



SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL INNOVATION CENTRE

ESG in the Era of Geopolitical and Economic Instability Sustainable Financial Innovation Centre (SFiC)

Special Issue Conference Sponsored by

The University of Birmingham Business School; College of Business, Florida Atlantic University; European Financial Management Association; UAE-UK Business Council; Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) and Timberlake.

Conference Programme - November 25th – 26th 2023



Organizers and Guest Editors: Douglas Cumming; Hisham Farag, and Sofia Johan



timberlake





Day 1: Saturday 25 th November 2023	
Refreshments and Registration: Main Atrium	8.30-9.00
Welcome Address	9.00-9.15
Prof. David Sadler- Provost Dubai- University of Birmingham Dubai	9.15-9.30
Opening Address: Main Auditorium	
The Rt Hon. The Lord Udny-Lister - UK Chair, UAE-UK Business Council	9:30 - 9:45
H.E. Dr. Maryam Buti AI Suwaidi-Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and	9:45-10:00
Commodities Authority (SCA), UAE	
H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al Hamidy – Director General Chairman of the Board,	10:00-10:15
Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)	
Closing the opening session	10:15-10:30
Refreshment Break: Innovation Lounge	10:30-11:00
Session 1: Main Auditorium	11:00-12.30
Chair: Douglas Cumming, Florida Atlantic, USA	
Operating Inflexibility and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: International	11.00-11.30
Evidence	
Sadok El Ghoul, University of Alberta, Canada	
Omrane Guedhami, University of South Carolina, USA	
Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France & Gulf University for	
Science & Technology, Kuwait	
Syrine Sassi, Paris School of Business, France	
Discussant: Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada	
CEO Sociopolitical Activism and ESG Rating	11.30-12:00
CEO Occoponical Activisin and EOO Nating	11.50-12.00
Juliane Proelss, Concordia University, Canada	
Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada	
Chen Zhang, John Molson School of Business, Canada	
Chen Zhang, com moloch concer of Buomood, Canada	
Discussant: Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK	
The Toxic Triangle of State, Stake, and Institution: Sovereign Wealth Fund	12:00-12:30
Ownership and Firm ESG Reputation Risk	
Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK	
Andrew Marshall, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Santosh Koirala, University of Birmingham, UK	
Discussant: Syrine Sassi, Paris School of Business, France	
Lunch – Innovation Lounge	12.30-13.30



Signing ceremony of the MOU between the University of Birmingham and	13:30-13:50
Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), UAE	
Main Atrium Conference Photo - Main Atrium	13:50
Keynote Speech: Main Auditorium	13:50
Reynote Speech: Main Auditonum	14:00-15:00
The Risks and Opportunities of ESG Ratings	
Professor Zacharias Sautner, Professor of Sustainable Finance, University of	
Zurich, Senior Chair, Swiss Finance Institute	
Refreshment Break	15:00-15:30
Parallel Sessions	15:30-17:00
Parallel Session 2-A: Main Auditorium	
Chair: Omrane Guedhami, University of South Carolina, USA	
Does Climate Change Risk Influence the Performance of Newly Listed Firms?	15:30-16:00
Shima Amini, Leeds University Business School,	
Eilnaz Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK	
Abdulkadir Mohamed, Leeds University Business School	
Discussant: Xianda Liu, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Charity Experience of Directors and Corporate Social Responsibility: Global Evidence	16:00-16:30
Xianda Liu, Institute of Finance and Banking, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences	
Wenxuan Hou, University of Edinburgh Business School	
Brian G. M. Main, University of Edinburgh Business School	
Discussant: Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School, France	
Navigating Climate Changes: How Do Adaptation Initiatives Affect Corporate Debt Choice	16:30-17:00
Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School, France	
Qi Jin, Xiamen University, China	
Viceron Ni, Viemen University, China	
Xiaoran Ni, Xiamen University, China	
Xiaoran Ni, Xiamen University, China Chi Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA	





