

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Special Interest Group (FARSIG)

NEWSLETTER

BAFA
BRITISH ACCOUNTING &
FINANCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 10
December 2016

<http://www.baa.group.shef.ac.uk/sub%20groups/sigs/financial%20reporting/index.htm>

CONTENTS

ANNUAL UPDATE FROM THE FARSIG CHAIR	(OPPOSITE)
EDITORIAL	PAGE 2
NEWS	PAGE 2
• FRBC CONFERENCE 2016	
• FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES	
FARSIG SYMPOSIUM	PAGE 3
NEWS CONTINUED	PAGE 4
• FARSIG COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
• THE FARSIG TECHNICAL COMMITTEE	
RESEARCH NEWS	PAGE 5-8
• ACCA NEWS	
• CIMA NEWS	
• ICAEW NEWS	
• ICAS NEWS	
CONSTITUTION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS	PAGE 9
FARSIG BURSARY SCHEME	PAGE 10
FRBC CONFERENCE 2017	PAGE 11
RHODA'S FINAL WORD	PAGE 12



CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The Financial Accounting and Reporting SIG gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from ICAEW's Charitable Trusts and administrative support from ACCA.

The Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group takes no institutional policy positions. The views expressed in the Financial Reporting Newsletter are those of the authors and not those of the SIG's members or its financial supporters.

The SIG is not responsible for any damage or financial loss incurred as a result of information given in the Newsletter.

WELCOME GREETING FROM THE FARSIG CHAIR:

Annual Update

Almost Christmas again! This is our tenth annual newsletter. How time flies, once again. This newsletter covers 2016. I am very pleased to write to you about last year's activities and future events of the group. We continue with our main aim of enhancing the profile of financial accounting and reporting in both teaching and research as well as informing policy and interacting with the profession. We have had another very busy year. Our events are becoming part of the annual conference cycle.

We started the year with our January Symposium on the Future of Financial Reporting. Once again it was very successful. The ninth symposium was at the ACCA on 8th January 2016. As usual there were 5 speakers. Nick Anderson from Henderson Global Investors spoke on the topic of: Can financial reporting improve long term investment decisions? Next, Anne McGeachin of the IASB looked at measurement in financial statements. Our third speaker was Veronica Poole from Deloitte. She looked at current initiatives in transparent corporate reporting. Our last two speakers were academics. Professor Richard Slack from Durham University looked at capital market perspectives on Integrated Reporting. Then finally, last but not least, Richard Taffler from Warwick Business School investigated accounting for emotions. These wide ranging and interesting presentations provoked some very active question and answer sessions.

David Oldroyd continues to chair the FARSIG Technical Committee. David and members of the committee continue to do an excellent job providing comments on several IASB discussion drafts. We would be very pleased if anyone wants to participate in this important activity.

The Financial Reporting and Business Communication Conference in 2016 was our 20th conference. It was something of a reunion as all the previous organisers were there. It was held as a joint FARSIG/Bristol University event in Bristol on 30 June and 1 July 2016. Once again it was very international attracting delegates from all continents except Latin America. In 2016 there were 73 delegates. The guest speaker was Nathan Joseph, Joint Editor of British Accounting Review who spoke on the Topic of Publishing in Quality Accounting and Finance Journals: Lessons from British Accounting Review. In addition, Ian Dickie Editor of Economics for the Environment Consultancy spoke on Accounting for Natural Capital in Business. The main sessions and the PhD stream were also a great success. The 21st annual conference is moving from Bristol. It will be held at Durham on 6 and 7 July 2017. All welcome!

We also granted three Sue Hraskey Scholarships during the year for doctoral students at FRBC, details of which are provided on page 2 and in the FRBC report. A further FARSIG doctoral bursary was also awarded during the year.

I would finally like to thank all the committee members for their hard work behind the scenes.



Mike Jones
BAFA FARSIG
Chair

Welcome to the tenth issue of the Financial Accounting and Reporting SIG newsletter. The main objective of this newsletter is to communicate details of on-going research projects, publications, important developments in the practice of financial accounting and reporting, new ideas and reflections on the teaching of financial accounting and reporting, as well as information on forthcoming events.

First, I would like to draw your attention to a couple of relevant dates to note in your diary:

Following last year's successful event, the tenth one-day FARSIG symposium will be held on January 6th 2017 (see the flyer opposite for more details). The BAFA annual conference will take place from Monday 10th to Wednesday 12th April 2017) at the Herriot Watt University, Edinburgh. Information about other conferences and symposiums can be found below.

