ACTIVITIES REPORT
2015–2019

Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing (CFRA)
ESMT Berlin
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Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing (CFRA)
ESMT Berlin
Greetings from the president of ESMT Berlin

Greetings from the director

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ABOUT CFRA

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Investors and corporate communication
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Research and practice
It is my pleasure as the president of ESMT Berlin to oversee the growth of the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing (CFRA). Since its inception in 2015, the CFRA has increased its importance in the financial management space, connecting the dots between innovators, economists, executives, practitioners, policy makers, and civil society representatives. Through high-quality research, conferences, seminars, and network development, the Center is bridging the gap between academic business research and value-driven business practice.

The birth and growth of the CFRA has been matched by exciting developments at ESMT. We have not only seen tremendous growth in our internationally diverse student body and award-winning faculty, we have also significantly extended the school’s reach in national and international networks.

The other part of school growth is a result of the partnerships we have undertaken. Because of our cooperation with the School of Public Administration and Development Economics of the Doha Institute in Qatar, we welcomed a first intake of students for the dual Executive MBA/MPA (Master of Public Administration) in September 2018. Together with five other renowned international business schools, ESMT formed the Future of Management Education Alliance (FOME) and created an EdTech platform. We went live with six digital MBA courses, three executive education sessions, and two customized executive education programs in November of the same year.

Most recently, the German Research Foundation (DFG) has acknowledged the Center’s significant work as well as the effort of other university institutions by bestowing the grant for the Collaborative Research Center / Transregio TRR 266 “Accounting for Transparency.” This is the first time they have funded a center with a focus on business and management. While the monetary effect is limited, as DFG funding is strictly for academic research personnel only, the representative effect for our Center is invaluable.

As you will read in the report that follows, the CFRA and ESMT together have made great strides in showing the relevance of high-quality as well as academically rigorous business research and education to our transforming world. We look forward to your review and support in our continued success.

Jörg Rocholl
President and Professor of Finance, ESMT Berlin
The growing complexity of information-sharing systems has challenged traditional approaches of management and accounting. In the past, verifiable numbers, facts, and figures were prized over all else. Today, investors, consumers, regulators, and other stakeholders need foundations built on trust, for which the keys are clarity and transparency in the communication of both financial and non-financial information.

As the saying goes, however, the devil is in the detail – well-intentioned and seemingly simple objectives often need more time and attention than believed. The result? New regulatory requirements to achieve this transparency as well as confusion about how much is too much information and whether it is all leading us to our desired outcomes. Will the transparency revolution really result in growing and accountable businesses and robust and stable economies worldwide?

In some respects, academic research in accounting and related fields straddles the gap between these two worlds. Research offers a high-level view of the impact of financial standards and regulations on global capital markets. Research also profoundly informs (and should inform!) how practitioners go about their work.

Since 2015, the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing (CFRA) has worked to equip accountants, auditors, standards setters, and policy makers with research knowledge and tools to understand and respond to regulatory requirements and the needs of capital market participants and other key stakeholders. The CFRA is in a good position to become a hub of information for high-profile experts and policy makers in the financial reporting arena. We conduct research that engages theorists and practitioners, the public and policy makers; and are the channel through which we and ESMT collaborates with our academic peers in leading universities around the world.

Through seminars and conferences, as through papers and presentations, and development of teaching materials, we have achieved much in this short time span. Some part of this has been our expert and competent team, but we also owe much to the expert guidance of the members of our Academic Advisory Council. Their insights and experiences have proven to be invaluable to our initiatives and our reputation.

I am honored to have led CFRA through these first important years. I look forward to our engagement and growing influence in the accounting field in the years to come. I sincerely hope that this report inspires your confidence in the same.

Per Olsson
Professor of Accounting, ESMT Berlin
Director, Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing
ABOUT CFRA
OUR MISSION

The CFRA aims to provide an effective contribution to scientific research and practice-oriented, pragmatic transfer of knowledge on financial reporting and auditing, as well as financial management more generally. We serve as a platform for evidence-based exchange between science, practice, and politics in light of enhanced regulatory and political scrutiny on national and international levels.