Parallel Session 2-B: Seminar Room 0208 Chair: Sofia Johan, Florida Atlantic, USA	15:30-17:00
Do Green Innovations Attract Institutional Investors?	15:30-16:00
Athimet Chetteeraphat, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Krishna Paudyal, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Discussant: Suman Neupane-Joshi, University of Queensland, Australia	
The Effect of Opportunistic NPE Litigation Activity on Green Corporate	16:00-16:30
Innovation Strategies	
Piers Herring, University of Queensland, Australia	
Wenquan Li, University of Queensland, Australia	
Suman Neupane-Joshi, University of Queensland, Australia	
Discussant: Yuanyuan Wu, University of Sussex	
ESG Disclosure and Corporate Innovation	16:30-17:00
Yuanyuan Wu, University of Sussex	
Faek Menla Ali, University of Sussex	
Xiaoxiang Zhang, University of Sussex	
Discussant: Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Parallel Session 2C: Seminar Room 0209	15:30-17:00
Chair: Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada	
Take Back Control': The Implications of Brexit Uncertainty on Investor	15:30-16:00
Perception of ESG Reputational Events	
Erdinc Akyildirim, University of Zurich, Switzerland	
Thomas Conlon, University College Dublin, Ireland	
Shaen Corbet, Dublin City University, Ireland	
Les Oxley, University of Waikato, New Zealand	
Discussant: Habiba Al-Shaer, Newcastle University, UK	
Do Institutional Investors Reduce ESG-Based Reputational Risk?	16:00-16:30
Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Pratik Gupta, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Graeme Acheson, University of Strathclyde, UK	
Discussant: Shaen Corbet, Dublin City University, Ireland	
Macro Uncertainty Effects on ESG Performance and Carbon Emission	16:30-17:00
Reduction Targets	
Maha Alandejani, King Abdul-Aziz University, KSA	
Habiba Al-Shaer, Newcastle University, UK	
Discussant: Pratik Gupta, University of Strathclyde, UK	40.00 00.00
Gala Dinner- Amal Restaurant, Armani Hotel - Burj Khalifa	19:00-23:00





Refreshments and registration:	8.30-9.00
Parallel Session 1-A: Seminar Room 0208	9.00-10.30
Chair: Hisham Farag, University of Birmingham, UK	
Can We Enhance Investment with ESG?	9:00-9:30
Wanling Rudkin, University of Exeter, UK	
Charlie Cai, University of Liverpool, UK	
You Zhou, University of Leeds, UK	
Discussant: Zied Ftiti, EDC Paris Business School, France	
The Expected Returns of ESG Excluded Stocks. Shocks to Firms Costs of	9:30-10:00
Capital? Evidence from the World's Largest Fund	
Erika Berle, University of Stavanger, Norway	
Wanwei He, University of Stavanger, Norway	
Bernt Arne Ødegaard, University of Stavanger, Norway	
Discussant: Wanling Rudkin, University of Exeter, UK	
Do ESG Investments Improve Portfolio Diversification During Time of	10:00-10:30
Uncertainty?	
Hachmi Ben Ameur, INSEEC Grande Ecole, France	
Zied Ftiti, EDC Paris Business School, France	
Wael Louhichi, ESSCA School of Management, France	
Discussant: Wanwei He, University of Stavanger, Norway	
Parallel Session 1-B: Seminar Room 0209	09.00-10.30
Chair: Shaen Corbet, Dublin City University, Ireland	
Does ESG Truly Enhances Financial Markets Performance in the Era of	09.00-09.30
Geopolitical Conflict and Uncertainty?	
Huan Huu Nguyen, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City	
(UEH),Vietnam	
Duc Huu Nguyen, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City	
(UEH),Vietnam	
Tam Ha Minh Nguyen, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City	
(UEH),Vietnam	
Muhamad Ali Nasir, University of Leeds, UK	
Discussant: Yuna Heo, University of Basel, Switzerland	00 00 40 00
Geopolitical Risk and Green Bond Issuance Around the World	09.30-10:00
Charilago Martzania, Abu Dhahi University, UAE	
Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University, UAE	
Imen Tebourbi, University of Birmingham, Dubai, UAE	
Discussant: Muhamad Ali Nasir, University of Leeds, UK	10:00-10:30
Does High Inflation Delude Investors?	10.00-10:30
Yuna Heo, University of Basel, Switzerland.	