Pages 5 to 8 provide interesting information on on-going projects and publications that has been brought to our attention by the ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, and ICAS. Last but not least, I would like to draw your attention to the Bursary Scheme provided by FARSIG with the aim to assist PhD candidates (see page 10 for more details). I am sure that all remaining content will be informative to you.

We would be very pleased to receive submissions on anything along these lines from readers for consideration in future publications.

As a concluding remark, I would like to thank Mike Jones and the SIG committee members for their contribution to the preparation and production of this newsletter.

Omiros Georgiou,
Editor, Financial Accounting and Reporting
SIG newsletter
Omiros.georgiou@manchester.ac.uk

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES: DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FARSIG Symposium 2017, January 6th, see page 3

BAFA 2017 Annual Conference, 10–12 April,
Herriot Watt University, Edinburgh

EAA 2017 Valencia, 10–12 May 2017

21st Annual Financial Reporting and
Business Communication Conference,
Durham University, 6–7 July 2017 see page 11

EUFIN 2017, 31 August – 1 September,
University of Florence, Italy

BAFA FARSIG FRBC CONFERENCE 2016

The 20th Financial Reporting and Business Communication Conference (FARSIG and University of Bristol) was held at Armada House, Bristol on 30 June and 1 July, 2016. The conference was again supported by ICAEW's charitable trusts for which we are grateful as it signifies the long-standing reputation of the conference. As is now customary, the conference was preceded by a convivial social early-bird dinner. In a break with recent tradition however, the conference wine reception and dinner was held at Bordeaux Quay, Bristol. This celebratory dinner marked the 20th anniversary of the conference and enabled thanks to be given to Mike Jones for the fantastic energy and enthusiasm that he has given to the conference over those years. Fittingly, all those involved with prior conferences attended the dinner: Howard Mellett, Mark Clatworthy and Richard Slack. Howard gave thanks to Mike and his reflections on the international standing of FRBC.

In 2016, the conference attracted 73 delegates and there were 47 papers presented, with discussant review for full papers, and 14 doctoral papers. Of the 47 papers, 29 were in the main/general stream with a further 18 across the two specialist streams, Environmental Reporting (14 papers) and a smaller Accounting History (4 papers) stream. Papers in the social and environmental accounting stream could be considered for Advances in Environmental Accounting & Management. The doctoral stream was chaired by Yannis Tsalavoutas (Glasgow University) and Pauline Weetman provided excellent discussant comments on all doctoral presentations. The doctoral stream is an integral part of the conference which ensures that doctoral students are exposed to senior accounting academics and are able to attend both doctoral and mainstream sessions. On the doctoral side, we were delighted that for 2016, we received 12 applications for the doctoral scholarship of which three outstanding applications were awarded scholarships (Jana Neuland, Xiaoxi Wu and Anna Michaels) – well done.

A key part of the conference is a keynote speaker and also a programme plenary. In 2016, the conference welcomed Ian Dickie as a plenary speaker who gave a fascinating session, Accounting for Natural Capital in Business. For the key-note plenary session, the conference has always attracted a high profile academic to give insights from their research, career and challenges. This year, Nathan Joseph from Aston University and joint editor of British Accounting Review was our plenary speaker; 'Publishing in high quality accounting and finance journals: Lessons from The British Accounting Review'.

Last we would both like to record our sincere appreciation to both Val Harvey and Penny Chaidali for their endless patience (not just with Mike!) in ensuring that the conference ran smoothly and for being on-hand throughout the planning and running of the programme. Thank you both.

Looking ahead, the 21st FRBC conference will be held at the Durham University on the 6 and 7 July 2017. The first call for papers is on page 11 of this newsletter.

Richard Slack and Mike Jones

The British Accounting and Finance Association

Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group

Invites you to attend a one-day Symposium on

The Future of Financial Reporting 2017: Debating on-going developments



6 January 2017
9.30am-4.00pm
Hosted by the ACCA
The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London, WC2N 6AU



This Symposium brings together a series of high profile speakers to discuss the future of financial reporting. Financial reporting is at an interesting juncture. Against a background of continuing economic uncertainty there have been continuing evolution and development of accounting in areas such as corporate governance, financial regulation, accounting standards, and auditing practices.

This one-day symposium aims to explore some of these issues. It provides a forum for both practitioners and academics to hear and engage in discussion with the following well-informed speakers. The symposium presentations and discussions should also serve as a valuable teaching aid for those academics engaged in financial reporting and contemporary issues in accounting.