The CFRA designs and engages in activities to strengthen the dialogue between academics and practitioners and to make highly complex business and finance research (our own and others) more accessible to the broader public. Questions of standard setting and regulation in financial reporting, auditing, and the role of various forms of disclosures in capital markets are explored in publications, conferences, seminars, and international networks. CFRA programming is internationally oriented to examine the increasingly global regulation in these areas.

FOUNDING COMPANIES

The CFRA is very grateful to our founding companies, without whose generous help the Center could not exist.

ACCOUNTING RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

The CFRA uses rigorous methods to address research questions of practical relevance. It produces new insights and serves as a hub, communicating research insights to practitioners and research interests to academia. Practitioners include corporate decision makers and preparers, auditors, advisors, regulators, and the investment community, as well as society-at-large to the extent that it is interested in corporate transparency.

INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AND REACH

Building on the ESMT approach, the CFRA is a genuinely international activity. The academics involved in the CFRA have a strong international network, and the corporate partners of the CFRA are global organizations. This is crucial because financial reporting and auditing has developed from a mostly legalistic affair to a key component of international corporate governance. Its link to corporate communication and business intelligence is evolving, implying that it is a central building block to corporate transparency and sound decision-making. These activities know no national borders.

COOPERATIVE ACTION

Using its national and international ties, the CFRA cooperates with related institutions to reach its objectives. Its members participate in initiatives like the European Accounting Association, the American Accounting Association, Accountancy Europe, the Schmalenbach-Gesellschaft für Betriebswirtschaftslehre, the academic panel of the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group, and the Ausschuss Unternehmenrechnung of the Verein für Socialpolitik, among many others. We maintain close research links with leading universities around the world. Joining forces with these and other institutions we can significantly contribute to the development of financial reporting and auditing.
Per Olsson is a professor of accounting and the director of the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing at ESMT Berlin. He was on the faculty of Duke University’s Fuqua School of Business from 2001 to 2015 and, before that, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He held the Jan Wallander and Bertil Danielsson visiting professorships at the Stockholm School of Economics and the Swedish House of Finance from 2009 to 2018.

Per has published a large number of research papers in financial accounting, especially in the capital markets area. He is a frequent speaker in academic and industry forums, in particular on matters related to earnings quality and capital markets. He is a member of the European Accounting Association and the American Accounting Association, and the vice president for research of the International Association for Accounting Education and Research. He is an associate editor of Accounting and Business Research and serves on the editorial boards of several leading academic journals, such as Accounting in Europe, The Accounting Review, European Accounting Review, Journal of Business Finance and Accounting, and the Review of Accounting Studies.

Per was a visiting PhD student at the University of Chicago and received an MSc and a PhD from Stockholm School of Economics. He joined the faculty of ESMT Berlin in 2015. He is an award-winning instructor in MBA and master’s in management studies.

Katja Kisseleva-Scherenberger is an ESMT PhD fellow and research associate at ESMT’s Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing. Her main research areas and interests are entrepreneurial finance and accounting, and impact investing in private equity. Katja was a visiting PhD student at Stanford Graduate Business School in 2018. Prior to her academic career, Katja served as a financial services consultant at PwC, where she audited banks and led several projects on implementation of new bank regulations. Before that, she served as an assistant manager at KPMG, where she consulted publicly listed companies in Germany on accounting issues. Katja was a part-time researcher at Freie Universität Berlin and a visiting researcher at UC Berkeley and Vrije Universitaet Amsterdam.

Tijana Ristic-Kern is a coordinator at the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing since 2016 and completed her master’s degree in English Literatures at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin in 2018. Previously, she worked in Serbia as a congress organizer at the Sava Center, as office assistant and event manager at the Foreign Investors Council, and as freelance translator, proofreader and ESL instructor.