Parallel Session 1-C: Seminar Room 0410	
Chair: Eilnaz Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK	09.00-10.30
Exit Performance of ESG-focused PE Portfolio Companies: The Effect of	09.00-09.30
Financial and Political Instability	
Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK	
Anup Chowdhury, Leeds Beckett University, UK	
Keith Anderson, University of York, UK	
Discussant: Fatima Shuwaikh, Léonard de Vinci Pôle Universitaire, France	
The Impact of Sustainable Investments on Venture Capital Fund	09.30-10:00
Performance: A Focus on Clean Technology Investments	
Fatima Shuwaikh, Léonard de Vinci Pôle Universitaire, France	
Emmanuelle Dubocage, Paris-Est Créteil University, France	
Philip Scherbaum, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Portugal	
Discussant: Norah Almubarak, King Faisal University, KSA	
Venture Capital Screening Criteria: An intuitionistic Fuzzy Decision-Making	10:00-10:30
Trial and Evaluation Laboratory Approach	
Norah Almubarak ,King, Faisal University, KSA	
Tarifa Almulhim, King Faisal University, KSA	
Discussant: Anup Chowdhury, Leeds Beckett University, UK	
Refreshment Break	10:30-11:00
Refreshment Break Parallel Session 2-A: Seminar Room 0208	10:30-11:00
	10:30-11:00 11.00-12.30
Parallel Session 2-A: Seminar Room 0208	
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Parallel Session 2-A: Seminar Room 0208 Chair: Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School, France Immigration Fear, Populism, and Institutional Investors Partha Roy, University of Southampton, UK Discussant: Vu Thuy Linh, ESADE, Ramon Llull University, Spain Institutional Shareholders' Networks and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Jiaming Liu, University of Birmingham, UK Siti Farida, University of Birmingham, UK Discussant: Partha Roy, University of Southampton, UK The Impact of Government Ownership and Political Environment on ESG Performance. Does Obama, Bush or Clinton's Era Make a Difference? Dumitrescu Ariadna, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain Vicente Bermejo, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain	<u>11.00-12.30</u> 11:00-11:30 11:30-12:00





Parallel Session 2-B: Seminar Room 0209 Chair: Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France & Gulf University for Science & Technology, Kuwait	11.00-12.30
ESG Mandatory Disclosures and Credit Spreads	11:00-11:30
Quentin Moreau, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Georgios Sermpinis, University of Glasgow Huihui Song, University of Liverpool Serafeim Tsoukas, University of Glasgow Discussant: Hamed Khadivar, University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada	
ESG Fund and Portfolio Firm' E&S Practice: From the Values to Value	11:30-12:00
Perspective	
Fengming Wang, University of Birmingham, UK Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK Discussant: Serafeim Tsoukas, University of Glasgow, UK	
Accrual and Real Earnings Management by Rumored Takeover Targets	12:00-12:30
Frederick Davis, Concordia University, Canada Hamed Khadivar, University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada Discussant: Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK Parallel Session 2-C: Seminar Room 0410 Chair: Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University, UAE Economic Impact of Natural Disasters Under the New Normal of Climate	11.00-12.30
Change: The Role of Green Technologies Nikos Fatouros, University of Birmingham, Dubai	
Discussant: Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, Durham University, UK Targeted Principal Forgiveness Is Effective: Mortgage Modification and Financial Crisis	11:30-12:00
Philip Kalikman, University of Cambridge, UK Joelle Scally, Federal Reserve Bank of New York Discussant: Nikos Fatouros, University of Birmingham, Dubai	
Quality and Revenue-Contingent Blended Infrastructure Financing: A Cultural Perspective	12:00-12:30
Wahyu Jatmiko, University of Indonesia Rafal Wojakoswki, University of Surrey Novriana Sumarti, Institute of Technology, Bandung, Indonesia Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, Durham University, UK Discussant: Philip Kalikman, University of Cambridge, UK	
Lunch- Innovation Lounge	12.30-13.30