- Mary Bishop** Director of Learning, ACCA: *Innovating the qualification*
- Ian Mackintosh** Ex Vice-chair of the IASB and Chair of Treasury's Financial Reporting Advisory Board: *How is financial reporting evolving?*
- Richard Macve** Emeritus Professor of Accounting, London School of Economics: *Future of Chinese and Western Accounting and Auditing*
- Mark Vaessen** Partner KPMG LLP, Global IFRS Leader: *Improving corporate reporting: the challenge of relevance*
- Martin Walker** Professor of Finance and Accounting, Alliance Manchester Business School: *Electronic analysis of financial narratives: an overview*

REGISTRATION FOR THE SYMPOSIUM

The price for attending the event, which includes a buffet lunch and afternoon tea is £50. The price for PhD students and retired BAFA members is £25.

To attend the Symposium, please complete the form below and send it with a cheque to Dr Yannis Tsalavoutas, Treasurer of FARSIG, Accounting and Finance subject group, Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom, G12 8QQ. Cheques should be made payable to the Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group. Bank transfer details are available from Yannis Tsalavoutas (ioannis.tsalavoutas@glasgow.ac.uk). Please note, we are unable to accept payment by credit card.

I would like to attend the BAFA FARSIG Symposium on The Future of Financial Reporting 2017

Title and name _____

Institution _____

Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Please indicate below if you have any specific dietary requirements:

If you have any questions about this event, please contact the Publicity officer Tamer Elshandidy (Tamer.Elshandidy@bristol.ac.uk) or the organiser - Professor Mike Jones, Chair FARSIG, Department of Accounting and Finance, University of Bristol (Michaeljohn.Jones@Bristol.ac.uk)

FARSIG COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2016

During 2016, there have been three FARSIG committee meetings including the Annual General Meeting held at the Financial Reporting and Business Communication (FRBC) annual conference. Dates and venues of the meetings were as follows along with a synopsis of the relevant minutes:

8 JANUARY 2016: ACCA OFFICES LONDON, FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL FARSIG SYMPOSIUM

FARSIG symposium: The event had been a success with delegate numbers increased from the prior year. MJ and the Committee thanked the five speakers who had taken part for an interesting debate through the day. A Discussion Paper of the prior year's symposium (The Future of Financial Reporting, 2015) was distributed to all delegates. The committee noted thanks to ACCA for hosting the event at its new Adelphi offices and ACCA's support for the publication of the Discussion Paper. The symposium for 2017 was set for Friday 6 January at ACCA Adelphi offices, London. For further details see page 3 of the Newsletter.

FRBC conference: MJ and RS confirmed the conference to be held in Bristol, 30 June – 1 July 2016. As in prior years the conference is a joint FARSIG/Bristol University event. The committee also agreed that two specialist streams, Accounting History and Social and Environmental Reporting would form part of the conference in addition to the normal general stream for full papers and the doctoral stream. Following its success in 2015, the doctoral scholarship would again be advertised in call for papers for 2016 FRBC conference. Extended abstracts to be submitted and short-list drawn up by Yannis Tsavaloutas and Richard Slack. Recommendations for the award(s) to be circulated to committee.

FARSIG bursary: The FARSIG bursary scheme to support PhD data collection was agreed. Applications would be reviewed by Yannis Tsavaloutas and Richard Slack. Recommendations for the award(s) would then be circulated to committee.

Committee membership: Vivien Beattie had resigned from the committee on her retirement from academic life. The committee unanimously expressed their thanks to Vivien for her long involvement and support for FARSIG.

22 MARCH 2016: BAFA CONFERENCE, BATH.

FARSIG symposium: Confirmation of symposium for 2016 as per January minutes. Current plans for discussion paper commentary as per prior years. This will be monitored by MJ with ACCA in relation to future publications and also costs of publication.

FARSIG finances: Yannis Tsavaloutas (treasurer) provided an overview of FARSIG finances and recommendations to support the agreed, and future, FARSIG bursary and scholarship(s) for FRBC. Further it was agreed that there would be no increase in FRBC fees for 2016 and 2017 and that the symposium fee for January 2016 would be reduced. Hopefully the latter would also encourage increased attendance. The committee also agreed provision of further administrative support for FRBC planning and organisation for 2016.