Christiane Wieland is center manager at the Center for Financial Reporting and Auditing. She started to work at ESMT Berlin in 2004 as a program manager in executive education. Subsequently, she was a senior events manager for the school’s premier event, the ESMT Annual Forum, as well as academic conferences and cooperation events. Christiane holds a degree in arts management and leisure studies from London Metropolitan University.
AFFILIATES

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ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Berlin is an attractive home for many of Germany’s startups. Its relative low cost of living, its artistic and cultural reputation, its linguistically diverse and young labor force, and its status as the country’s capital are among the factors that have contributed to this rich ecosystem. Market-disrupting brands such as the digital bank N26 (valued at 2.7 billion USD) and the tourism and tour bookers GetYourGuide (170.5 million USD) already call Berlin their home. According to KPMG’s Deutscher Startup Monitor 2018, Germany is answering the call with a number of supporting programs, including those designed to provide capital for especially promising growth-phase startups.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, financial management infrastructure – the systems and tools for accounting, tax, and regulatory matters – is an afterthought for many startup leaders. In the pursuit of visionary ideas and innovations, these founding entrepreneurs are more focused on the hiring of their programmers and designers than controllers and treasurers.

Nevertheless, sound financial management policies and practices are as vital for startups as they are for established companies of all sizes. Moreover, attracting lenders and investors – especially to gain capital for forays into international markets in the next phase of growth – requires that entrepreneurs either become experts in financial management and accounting systems or in hiring the right consultant partners to do the same. Not doing so in timely, useful, and reliable ways can endanger the company and jeopardize the fragile balance of the startup ecosystem.

With our home base amidst Berlin’s startup scene, the CFRA is uniquely positioned to understand and contribute to emerging research in entrepreneurial accounting and financial management. Our deep knowledge of banking, finance, and investment systems coupled with our experience in educating accounting and auditing practitioners provide early-stage companies with the proper insight and perspective on the value of accurate financial documentation, integrated accounting systems, and regulatory compliance.
The digitalization of financial reporting and auditing affects almost all facets of our field. The Center focuses on how digitalization can enhance the value of financial reporting. We understand financial reporting as a sender/receiver activity embedded in additional information flows. Digitalization enables firms to detach financial reporting data from financial reporting presentation. Financial reporting presentation has always been complex, but has become increasingly multi-dimensional in nature in recent years as traditional financial statements have been accompanied by ever increasing notes and additional non-financial information. Recent research in the area of financial accounting documents that a significant group of financial statement users perceive an information overload problem when presented with financial reporting information. Related to that finding, current research in user experience design stresses the importance of customized presentation of complex information, yet, historically, financial reporting has followed a one-size-fits-all approach. We posit that this is going to change radically in the future.

A key strategy to enhance the value of financial reporting in the digital age is to open up disclosed financial reporting information to algorithmic processing. To understand better how new developments in the area of natural language processing affect the usage of financial reporting information by professional investors, we hosted a one-day academic event where we brought together leading experts from academic and investment communities. One key takeaway of this very informative workshop was that various usage strategies will prevail in the future and that information sending firms are well advised to cater to these various usage strategies to enhance the value of financial reporting.

Based on these insights, our research in that area will (continue to) study how users of financial statement data use financial reporting information in various presentation formats. We already documented, based on a large sample interview study with institutional investors, how investors use and assess financial reporting data differently, and conditional on their decision at hand. In addition, prior work has documented vast differences in information behavior by institutional and retail investors. We plan to extend this line of research to internal decision makers like board members. Our motivating question is to understand better how financial reporting data and its presentation can be customized digitally to cater to different user groups and challenges. Building on interactive data visualization tools that we have already developed we will test in experimental settings whether and how users use additional financial information in their decision making and to what extent this behavior varies across different user groups.

We envision that our research will help firms and their advisors to develop better tools for presenting financial data to investors and internal decision makers. This will most likely allow for leaner data presentation, significantly the perceived information overload. The usage data collected by these tools can help firms to understand the decision-making process of their stakeholders better, feeding back to internal decision making and, ultimately, corporate performance.

While starting more than a decade ago, the global financial crisis continues to cast long shadows over the financial landscape. Out of the economic turmoil rose demand for, among other things, greater transparency in financial reporting and a people-planet-profits approach to quantifying value. For investors especially, improvements in narrative disclosures was seen as a way to help illuminate company governance, strategy, and results otherwise obscured by complex accounting methods and footnote disclosures. The German chemical producer BASF, for example, responded to this change in expectations with its “Value-to-Society” impact valuation method. That is, BASF aims “to identify, quantify, value, and demonstrate” both financial and non-financial impacts in euros with auditable, reportable results.

