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**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)**

Conference Programme - November 25th – 26th 2023



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



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Day 1: Saturday 25th November 2023

Refreshments and Registration: Main Atrium	8.30-9.00
Welcome Address	9.00-9.10
Prof. David Sadler- Provost Dubai- University of Birmingham Dubai	9.10-9.20
Opening Address: Main Auditorium	
The Rt Hon. The Lord Udney-Lister - UK Chair, UAE-UK Business Council	9:20-9:45
H.E. Dr. Maryam Buti Al Suwaidi-Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), UAE	9:45-10:10
H.E. Dr. Abdulrahman Al Hamidy – Director General Chairman of the Board, Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)	10:10-10:30
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 Evidence	11.00-11.30
<p>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</p>	
Discussant: Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada	
CEO Sociopolitical Activism and ESG Rating	11.30-12:00
<p>Juliane Proelss, Concordia University, Canada Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada Chen Zhang, John Molson School of Business, Canada</p>	
Discussant: Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK	
The Toxic Triangle of State, Stake, and Institution: Sovereign Wealth Fund Ownership and Firm ESG Reputation Risk	12:00-12:30
<p>Biwesh Neupane, University of Birmingham, UK Andrew Marshall, University of Strathclyde, UK Santosh Koirala, University of Birmingham, UK</p>	
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 Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA), UAE	13:30-14:00
Conference Photo - Main Atrium	13:30
Keynote Speech: Main Auditorium	13:40-15:00
The Risks and Opportunities of ESG Ratings	
Professor Zacharias Sautner, Professor of Sustainable Finance, University of Zurich Senior Chair, Swiss Finance Institute	



Parallel Sessions **15:15-16:45**

Parallel Session 2-A: Main Auditorium

Chair: Omrane Guedhami, University of South Carolina, USA

Navigating Climate Changes: How Do Adaptation Initiatives Affect Corporate Debt Choice **15:15-15:45**

Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School, France

Qi Jin, Xiamen University, China

Xiaoran Ni, Xiamen University, China

Chi Zhang, University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA

Discussant: Eilnaz Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK

Does Climate Change Risk Influence the Performance of Newly Listed Firms? **15:45-16:15**

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 **16:15-16:45**

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

Parallel Session 2-B: Seminar Room 0208 **15:15-16:45**

Chair: Sofia Johan, Florida Atlantic, USA

Do Green Innovations Attract Institutional Investors? **15:15-15:45**

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 Innovation Strategies **15:45-16:15**

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 **16:15-16:45**

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 **15:15-16:45**

Chair: Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, Canada

'Take Back Control': The Implications of Brexit Uncertainty on Investor Perception of ESG Reputational Events **15:15-15:45**

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? **15:45-16:15**

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 Reduction Targets **16:15-16:45**

Maha Alandejani, King Abdul-Aziz University, KSA

Habiba Al-Shaer, Newcastle University, UK

Discussant: Pratik Gupta, University of Strathclyde, UK

Gala Dinner- Amal Restaurant, Armani Hotel - Burj Khalifa **19:00-23:00**



Day 2: Sunday 26th November 2023

Refreshments and registration:	8.30-9.00
Parallel Session 1-A: Seminar Room 0208	09.00-10.30
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 Capital? Evidence from the World’s Largest Fund	9:30-10:00
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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 Uncertainty?	10:00-10:30
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Hachmi Ben Ameer, 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 Enhance Financial Markets Performance in the Era of Geopolitical Conflict and Uncertainty?	09.00-09.30

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

Geopolitical Risk and Green Bond Issuance Around the World	09.30-10:00
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Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University, UAE
Imen Tebourbi, University of Birmingham, Dubai, UAE

Discussant: Muhamad Ali Nasir, University of Leeds, UK

Does High Inflation Delude Investors?	10:00-10:30
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Yuna Heo, University of Basel, Switzerland.

Discussant: Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University, UAE



Parallel Session 1-C: Seminar Room 0410

Chair: Elnaz Kashefi Pour, University of Birmingham, UK **09.00-10.30**

Exit Performance of ESG-focused PE Portfolio Companies: The Effect of Financial and Political Instability **09.00-09.30**

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 Performance: A Focus on Clean Technology Investments **09.30-10:00**

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 Trial and Evaluation Laboratory Approach **10:00-10:30**

Norah Almubarak, King Faisal University, KSA
Tarifa Almulhim, King Faisal University, KSA

Discussant: Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK

Refreshment Break **10:30-11:00**

Parallel Session 2-A: Seminar Room 0208

Chair: Sabri Boubaker, EM Normandie Business School, France **11.00-12.30**

Immigration Fear, Populism, and Institutional Investors **11:00-11:30**

Partha Roy, University of Southampton, UK

Discussant: Vu Thuy Linh, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain

Institutional Shareholders' Networks and Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions **11:30-12:00**

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? **12:00-12:30**

Dumitrescu Ariadna, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain
Vicente Bermejo, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain
Vu Thuy Linh, ESADE Business School, Ramon Llull University, Spain

Discussant: Jiaming Liu, University of Birmingham, UK



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



Parallel Session 3-A: Seminar Room 0208 **13.30-15.00**

Chair: Chandra Thapa, University of Strathclyde, UK

Climate Policy Uncertainty and Crowdfunding Success of Renewable Technology Campaigns **13.30-14.00**

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 Approach **14.00-14.30**

Maria Francisca Cruz, Lancaster University, UK
 Marwan Izzeldin, Lancaster University, UK
 Stefano Soccorsi, Lancaster University, UK

Discussant: Ahmed Elsayed, United Arab Emirates University, UAE

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Energy Markets: Are All Technological Advances Alike? **14.30-15.00**

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

Parallel Session 3-B: Seminar Room 0209 **13.30-15.00**

Chair: Muhammad Moshfique Uddin, University of Leeds, UK

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

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

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

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
Danny McGowan, University of Birmingham, UK

Discussant: Banita Bissoondoyal-Bheenick, RMIT University, Australia



Parallel Session 4-B: Seminar Room 0209	15.30-16.30
Chair: Suman Neupane-Joshi, University of Queensland, Australia	
Individual Investor Environmental and ESG Investment Preference Under Stress	15.30-16.00
<p>Grace Lepone, Macquarie University, Australia Anil Gautam, Macquarie University, Australia</p>	
Discussant: Geeta Duppati, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, KSA	
Understanding the Approach of SWFs and PPFs Towards Green Investments	16.00-16.30
<p>Geeta Duppati, Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University, KSA</p>	
Discussant: Anil Gautam, Macquarie University, Australia	
Parallel Session 4-C: Seminar Room 0410	15.30-16.30
Chair: Muhammed Shahid Ebrahim, Durham University, UK	
Green Assets are Not so Green: Assessing Environmental Outcomes using Machine Learning and Local Projections	15.30-16.00
<p>Anastasia Spyridou, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland Efsthathios Polyzos, Zayed University, UAE</p>	
Discussant: Khaldoon Albitar, University of Portsmouth, UK	
Modern Slavery Risk Mitigation and Corporate Financial Performance: The Moderating Impact of Governance Quality	16.00-16.30
<p>Khaldoon Albitar, University of Portsmouth, UK Ahmed Elmasry, Coventry University, UK Khaled Hussainey, University of Portsmouth, UK Hidaya Al Lawati, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman</p>	
Discussant: Efsthathios Polyzos, Zayed University, UAE	
Closing remarks, best paper awards and next steps- Main Auditorium	16.45-17.15



Session Chairs

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



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