Scholarships: After circulation of short-list to committee, three scholarships were awarded for 2016 for FRBC conference. The three recipients, Xiaoxi Wu, Jana Neuland and Anna Michaels, will all attend the conference and present their research. MJ will formally announce the three recipients to the conference at the dinner.

Committee membership: Kevin McMeeking had accepted an appointment as treasurer of BAFA and has resigned from his committee membership of FARSIG. The committee thanked Kevin for his contribution.

1 JULY 2016: BRISTOL, FINANCIAL REPORTING AND BUSINESS COMMUNICATION/FARSIG CONFERENCE AND AGM.

FRBC conference: Please see FRBC conference report in this Newsletter for full details. It was confirmed that the 21st FRBC 2017 would be held at Durham University (6-7 July, 2017) For further details see page 11 of the Newsletter and also details of the call for papers

Committee membership: Penny Chaidali was elected to the committee. Penny had helped with the organisation of FRBC in 2016 and been a regular attendee and presenter at recent FRBC conferences and FARSIG symposia as a doctoral student.

FARSIG Symposium: The date was confirmed by MJ as Friday 6 January 2017, the usual first full working Friday of the new year. As in 2016, the event will be held at ACCA, Adelphi house offices, London.

FARSIG bursary: Applications had been circulated to the committee after review by Yannis Tsavaloutas and Richard Slack. A bursary award was supported for Judith Wylie, University of Ulster who will present her doctoral work at a subsequent FRBC conference as a doctoral student. Future FARSIG bursary applications would be advertised.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JOIN THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

In keeping with FARSIG's goal of acting as an interface between accounting academics and the profession, the technical committee submits comments-letters to the IASB on its discussion papers. These are published on the IASB board's website.

The overall aim of the FARSIG technical committee is to increase the relevance of academic accounting research to professional practice. This year we have continued focusing on the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting, and in particular on submitting detailed comments to the IASB on the new exposure draft. The committee meets up in person at least once a year normally at the annual FARSIG symposium on the future of financial reporting held in London in January.

We would welcome enthusiastic new members, and if you are interested in joining the committee please contact David Oldroyd d.a.mccollum-oldroyd@durham.ac.uk or Lenka Krupova Lenka.Krupova@anglia.ac.uk

ACCA PUBLICATIONS

August 2016 saw the launch of two research reports, jointly commissioned by the IIRC, the IAAER and ACCA, which look at the progress made in the first years since the publication of the International <IR> (Integrated Reporting) Framework, and discuss the challenges that lie ahead as <IR> aims to become the reporting norm.

Factors affecting preparers' and auditors' judgements about materiality and conciseness in integrated reporting explores the issues of materiality and conciseness in Integrated Reporting (<IR>) from the perspectives of corporate report preparers and auditors. Through consultation with over 250 companies across 28 countries, it provides evidence about emerging practices in the early years of <IR> adoption that will be helpful for the further development of <IR>.

Meeting users' information needs: the use and usefulness of integrated reporting the views of the users of financial information on integrated reporting were polled in this report, and in doing so, the final paper explores how providers of financial capital perceive <IR> and the <IR> Framework's potential for providing decision-useful information. The report shows that there is still much work needed to win the hearts and minds, particularly in the sell-side equity analysts, and yet there is a general acknowledgment that a form of reporting more closely linked to business strategy would be welcomed by all.

The Future of Financial Reporting 2015

A discussion Paper based on the British Accounting and Finance Association Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group (FARSIG) Symposium, 9 January 2015.

CIMA RESEARCH NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

CIMA Research Publications

Integrated Reporting in the public Sector

With increasing demand for greater transparency and accessibility in corporate reporting, interest in integrated reporting has grown in recent years. Yet the benefits of using this approach extend far beyond the production of private entity published accounts. This report highlights the wider benefit of integrated reporting to public sector organisations, identifying relevant international examples.

<http://www.cimaglobal.com/Research--Insight/Integrated-reporting-in-the-public-sector/>

Integrating Reporting: Cost of equity capital and investment efficiency

The academic study is motivated by the recent focus on sustainable capitalism and the global interest shown by firms, investors and regulators in the work of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). Using data from South Africa, where integrated reporting is mandated, the report uses a measure of integrated report quality (IRQ) to determine a positive link between IRQ, stock liquidity and firm value.