Nevertheless, the tension between transparency and opacity in financial reporting remains high. On the one side are new tech tools and regulations for revealing greater amounts of financial and non-financial (narrative) data to public scrutiny. Directive 2014/95/EU, for example, now requires that large public-interest companies with more than 500 em-
Employees must report on their policies and activities related to environmental protection, labor rights, human rights, board diversity, and anti-corruption efforts. On the other side of the transparency push are company insiders who see information retention and control as key to their maneuvers in highly competitive (and sometimes litigated) markets. Textual disclosures can be strategically obscure as a result. There is tension also within organizations, as accounting personnel and corporate sustainability departments struggle to communicate financial value as one team.

Fundamentally, while investors, regulators, and the broader public have laid their hopes in disclosure, the consequences of the flood of information coupled with confusion within companies about how to navigate the new regulatory environment threaten to undermine efforts to rebuild trust across the board.

Within the context of an academic institution, the CFRA offers a distinct approach to the financial transparency debate. Our focus is on the data – how financial reporting transparency (in whole and in part) can be measured and tested, how its impacts can be theoretically described and predicted, and how other academic fields – such as computer science and linguistics – can shape the production and processing of financial and non-financial information. We thus delve into transparency expectations, regulation, and implementation, and how this information revolution affects earnings quality and capital markets.

NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING

The EU commission has voiced strong views about the positive effects that corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting will bring to the common market, and also to consumers: “Each individual company disclosing transparent information on social and environmental matters will realise significant benefits over time, including better ... relations with consumers and stakeholders” (EU Commission, MEMO/14/301). At the CFRA, we monitor the development of non-financial.
In particular, we are interested in three aspects:

- How and why do non-financial disclosures evolve across firms, countries, and time?
- How do institutions, including non governmental, shape regulation in the area of non-financial reporting?
- Does CSR reporting affect consumer behavior, and if so, how?

The first aspect, the development of non-financial disclosures over time, is related to roundtables and discussion events that we have hosted in the past. Being a relatively new disclosure phenomenon, firms have to develop a feeling about what constitutes best practice in this area. We strive to integrate knowledge from corporations, their advisors, researchers and users of non-financial information to understand better how non-financial disclosures evolve over time and which legal and economic aspects are influential in shaping the disclosures that we observe in the field.

One key user group of non-financial reporting are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as, advocacy groups. Relatively little is known about their usage of (non-financial) corporate information and how they affect regulatory rule-making. With the increasing importance of “targeted transparency regulation,” i.e., transparency regulation intended to induce corporation towards acting in line with a given policy objective, influencing transparency-related rule-making has become a strategic option for NGOs to push their agenda. Clearly, information about corporate behavior is central to NGOs’ activities, which include staging shaming campaigns through the media. These campaigns can impose both political and reputational costs. We want to learn better how advocacy groups use financial and non-financial disclosures in their activities, how disclosures interact with other information sources such as public relations and media coverage, and about the properties that render information useful for these purposes.

Finally, we want to explore consumer activism and demand reactions to CSR disclosures. Prior literature in CSR has argued that consumers react positively to increased firm transparency about CSR issues and that EU firms have increased their CSR spending in preparation for the EU directive. However, causal empirical evidence on this issue remains scarce, not least due to the difficulty of distinguishing between CSR performance and CSR reporting. In addition, most research focuses on corporate activities and less on the actual reactions of other market participants. By assessing whether (a) consumers use CSR disclosures and (b) CSR disclosures impact consumer activism, we can learn how CSR-reporting affects consumer behavior.

Given the inherent complexity of CSR disclosures and the relevance of alternative information channels, it is unclear to what extent consumers will actually use CSR disclosures. The recent European adoption of CSR reporting for large companies provides a suitable setting to explore these questions. As the EU commission has identified consumers as one of the key receivers of CSR disclosures, we will use the scope exclusion of firms with below 500 employees and the cross-country variation in Directive implementation to explore the effects of the regulation on consumer demand and on consumer activism.

