CFRA Events 2018

Annual accounting conference 2018: “Diversity within Unity”
January 26-27, 2018

It was a great pleasure and an honor to co-organize and host the Annual Accounting Conference 2018, which was held February 26-27, 2018 at ESMT Berlin. The conference was jointly organized by CFRA, the Accounting Section of the German Academic Association for Business Research (AS-VHB) and the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER). The theme of the Conference was “Accounting Research – Diversity within Unity”.

Symposia with distinguished speakers covered important areas in financial accounting, managerial accounting, and in accounting education, bringing together conference participants for vivid discussions and exchanges on the multiple facets of modern accounting research and policy-making. We were honored to welcome Katherine Schipper (Duke University and IAAER President) and Hilde Blomme (Accountancy Europe) as keynote speakers of the Conference. In addition, the Conference featured three panels with high-level participants and moderators, a special IASB session (hosted by Ann Tarca, board member of the IASB), and as many as 20 parallel paper sessions.

Per Olsson (ESMT), Annette Köhler (Univ. of Duisburg-Essen), Katherine Schipper (Duke Univ. and President of IAAER), Ann Tarca (Board member, IASB), Alfred Wagenhofer (Univ. of Graz and Vice President of IAAER)
June 14-15, 2018

Access to financial resources and sound financial management are vital for companies of all sizes. While start-ups enjoy many regulatory exemptions, they also face particular challenges that deserve greater attention from researchers and practitioners. Among others, these include power imbalances and information asymmetries between entrepreneurs and potential investors, limited capabilities for internal finance and accounting functions, as well as challenges in valuing and accounting for intellectual or human capital. Recent developments such as equity crowdfunding or initial coin offerings mitigate some of these challenges, while reinforcing others.

After its successful launch in 2017 (http://www.esmt.org/cfra/efm-2017), the Entrepreneurial Financial Management conference represents a unique transatlantic forum of academics and practitioners, which focuses closely on the interaction of entrepreneurial finance and entrepreneurial accounting. In addition to two days of academic programming, the EFM II conference featured an afternoon practitioners’ session, including three keynotes and two panel discussions on the declining IPO market, and more broadly, how private capital markets have become increasingly important later and later in the lives of startups.

Academic participants included among others: Lee Fleming (UC Berkeley), Olav Sorenson (Yale University), Tim McQuade (Stanford Graduate School of Business), Michael Ewens (California Institute of Technology), David Robinson (Duke University).
Practitioners’ program

Keynote:
Paying attention to startup human capital

Henry Sauermand
ESMT Berlin
Associate Professor of Strategy,
PCK Führinger PS Chair in Entrepreneurship,
Director of the Institute for Endowment Management
and Entrepreneurial Finance (IFEE)

Panel Discussion:
Evolution of exit options for entrepreneurial companies
Moderated by: Lee Fleming, UC Berkeley
Professor and Coleman Fung Chair in Engineering Leadership

Karen Stafford
Intel Capital
Investment Director and the Regional Manager
for Central, Northern and Eastern Europe

Olav Sorenson
Yale University
Frederick Frank ’54 and Mary C. Tanner
Professor of Management

Michael Schatzschneider
Euronext
Director and Germany Representative

Keynote:
The Deregulation of the Private Equity Markets
and the Decline in IPOs

Michael Ewens,
California Institute of Technology
Associate Professor of Finance and Entrepreneurship,
Quantitative advisor for Correlation Ventures
Keynote:
There Are No “Tips to Investors From Founders”

Yoav Rimon
Chat Leap
Founder and CEO

Panel Discussion:
Evolution of exit options for entrepreneurial companies

Moderated by: Jon Fjeld, Duke University: The Fuqua School of Business
Professor of the Practice, Professor of Philosophy,
Executive Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Christian Nagel
Earlybird
Co-founder and Partner

Miriam Neubauer
Catena Capital
Managing Director

Yoav Rimon
Chat Leap
Founder and CEO
Global Network for Advanced Management: *Startup Financing, Valuation, and Venture Capital*
June 11-15th, 2018

The aim of this 1-week course was to provide international students with limited finance background with solid basic knowledge of valuation techniques and capital raising process in startup companies. The course included 3 morning lecture sessions taught by Per Olsson and Katja Kisseleva-Scherenberger, 3 afternoon lecture sessions with CFRA and practitioners (entrepreneur, VC- and accelerator representative), and a team project ending in a pitching afternoon in a “Shark Tank” / "Höhle der Löwen"- style in front of real investors.

**Venture Capital-Portfolio Day**
September 13, 2018

After a successful teaching cooperation with La Famiglia VC in June, we were very excited to run the Venture Capital Portfolio Day together as well. We looked back at the past year European VC market developments and trends and shared insights from investment activities as well as the La Famiglia network.

The afternoon featured several keynotes from rising startup companies, a panel of international VCs (Accel, Atomico, Index Ventures) a keynote on machine learning and blockchain, as well as a keynote from Dorothee Bär (Staatsministerin für Digitales).

**Workshop "Natural Language Processing in Financial Markets"
November 16, 2018

Analysis of qualitative information has a long tradition in computer science (Natural Language Processing – NLP) and linguistics (corpus linguistics). The analysis of language (spoken and written) can provide powerful insights in studying economic consequences and methods applied only recently started to gain traction in accounting and finance. Estimates suggest that 90% of all available data created in the last 10 years, 80% of which in a business context, is qualitative / unstructured.

Literature in accounting and finance has only scratched the surface of textual analysis capabilities, and reliance on basic NLP techniques is primarily involving bag-of-words methods and make little use of corpus methods. Estimates say that in accounting and finance the state of affairs is significantly behind developments in computational linguistics and machine learning. Surprisingly little is known about how corporate disclosures interact with alternative information sources to influence investor behavior. Recently, however, hedge funds have started to make more and more use of textual analysis for trading purposes, which makes it even more important for corporations to use language strategically.

**Workshop focus**

The workshop discussed how recent advances in the area of natural language processing affect the production and processing of financial information, as well as the behavior and outcomes of financial markets. It contained keynotes from Steven Young (Lancaster University) and Ryan LaFond (Deputy CIO, Algert Global LLC), both worldwide leading experts in the field, as well as a set of current working papers that present rigorous academic work with real-life appeal. It was rounded up with a panel discussion highlighting the practical relevance of the field.
Joint CFRA-HU Accounting Seminar Series

Seminar guests included among others:

Ethan Rouen (Harvard Business School), Florin Vasvari (London Business School), Simon Gervais (Duke University), Tolga Demir (Stockholm School of Economics), Dan Amiram (Columbia University), Tarek Hassan (Boston University) Andre Güttler (Universität Ulm), Pepa Kraft (HEC Paris), Sergio Vincente (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Daniel Streitz (Copenhagen Business School), Martin Walker (University of Manchester), Denis Gromb (HEC), Thorsten Hens (Universität Zürich), Daniel Metzger (Stockholm School of Economics), Josef Zechner (WU Wien), Laurence van Lent (Frankfurt School of Finance and Management).