Corporate culture and the Role of Boards

This joint FRC- CIMA report on business culture and how it is reported was released on 20 July. The report was published a series of observations from key business leaders on how culture can affect business performance. The report focuses on how culture

can support growth as well as the dangers of a poor culture to the business. In terms of reporting the report will be of interest as it touches on the importance of key metrics that are useful on assessing organisations' cultural make up. Corporate reports have largely steered clear of discussing culture in recent years, but the new report may spark a change to this. The report will be discussed at an FRC conference in September and may also see updated board guidance in 2017 to incorporate its findings.

<https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Publications/Corporate-Governance/Corporate-Culture-and-the-Role-of-Boards-Report-o.pdf>

CIMA is sponsoring the inaugural Integrated Thinking and Reporting Conference to be held at LUISS University in Rome on the 17 and 18 November 2016.

The conference is supported by the international Integrated Reporting Council and will bring leading corporate thinking together with academic insight. It offers an opportunity to discuss the way in which Integrated Thinking and Reporting are currently practised and the challenges ahead for Integrated Thinking and Reporting, through the evidence offered by leading adopters.

More information is available on the conference web site.

<http://www.integratedinpracticerope2016.com/>

ICAEW RESEARCH AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS NEWS

Update on Information for Better Markets events

Papers from the 2015 conference are now available in Accounting and Business Research (ABR) and dates are confirmed for events in 2016 and 2017.

Accounting for M&A: strategy, management and financial reporting. The papers from the December 2015 conference have been published in ABR (volume 46, issue 5). These include:

- **Laurence Capron** – Strategies for M&As: when is acquisition the right mode to grow?
- **Geoff Meeks** – Historical perspectives on accounting for M&A.
- **Alan Gregory** – How far does financial reporting allow us to judge whether M&A activity is successful?
- **Paul Healy** – Reflections on M&A accounting from AOL's acquisition of Time Warner.

Each paper is accompanied by a practitioner commentary.

You can also view the lectures on the ICAEW website at

www.icaew.com/bettermarkets.

IFRS: Ten years later

ABR volume 46, issue 5 also includes a paper by Ray Ball based on his 2015 PD Leake lecture IFRS: Ten years later. A video of the lecture is available to view on the IFBM webcasts section of

www.icaew.com/bettermarkets.

Private company financial reporting

The 2016 Information for Better Markets conference looks at Private company financial reporting and will be held at Chartered Accountants' Hall on 19-20 December 2016. The principal speakers are Michael Minnis on 'Different approaches to regulating private company financial reporting', Ole-Kristian Hope on 'Private company finance and financial reporting', Joachim Gassen on 'Is the IFRS for SMEs working?' and Ann Vanstraelen on 'Auditing private companies'.

There is no charge for attendance at this conference but places are limited. For more information and to book your place visit the Events section of www.icaew.com or email gillian.knight@icaew.com.

Corporate reporting: is it heading in the right direction?

The 2017 Information for Better Markets conference will look at *Corporate reporting: is it heading in the right direction?* It will take place in London on 18-19 December 2017.

Financial reporting and IFRS thought leadership reports

The latest 2016 reports in ICAEW's Information for Better Markets series are:

- *Incentives and institutions in accounting*: thinking beyond standards considers the principal factors that affect financial reporting outcomes and the degree to which these are the product of incentives that affect individual firms and their managers and shaped by institutions.

- *Long-term investment and accounting*: overcoming short-term bias looks at the evidence on whether financial reporting encourages short-termism and asks whether it would be possible for financial reporting to provide better information on long-term performance.
- *SME accounting requirements*: basing policy on evidence. This short report looks at the costs and benefits of regulating SMEs' financial reporting, why SMEs may require a different regime from other businesses, and what research can tell us about these questions.

Free copies are available to download from www.icaew.com/bettermarkets. To order multiple copies for students, please contact Gillian Knight at gillian.knight@icaew.com. For other questions about our financial reporting thought leadership work please contact the new financial reporting manager Alison Dundjerovic at alison.dundjerovic@icaew.com.

Save the date!

The 2017 PD Leake lecture will be given by Professor Christian Leuz who will consider Accounting research's contribution to policy making: challenges and opportunities. It will be held in London on Thursday 5 October 2017.

For more information contact Alison Dundjerovic at Alison.dundjerovic@icaew.com.

PHOTO OF 2016 FARSIG SYMPOSIUM KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



From left to right are Anne McGeachin (International Accounting Standards Board), Mike Jones (University of Bristol), Richard Taffler (University of Warwick), and Richard Slack (Durham University).