**EARNINGS QUALITY AND CAPITAL MARKETS**

The established equity market literature needs to be fundamentally reinvestigated on how financial reporting transparency can be measured in the equity market. Given that the informational environment of equity markets has undergone dramatic changes during recent decades, the competitive informational advantage of financial reporting information conditional on the additionally available information is unclear. We contribute to the construction of an extensive dataset describing the financial reporting behavior of publicly listed firms. Using these data and exploiting market reactions around exogenous macro news events, we can identify financial reporting components that are theoretically and empirically connected to equity capital market outcomes. Based on these insights, prior evidence on the capital markets effects of financial reporting information can be revisited and explored in terms of whether refined measures of financial reporting transparency can help to improve company valuation, in particular for firms entertaining new business models.
Regulation is paramount in financial reporting and auditing. Historically, regulation in these areas has been dominated by corporate and legal experts and was of limited interest to the general public. In recent years and in particular after the financial crises, however, corporate transparency has become a key area of concern to a wider audience. In addition, regulators have identified transparency regulation as a mechanism to achieve public policy objectives. This idea, coined as “governance through transparency”, increasingly influences the regulatory debate about the appropriateness of financial disclosure regulation.

These new trends also affect such traditional fields like the development of financial accounting standards. Financial reporting under IFRS is intended to “provide financial information about the reporting entity that is useful to existing and potential investors, lenders and other creditors in making decisions relating to providing resources to the entity” (IFRS Conceptual Framework, para. 1.2). Clearly, triggering real effects on firms’ operating, investing, and financing decisions is not an explicit part of this decision usefulness objective. Nonetheless, individual accounting standards IFRS have been shown to affect firms’ real decisions. It is unclear where individual standard setters stand on the issue of real effects of financial reporting standards. Understanding their views is important for the cost-benefit analysis of regulation and for understanding the trade-offs standard setters make.

We intend to work in this area by conducting interviews with standard setters and corporate insiders to assess whether they are aware of, and care about, real effects of financial reporting standards. In addition, we want to understand whether their actions are consistent with intentions to achieve or avoid potential real effects.

We will use the data from these interviews to identify which real effects corporate insiders and regulators expect financial disclosure regulation to develop. Based on preliminary analyses and prior work, we expect real effects to be clustered in the financing function of firms (e.g., lease and pension financing-related decision). In addition, we are interested to explore whether recent IFRS changes in revenue recognition have an effect on sales force incentivization and the design of complex sale arrangements. Our long-term objective is to develop a deeper understanding of the complex mix of incentives that shape rule-making in the area of financial reporting and disclosure. We believe that our findings will be informative for regulators, auditors, and corporate decision makers alike.
Since its beginning, the CFRA has prioritized the exchange of academic financial management and accounting research, especially to make it relevant in real-world terms. The Center has thus created opportunities for bringing together the voices of industry, accounting, and actuarial firms, also those of finance-focused representatives of government, unions, and various national and international policy bodies. Our research, activities and collaborations – as academic networks, events, publications, presentations, and teaching – serve to strengthen the bond between financial theory and practice.

**ACADEMIC NETWORKS**

**Berlin Accounting Research Group (BARG)**
The Center is a founding member of the Berlin Accounting Research Group (BARG), a joint initiative of scholars from universities located in Berlin: ESCP Europe, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Universität Potsdam. The group organizes the Berlin Accounting Workshop biannually and various Berlin-based seminar series that regularly invite accounting scholars from Europe and around the world.

**TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency**
The TRR 266 Accounting for Transparency is a trans-regional Collaborative Research Center funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – DFG). The team of more than 80 dedicated researchers examines how accounting and taxation affect firm and regulatory transparency and how regulation and transparency impact our economy and society. They intend to help develop effective regulation for firm transparency and a transparent tax system.

The largest groups of researchers are based at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Paderborn University, and University of Mannheim with smaller groups joining from ESMT Berlin, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Goethe University Frankfurt, LMU Munich, and WHU.

[https://accounting-for-transparency.de/](https://accounting-for-transparency.de/)
EVENTS

Seminar
Finance Seminar Series
Ongoing
This joint effort between the CFRA, ESMT Berlin, and Humboldt Universität zu Berlin fosters an active exchange between researchers in diverse areas of accounting and finance. Seminars are typically held on Thursday afternoons and have already featured leading academic voices in the field from Boston University, Columbia University, Copenhagen Business School, Duke University, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Harvard Business School, HEC Paris, London Business School, Stockholm School of Economics, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universität Ulm, Universität Zürich, University of Manchester, and the WU Wien.