Parallel Session 3-A: Seminar Room 0208	
Chair: Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK	13.30-15.00
Climate Policy Uncertainty and Crowdfunding Success of Renewable	13.30-14.00
Technology Campaigns	
Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China	
Jiadong Peng, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China	
Sirui Cheng, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China	
Jianwei Hu, Lingnan College Sun Yat-sen University, China	
Discussant: Maria Francisca Cruz, Lancaster University, UK	
Corporate Failure Prediction in the U.S. Energy Sector: Survival Analysis	14.00-14.30
Approach	
Maria Francisca Cruz, Lancaster University, UK	
Discussant: Ahmed Elsayed, United Arab Emirates University, UAE	44 00 45 00
The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Energy Markets: Are All Technological	14.30-15.00
Advances Alike?	
Ahmed Elsayed, United Arab Emirates University, UAE	
Mabruk Billah, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University	
Sinda Hadhri, ESDES, Lyon, France	
Discussant: Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China	40.00 45.00
Parallel Session 3-B: Seminar Room 0209	13.30-15.00
Chair: Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK	40.00.44.00
Firm ESG Performance and Stock Liquidity	13.30-14.00
Winifred Huang, University of Bath, UK	
Ru Xie, University of Bath, UK	
Daniel De Gasquet, University of Bath, UK	
Discussant: Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France & Gulf University	
for Science & Technology, Kuwait	14.00-14.30
Does Product Market Competition Matter to Carbon Emission?	14.00-14.30
Ramzi Benkraiem, Audencia Business School, France Ashrafee Hossain, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada	
Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France & Gulf University	
for Science & Technology, Kuwait	
Syrine Sassi, Paris School of Business, France	
Discussant: Santosh Koirala: University of Birmingham, UK	14.30-15.00
Negative ESG Incidents and Corporate Political Connections	14.30-15.00
Rotana Sobhi Alkadi, King Abdul Aziz University, KSA	
Sandeep Rao, Dublin City University, Ireland	
Santosh Koirala: University of Birmingham, UK	
Discussant: Daniel De Gasquet, University of Bath, UK	



Parallel Session 3-C: Seminar Room 0410 Chair: Zied Ftiti, EDC Paris Business School, France	13.30-15.00
Corporate Culture and CSR Nexus: Role of Blockholders	13.30-14.00
Haoying Zhou, University of Birmingham, UK	
Eilnaz Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK	
Wasim Ahmad, University of Cranfield, UK	
Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK	
Discussant: Mohammed Zakriya, IESEG School of Management, Lille, France	
What Drives Corporate ESG? Disentangling the Importance of investors, Managers, and Firms	14.00-14.30
Vicente Bermejo, Esade Business School, Spain	
Antonino E. Rizzo, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal	
Mohammed Zakriya, IESEG School of Management, Lille, France	
Discussant: Abdul-Rahman Khokhar, Saint Mary's University, Canada	
CSR Performance and SEC Comment Letter Review Process	14.30-15.00
Abdul-Rahman Khokhar, Saint Mary's University, Canada	
Christine A. Panasian, Saint Mary's University, Canada	
Hesam Shahriari, College of Business, Prairie View A&M University, USA	
Discussant: Haoying Zhou, University of Birmingham, UK	
Refreshment Break	15.00-15.30
Parallel Session 4-A: Seminar Room 0208	15.30-16.30
Chair: Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China	
Sustainable Banking: Unleashing the Potential of ESG Reputation for Stable Financial Systems	15.30-16.00
Banita Bissoondoyal-Bheenick, RMIT University, Australia	
My Nguyen, RMIT University, Australia	
Tung Lam Dang, Da Nang University, Vietnam	
Discussant: Zainab Gabr, University of Birmingham, UK	
Banks' Liquidity Creation Post Natural Disasters	16.00-16.30
Zainab Gabr, University of Birmingham, UK	
Zainab Gabr, University of Birmingham, UK Danny McGowan, University of Birmingham, UK Discussant: Banita Bissoondoyal-Bheenick, RMIT University, Australia	