ICAS RESEARCH NEWS

Subscribe to the ICAS research e-news service by emailing research@icas.com to ensure you receive notification of ICAS funding opportunities, events and publications.

For further information on any of the below please email research@icas.com.

RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE REPORTING PROJECTS

ICAS funds policy relevant and impactful research from academics based anywhere in the world. We have two streams for research applications: our pro-active applications – where the ideas come from the academic community; and our calls for research - where ICAS identifies specific research topics or themes. Calls for research are advertised on our website or you can be notified by email by subscribing to ICAS research e-news (email research@icas.com).

At ICAS we recognise the importance of receiving pro-active applications to ensure that we continue to fund original, innovative and leading research projects. Whilst we will continue to issue calls for research, our pro-active stream of applications is vital to our portfolio of research projects. Although the idea for research will come from you we will help you to develop the project, whilst allowing you to maintain your independence, and will work with you to maximise the impact of your research. In addition to the research funding available, we help you obtain access to our members and contacts for interviewees and surveys and access to our team of technical staff and committee experts ensuring that you receive quality feedback at all stages of your project.

For further information on research funding please visit icas.com or email research@icas.com

NEW ICAS PUBLICATIONS

All of the below publications are available by searching on icas.com

Auditor skills in a changing business world

Joint ICAS/FRC Steering Committee report

What is performance? An ICAS discussion paper and call for research

ICAS Working Group report

Shades of grey: Directors' dilemmas

Niamh M Brennan

Skills, competencies and the sustainability of the modern audit

Stuart Turley, Christopher Humphrey, Anna Samsonova-Taddei, Javed Siddiqui, Margaret Woods, Ilias Bousoudis, Chrystelle Richards
Joint ICAS/FRC research project

The capability and competency requirements of auditors in today's complex global business Environment

Karin Barac, Elizabeth Gammie, Bryan Howieson, Marianne van Staden
Joint ICAS/FRC research project

Professional investors and the decision usefulness of financial reporting

Stefano Cascino, Mark Clatworthy, Beatriz Garcia Osma, Joachim Gassen, Shahed Iman
Joint ICAS/EFRA research project

Fair, Balanced and Understandable: Enhancing corporate reporting and assurance?

Ian Fraser and Boram Lee

NEW CORPORATE/FINANCIAL REPORTING GRANTS AWARDED

Unlocking the black box in fair value measurement (VFM): Examining how valuation specialists prepare and evaluate FVMs

Dereck Barr-Pulliam, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Jennifer R. Joe, University of Delaware, Stephani A. Mason, Depaul University, and Kerri-Ann Sanderson, Bentley University

This study examines the process that valuation specialists use when preparing fair value measurements (FVMs) for management and evaluating the reasonableness of management's FVMs for auditors. It examines the factors that influence the valuation specialist's analyses, whether the purpose of the valuation specialist's task (preparation of FVM for management and or evaluation of FVM for auditors) influences the process they use, and the auditability of FVMs. A combination of surveys and interviews with valuation specialists employed by accounting firms will be undertaken. This is a joint ICAS/IAASB/IAAER project

Business and human rights: An exploration of reporting and assurance practice

John Ferguson (PhD supervisor) and Marisa McVey (PhD candidate), University of St Andrews

This is a Collaborative Studentship awarded by the Scottish Graduate School of Social Sciences (SGSSS) DTC. ICAS will provide a financial contribution to the scholarship in addition to providing in-kind support. The PhD aims to:

- provide insights into how companies are interpreting and positioning business and human rights reporting vis-à-vis other reporting initiatives and mandatory requirements;
- provide insights into the development of business and human rights reporting and associated assurance practice in this area; and
- provide insights into the development of due diligence practice in the area of business and human rights and the management systems that underpin and facilitate this practice.

What is performance?

We will announce the successful applicants under the recent ICAS call for research on What is performance? in November/December 2016.

PHOTO OF SUE HRASKY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Left to right are the three Sue Hrasky scholarship recipients, Anne Michaels (Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany), Xiaoxi Wu (Lancaster University), Jana Neuland (Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany). They are pictured with Claire Horner (University of Tasmania) where Sue Hrasky was based.

CONSTITUTION

The main purposes of the FARSIG are to:

1. Encourage research and scholarship in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
2. Establish a network of researchers and teachers in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
3. Enhance the teaching of Financial Accounting and Reporting.
4. Provide support for PhD students in Financial Accounting and Reporting.
5. Develop close links with the accounting profession so as to inform policy.
6. Publish a newsletter and organise targeted workshops.
7. Develop and maintain relationships with the British Accounting and Finance Association and the Professional Accountancy Institutes.