Symposium
Debt Governance: Policy, Structuring, and Stewardship Issues
November 13, 2019
The symposium will address the diverse perspectives, risks, and responsibilities of debt governance. Topics include: creditor benefits and expectations in good governance; rating agency considerations; investor obligations and practical experience in corporate stewardship; and the relevance of environmental, social, and corporate governance considerations for creditors. The symposium is being co-organized by the CFRA and the Center for Corporate Governance at the Leipzig Graduate School of Management in cooperation with the European Corporate Governance Institute.

Workshop
Second Berlin Accounting Workshop 2019
September 20–21, 2019
The goal of this workshop is to bring together scholars from around the world to discuss a selected number of academic papers in the areas of auditing, financial accounting, managerial accounting, and taxation, especially those presenting innovative ideas or methodologies.

Workshop
DRSC and IFRS Foundation Stakeholder Dinner
June 26, 2019
Jörg Rocholl moderated a panel discussion on the relevance of financial reporting in today’s global environment. Panel participants included Andreas Barckow, the president of the Accounting Standards Committee of Germany; Hans Hoogervorst, the chair of the International Accounting Standards Board; Ute Wolf, CFO of Evonik Industries; and Matthias Meitner, professor of finance and accounting at the International School of Management (ISM). The panel discussed shortcomings in today’s financial reporting environment, the significance of non-financial reporting vis-à-vis financial reporting, and where non-financial reporting will be in the next five to ten years. Furthermore, the participants discussed whether standard setters with a mandate in financial reporting should seek a bigger role in non-financial reporting.

Workshop
Strengthening Venture Capital
June 19, 2019
Venture capital investments in Germany are at a low level in international comparison with EUR 1.4 billion in 2018 and EUR 1.1 billion in 2017 (BVK). In 2017, venture capital investments account for just 0.035% of gross domestic product (GDP). In the US it is around 0.371% of GDP. Asia has caught up strongly in recent years and, with venture capital investments of EUR 62.8 billion in 2017, is now almost on a par with the US. China in particular is investing more government money in the form of venture capital. In this workshop, experts from BVK, KfW Capital, smp, Finleap, Lakestar, and dplus discussed the causes of low risk capital investments in Germany and Europe. Together, the participants defined key issues and discussed recommendations for further action to make progress in this area.

Conference
2019 JBFA Capital Markets Conference,
May 22–24, 2019
This invitation-only event showcased original research on questions with capital market implications that are also related to financial reporting, corporate disclosure, corporate finance, or corporate governance. Participants explored differences in economic systems, legal institutions, and regulatory frameworks as determinants of accounting, finance, and governance outcomes. This event was organized by the Journal of Business Finance and Accounting (JBFA), Peter F. Pope (London School of Economics and University of Bocconi), and Andrew W Stark (Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester) with hosting and support by the CFRA.
Workshop
Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting: First Experiences
April 29, 2019
Since the adoption of the CSR Directive Implementation Act in 2017, large companies of public interest with more than 500 employees have been required to make a non-financial declaration of information related to environmental, social, and employee matters; human rights; and the fight against corruption and bribery. In this German-language workshop, speakers took stock of how reporting has achieved the objectives of the regulation, including the legal and practical issues of implementation and the real-time experiences and feedback of companies. Academy and industry experts included Peter Kajüter, Universität Münster; Max Kolter, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin; Jan-Menko Grummer, EY; and Saskia Juretzek Allianz SE. Participants gave positive feedback on bridging legal and business perspectives as well as theoretical and real-life views. This event was co-sponsored by the CFRA and the Center for Sustainable Business at ESMT Berlin.

Workshop
Natural Language Processing in Financial Markets
November 16, 2018
While the analysis of qualitative information has a long tradition in computer science (natural language processing) and linguistics (corpus linguistics), these methods are only recently gaining traction in accounting and finance. Hedge funds, for example, have started to make increasing use of textual analysis for trading purposes, which makes it even more important for corporations to use language strategically. The workshop focused on 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 featured presentations from leading experts in the field – Beatriz García Osma (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid), Ryan LaFond (Algert Global LLC), Nicolas Pröllochs (University of Oxford), and Steven Young (Lancaster University) – and included a set of current working papers that presented rigorous academic work with real-life appeal. A panel discussion highlighting the practical relevance of the field rounded out the event.