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Parallel Session 4-B: Seminar Room 0209 Chair: Suman Neupane-Joshi, University of Queensland, Australia	15.30-16.30
Individual Investor Environmental and ESG Investment Preference Under Stress	15.30-16.00
Grace Lepone, Macquarie University, Australia Anil Gautam, Macquarie University, Australia	
Discussant: Geeta Duppati, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, KSA	
Understanding the Approach of SWFs and PPFs Towards Green Investments	16.00-16.30
Geeta Duppati, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, KSA	
Discussant: Anil Gautam, Macquarie University, Australia	
Parallel Session 4-C: Seminar Room 0410	15.30-17.00
Chair: Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, Durham University, UK	45 20 40 00
Responsible Investing: Upside Potential and Downside Protection?	15.30-16.00
Yumeng Gao, Yale University, USA Andreas Hoepner, University College Dublin, Ireland Marcel Prokopczuk, Leibniz University, Germany Christoph Wuersig, Leibniz University, Germany	
Christoph Wdersig, Leibhiz Oniversity, Germany	
Discussant: Santosh Koirala, University of Birmingham, UK	
Green Assets are Not so Green: Assessing Environmental Outcomes using Machine Learning and Local Projections	16.00-16.30
Anastasia Spyridou, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland Efstathios Polyzos, Zayed University, UAE	
Discussant: Khaldoon Albitar, University of Portsmouth, UK	
Modern Slavery Risk Mitigation and Corporate Financial Performance: The Moderating Impact of Governance Quality	16.30-17.00
Khaldoon Albitar, University of Portsmouth, UK Ahmed Elmasry, Coventry University, UK Khaled Hussainey, University of Portsmouth, UK Hidaya Al Lawati, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman	
Discussant: Efstathios Polyzos, Zayed University, UAE	
Closing remarks, best paper awards and next steps	17.00-17.30



Day 1 – 25 Nov	
Session 1	Douglas Cumming, Florida Atlantic, USA
Session 2-A	Omrane Guedhami, University of South Carolina, USA
Session 2-B	Sofia Johan, Florida Atlantic, USA
Session 2-C	Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada Eilnaz
Day 2 – 26 Nov	
Session 1-A	Hisham Farag, University of Birmingham, UK
Session 1-B	Shaen Corbet, Dublin City University, Ireland
Session 1-C	Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK
Session 2-A	Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School,
	France
Session 2-B	Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France & Gulf
	University for Science & Technology, Kuwait
Session 2-C	Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University, UAE
Session 3-A	Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK
Session 3-B	Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK
Session 3-C	Zied Ftiti, EDC Paris Business School, France
Session 4-A	Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham-Ningbo, China
Session 4-B	Suman Neupane-Joshi, University of Queensland,
	Australia
Session 4-C	Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, Durham University, UK



Conference Participants

Name	Affiliation
Ahmed Elsayed	United Arab Emirates University, UAE
Anil Gautam	Macquarie University, Australia
Anup Chowdhury	Leeds Beckett University, UK
Banita Bissoondoyal Bheenick	RMIT University, Australia
Biwesh Neupane	University of Birmingham, UK
Chandra Thapa	University of Strathclyde, UK
Charilaos Mertzanis	Abu Dhabi University, UAE
Daniel De Gasquet	University of Bath, UK
Denis Schweizer	Concordia University, Canada
Douglas Cumming	Florida Atlantic University, USA
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