SIG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair

Michael Jones

School of Economics,
Finance and Management
University of Bristol
8 Woodland road
Bristol
BS8 1TN
MichaelJohn.Jones@Bristol.ac.uk

Newsletter Editor

Omiros Georgiou

Alliance Manchester Business School
University of Manchester
Crawford House
M15 6PB
Omiros.georgiou@manchester.ac.uk

Secretary

Richard Slack

Durham Business School
Queen's Campus
Ebsworth Building
University Boulevard
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 6BH
Richard.Slack@durham.ac.uk

Chair of Technical Committee

David Oldroyd

Durham Business School
Queen's Campus
Ebsworth Building
University Boulevard
Thornaby
Stockton on Tees
TS17 6BH
d.a.mccollum-oldroyd@durham.ac.uk

Treasurer

Yannis Tsalavoutas

Adam Smith Business School
University of Glasgow
Room 683 - Gilbert Scott Building
University Avenue
Glasgow G12 8QQ
Ioannis.Tsalavoutas@glasgow.ac.uk

Publicity officer

Tamer Elshandidy

School of Economics,
Finance and Management
University of Bristol
8 Woodland road
Bristol
BS8 1TN
Tamer.Elshandidy@Bristol.ac.uk

Santosh Abraham

Excelsior College
Albany
New York
SAbraham1@excelsior.edu

Nana Akubelem

Nottingham Business School
Nottingham Trent University
Nottingham
NG1 4FQ
oiza.akubelem@ntu.ac.uk

Rhoda Brown

School of Business and Economics
Loughborough University
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 3TU
R.M.Brown@lboro.ac.uk

Penny Chaidali

School of Economics,
Finance and Management
University of Bristol
8 Woodland road
Bristol
BS8 1TN
p.chaidali@bristol.ac.uk

Mark Clatworthy

School of Economics, Finance and
Management
University of Bristol
8 Woodland Road
Bristol
BS8 1TN
Mark.Clatworthy@bristol.ac.uk

Tony Hines

University of Portsmouth
Business School
Richmond Building
Portland Street
Portsmouth
PO1 3DE
Tony.Hines@port.ac.uk

Richard Martin

ACCA
The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London
WC2N 6AU
richard.martin@accaglobal.com

Andrea Melis

Department of Economics and Business
University of Cagliari (Italy)
Viale S. Ignazio 17
melisa@unica.it

Gunnar Rimmel

Jönköping International Business School
Jönköping University
Accounting & Law Department
P.O. Box 1026, SE-551 11 Jönköping
gunnar.rimmel@jibs.hj.se

Richard Taffler

Warwick Business School
The University of Warwick
Coventry
CV4 7AL
Richard.Taffler@wbs.ac.uk

Pauline Weetman

University of Edinburgh Business School
29 Buccleuch Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9JS
Pauline.Weetman@ed.ac.uk

Geoffrey Whittington

Judge Institute of Management
University of Cambridge
Trumpington Street
Cambridge
CB2 1AG
gw12@cam.ac.uk



DOCTORAL BURSARY SCHEME 2017

Financial Accounting and Reporting Special Interest Group (FARSIG)

FARSIG has a commitment to encourage research and scholarship in financial accounting and reporting. An inherent part of this commitment is to support doctoral students in financial accounting and reporting subject areas.

The subject range is wide ranging across all aspects of financial accounting and reporting.

FARSIG is now inviting doctoral students in financial accounting and reporting to apply for financial support to help with their doctoral studies. Two bursaries are available, each bursary to a maximum application of £1,000.

Application:

- A statement as to why you are applying for the bursary.
- Two page summary of your doctoral research, research aims, current progress and plan to submission.
 - There is no proforma application.
- Clear costings and timelines to support bursary application:
 - This would normally be data collection costs, transcription costs or other direct costs in supporting you with your research data and writing up;
 - Fees and conference attendance are not part of the bursary scheme;
 - Expenses will only be reimbursed on production of supporting invoices only.
- You must be a current registered doctoral student, either full time or part time.
- A signed formal letter of support from your principal supervisor must be provided with the application.
- It is a condition of any bursary award that the doctoral student will present their research at a future Financial Reporting and Business Communication Conference (FRBC) – normally within 2 years of the bursary award.

Each application received will be reviewed by members of the FARSIG committee. The committee will determine the final bursary awards and applicants will be informed.