Conference
Entrepreneurial Financial Management Conference II: The evolution of capital markets and entrepreneurship
June 14–15, 2018
Access to financial resources and sound financial management are vital for companies of all sizes. Yet startups face special challenges that deserve greater attention from researchers and practitioners. 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. Organized jointly by the CFRA and the Institute for Endowment Management and Entrepreneurial Finance at ESMT Berlin (IFEE), the second Entrepreneurial Financial Management conference (EFM II) was a unique transatlantic forum focused on the interaction of entrepreneurial finance and entrepreneurial accounting. In addition to two days of academic programming, the EFM II 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 in the lives of startups. Academic participants included Lee Fleming, UC Berkeley; Olav Sorenson, Yale University; Tim McQuade, Stanford Graduate School of Business; Michael Ewens, California Institute of Technology; and David T. Robinson, Duke University.
**Conference**  
Annual Accounting Conference 2018: Diversity within unity  
February 26–27, 2018  
Co-organized by the 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 conference covered important areas in financial accounting, managerial accounting, and accounting education. The scientific goal of the conference was to promote excellence in accounting research on a worldwide basis, with specific emphasis on bringing together leading experts from around the world with researchers that are based in Germany and other EU countries. The conference was a success, drawing 139 participants from 23 countries. Some 96 abstracts were submitted, of which 63 papers from 17 countries were accepted. Keynote presentations by distinguished speakers Katherine Schipper (Duke University and IAAER President) and Hilde Blomme (Accountancy Europe) were rounded out by three panels with high-level participants and moderators, a special IASB-hosted session, and as many as 20 parallel paper sessions.

**Seminar**  
Reporting of the Future: From compliance exercise to management approach  
May 16, 2017  
With the passing of Directive 2014/95/EU, large companies are required to disclose certain information on the way they operate and manage social and environmental challenges. These rules on disclosure of non-financial and diversity information – covering approximately 6,000 large companies and groups across the EU – have contributed to an information overload. Some view this flood of information as “damaging to the relevance and credibility of traditional reporting,” according to DIRK, the German Investor Relations Association. This one-day seminar on the challenges to external reporting covered several topics related to non-financial information, including but not limited to corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting and assurance, measurement of sustainability within corporations, consequences in capital markets, and various regulatory initiatives at both the national and international level. The program featured keynotes, panels, and several interactive discussions. The event was organized jointly by the CFRA, the Center for Sustainable Business at ESMT Berlin, and PwC.
Conference
Entrepreneurial Financial Management Conference
January 13–14, 2017
Startups enjoy many regulatory exemptions. Their success nevertheless requires that investors and entrepreneurs understand each other’s information needs. The conference on Entrepreneurial Financial Management (EFM) focused on entrepreneurial finance and entrepreneurial accounting via keynote addresses, paper presentations, and panel discussions that highlighted insights from both the practitioner community and academia. Academic participants included speakers from London Business School, INSEAD, Tilburg University, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Indiana University, Norwegian School of Economics, Duke University, Stockholm School of Economics, and HEC Paris. Several industry participants also took part in the discussion, including C-suite executives and leads from Bullhound, Cyclotron Road (Berkeley Lab), Gimv, Goldman Sachs, KPMG, METRO Accelerator, PwC, and WestTech Ventures.

Seminar
Entrepreneurial Accounting: Reporting for and by startup firms
June 29, 2016
Startups frequently interact with the “old economy” on finance and product markets. They thus require a common business language to speak with established companies. But how do they choose key performance indicators, use accounting information in valuation and contracting, and generally approach coordinating and controlling decisions? Gavin Cassar, professor of accounting and control at INSEAD Business School, presented his research on the differences and commonalities between entrepreneurs and hedge fund managers. The talk was followed by a moderated discussion with experts from Berlin’s startup scene: Peter Lennartz, EY Start-up Initiative; Mathias Ock- enfels, Point Nine Capital; Torben Schreiter, Signavio GmbH; and Christian Senitz, Rocket Internet.

