financial reports of Chinese A-share firms for the period 2000-2023 and use it to investigate on stock price crash risk. We download annual reports for 2543 firms from the Juchao Information Web. To create the FEI, we develop the key words library based on 4 generations of fintech obtained from previous literature. These keywords were translated into Chinese from English. For this purpose, we gather 53 of keywords representing 4 generations of fintech.

22. Xiaoning Tian

Title: Considering the black box of analysts, what do analysts' reports bundling bring? Evidence from China's listed companies.

Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, A.Prof. Xinfeng Ruan

Abstract: My project shed light on the market research on limited attention by showing how financial intermediaries face and response to such cognitive constraints. Then, my research will speak to the individual analysts' information production by digging into the text in the report and. In my research, I investigated the factors and the results of analyst' bundled reports and analyzed Chinese listed companies within a recent decade. Textual analysis and CAPM model were applied in my research, which was used in calculating the Text-similarity and CAR respectively. All the data are from CSMAR, CNRDS, Wind and Sina Finance.

23. Jing Zhang

Title: Exploring the Role of GPT in Accounting Student Success: An Investigation into Procrastination

Supervisor(s): Dr. Yimei Man, Dr. Nicola Beatson, Dr. Muhammad Cheema

Abstract: Widespread procrastination among undergraduates significantly impacts their performance and well-being. Recent advancements in GPT are reshaping education. This study aims to fill a notable gap by exploring how Generative Pre-trained Transformers (GPT) interact with traditional motivational factors (task value belief, self-efficacy, and autonomous motivation tendency) to influence procrastination behaviour and academic success among accounting students. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, this study will provide valuable insights for education and psychology in the digital age. Findings will empower educators to better guide students in optimizing digital tools for academic success.

24. Saif Choyi Valappil

Title: Financial crime, terrorism risk and cryptocurrency adoption: international evidence

Supervisor(s): Dr. Hoa Luong, Dr. Tahir Suleman

Abstract: Cryptocurrencies are gaining traction as a method of payment for the criminals to receive and settle the crime proceeds due their anonymity and storage features. This study examines the association between financial crime, crime and terrorism risk and cryptocurrency adoption. Using a sample comprises of 117 countries over the period between 2020-2023, we find that financial crime risk (such as money laundering and terrorist financing), crime risk and terrorism risk have a positive and significant impact on the cryptocurrency deployment. These findings are coherent with previous studies quantifying the Illicit activities in the prominent cryptocurrency of Bitcoin.

25. Budianto

   Title: The Influence of Environmental Policy Stringency on Companies' Climate Disclosure Quality

   Supervisor(s): Dr. Sebastian Gehricke, Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Dinithi Ranasinghe

   Abstract: This study will investigate the impact of environmental policy stringency on the quality of corporate climate disclosures. By analyzing data from firms operating in various regulatory environments, the research aims to determine whether stricter environmental policies lead to more comprehensive and transparent climate reporting. The findings will contribute to understanding the effectiveness of policy measures in enhancing corporate accountability and transparency regarding climate-related issues. This research is crucial for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to improve environmental governance and promote sustainable business practices.

26. Md Humayun Kabir

   Title: Three Essays on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee

   Supervisor(s): A.Prof. Helen Roberts, Dr. Pallab Biswas, Dr. Hoa Luong

   Abstract: This study investigates the characteristics of the Standard and Poor's (S&P) 500 corporate social responsibility (CSR) committees to identify the effectiveness of CSR governance and sustainability practices. Applying a multivariate regression analysis to firm-level data, the method explores the association between CSR committee characteristics, governance and firm sustainability. Preliminary observations suggest considerable variation in the CSR committee structures within the sample. The results will inform government regulators and policymakers as well as offering insights for firms striving to enhance their CSR strategies, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.

27. Thin Pham

Title: Bank risk in the rise of Fintech

Supervisor(s): Dr. Tahir Suleman, Dr. Yimei Man

Abstract: The research investigates the impact of FinTech competition, the adoption of modern technologies into banking services on banks' non-performing loans (NPL) in the Asia-Pacific area. It presents the pioneer empirical and cross-country analysis of Fintech competition and bank risk in this region, contributing to the limited data of Fintech worldwide. The research adopts a text mining method to construct a new firm-level dataset, allowing for a more detailed analysis of the relationship between Fintech and bank risk. Additionally, the study examines the impact of COVID-19 on the relationship between bank risk and Fintech, providing insights for bank managers to make strategic decisions aligned with Fintech development and support policymakers to enhance financial stability.