The closing date for applications is 31 January 2017 and all applicants will be informed of the decision by 30 April 2017.

Applications and letters of support should be emailed as PDF attachments to Richard.Slack@durham.ac.uk or Ioannis.Tsalavoutas@glasgow.ac.uk

The email title should state: FARSIG Bursary application: applicant name



CHARITABLE
TRUSTS

Financial Reporting and Business Communication, 21st Annual Conference

Durham University, Thursday 6 & Friday 7 July 2017: First Call for Papers

We are pleased to announce the 21st annual Financial Reporting and Business Communication (FRBC) Conference organised by Durham University and the BAFA FARSIG. This is the premier conference of its kind worldwide and attracts an international audience. The conference, supported by ICAEW charitable trusts, comprises parallel full paper with discussants; developmental paper sessions and a doctoral stream.

The conference addresses key areas of interest to accounting academics and practitioners and includes:

- The role financial reporting and corporate governance in capital markets
- The purpose of the modern corporate report and the effectiveness of financial reporting standards
- Accounting measurement and disclosure; Sustainable, integrated and environmental reporting
- The composition and format of corporate reports and the role of the visual
- Corporate reporting and accountability in the private and public sectors

Papers are invited on these topics and on *all aspects of financial reporting and business communication* to include empirical, theoretical and conceptual papers as well as case studies and experimental studies.

The submission deadline is 21 April 2017 for all papers (please mark as FULL or DEVELOPMENTAL) to be considered for the conference to be submitted to Richard.slack@durham.ac.uk OR michaeljohn.jones@bristol.ac.uk:

Abstract and full paper (up to 12,000 words) for parallel session and allocated discussant review.

Please note: Discussants will only be allocated to full paper submissions and we expect that all submitters of full papers will be prepared to act as discussants.

Abstract (500 words) or short developmental paper (up to 5,000 words) for parallel session.

As part of the main conference, we intend to run streams for papers on *Social and Environmental disclosure and Integrated Reporting*, which will be eligible for the 2017/18 issue of *Advances in Environmental Accounting & Management* (organiser Stuart Cooper, Bristol) and the *History of Accounting* (organiser David Oldroyd, Durham). Please indicate on submission if you want papers considered for one of these two streams, otherwise it will be allocated to the general stream of the conference with parallel sessions organised around relevant research areas.

For doctoral students wishing to present in the doctoral stream, a 500 word abstract should be submitted by 31 March 2017. A *Scholarship* is available for 2017 to doctoral students in the doctoral stream. This comprises a doctoral fee waiver, UK receipted travel, subsistence and accommodation costs at the conference. Applications should be in the form of a structured abstract and email entitled FRBC Scholarship/authors name. The award of the Scholarship will be announced by the end of April 2017.

Richard Slack
Richard.Slack@durham.ac.uk

Mike Jones
Michaeljohn.jones@bristol.ac.uk



FINAL WORD BY RHODA BROWN

The IASB has recently issued a new "Staff Paper" (July 2106), in which it tell us that the board has tentatively decided "not to develop concepts to address challenges that arise in classifying financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity as part of the Conceptual Framework project." At the same time, the board proposes to continue to express the primary objectives of financial reporting with reference to equity holders, to keep the current definition of equity as the residual interest in net assets and to define equity claims as claims against the entity that do not meet the definition of a liability.

As with several other examples from the recent IASB deliberations on concepts (prudence, stewardship, neutrality and definitions of assets and liabilities) the distinction between equity and debt is an essential concept that has an unclear definition, which relies on a series of other unclear definitions, to produce a tautological muddle worthy of Lewis Carroll. I cannot read any of the recent pronouncements on the conceptual framework without thinking about Humpty Dumpty.

" 'When I use a word,' Humpty Dumpty said in rather a scornful tone, 'it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less.' 'The question is,' said Alice, 'whether you can make words mean so many different things.' "

In the Conceptual Framework, words can apparently mean everything, something or nothing depending on their context. Given that the IASB that prides itself on issuing principles-based standards this is something of a problem, as the main point about principles is that they are not generally context specific. Then again, with the new IFRS15, Revenue Recognition, coming into force soon, we have to ask quite how "principles-based" IFRS are likely to be in the future. To me, it looks considerably more rule-based than IAS18, which it replaces. If this is the new trend, we may well be in for more rules, more slippery words and more nonsense.

Rhoda
(Artwork by Madeleine Brown)