Workshop
Berlin Accounting Workshop
June 23–24, 2016
The first Berlin Accounting Workshop brought together scholars from around the world to discuss a select number of papers in the areas of auditing, financial accounting, managerial accounting, and taxation. Presentations were given by Ole-Kristian Hope, University of Toronto; Thomas Bourveau, HKUST; Patricia Naranjo, Rice University; Dan Weiss, Tel Aviv University; Peter Demerjian, University of Washington; and Christopher Koch, University of Mainz. The workshop was a joint initiative of ESMT Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Universität Potsdam.

Workshop
How can capital markets be strengthened in Germany?
December 16, 2015
The capital markets in Germany are less developed than in comparable industrialized countries. This insight applies to bond markets and in particular to equity markets. It also raises important questions, for example, about long-term asset accumulation, the financing of investments especially in new technologies, and the overall economic growth potential. For the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy, Prof. Thorsten Beck, Prof. Christoph Kaserer, and Prof. Marc Steffen Rapp investigated the current state of development of German capital markets and made concrete recommendations for their further development. The findings of their report – “Capital Market Financing in the German Financial System: Condition and Development Perspectives” – were discussed by high-ranking representatives from ministries, economy, and science.
PUBLICATIONS, WORKING PAPERS, WORK IN PROGRESS

Analysts’ earnings adjustments and changes in accounting standards
Ecker, F., T. Hjelström, P. Olsson, and H. Setterberg

Capital contributions and predictive ability of early-stage financial statements in private firms
Johannesson, E., K. Kisseleva, and P. Olsson

Do pension obligations keep you awake at night?

Earnings quality and corporate governance
Athanasakou, V., and P. Olsson

Exploring the accrual landscape
Gassen, J.

Financial education in the crowdinvesting market: preliminary evidence from a randomized field experiment
Gassen, J., and N. Hemaidan

Financial transparency of private firms: Evidence from a randomized field experiment
Gassen, J., and M. Muhn

How does accounting at a startup work?
Kisseleva, K. 2016. ESMT Knowledge.

Illiquidity and the measurement of stock price synchronicity

Managerial discretion and firm fundamentals

Non-random sampling and association tests on realized returns and risk proxies
Ecker, F., J. Francis, P. Olsson, and K. Schipper

Payoffs to aggressiveness
Ecker, F., J. Francis, P. Olsson, and K. Schipper

Predictability of analyst earnings forecast errors and institutional and individual investors’ reactions to earnings news
Bhattacharya, N., P. Olsson, and H. Park

Reporting of the future: From compliance exercise to management approach

Temporary migration within multinational corporations: Evidence from the accounting industry
Brüggemann, U., J. Gassen, and S. Kröchert

The effect of IFRS for SMEs on the financial reporting environment of private firms: An exploratory interview study

The returns to early-stage investment
Kisseleva, K., A. Mjos, and D. T. Robinson

Transparency and trust – The new auditor reporting model

The usefulness of financial accounting information: Evidence from the field
Cascino, S., M. Clatworthy, J. Gassen, S. Imam, and B. G. Osma

What information do startups provide to their venture capital investors?

Who funds start-ups? Evidence from tax records in Norway
Bernstein, S., H. Hvide, and K. Kisseleva
KEY PRESENTATIONS

Advanced financial statement analysis
Olsson, P. August 2019 and August 2016: PhD course, KATAJA, the Finnish doctoral program in business studies, Oulu, Finland

Earnings quality and corporate governance

Payoffs to aggressiveness
Olsson, P. August 2018: Nordic Initiative for Corporate Economics (NICE) Conference, Stockholm, Sweden

Financial transparency of private firms: Evidence from a randomized field experiment
Gassen, J. September 2018: COMPIE Conference, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Customer-oriented digitalization of the accounting system
Gassen, J. July 2018: Keynote, KPMG Trend Summit, München, Germany

Exploring the accrual landscape: About the usefulness of open science for empirical archival research
Gassen, J. September 2018: Seminar, Tilburg University, Tilburg, Netherlands; March 2018: Seminar, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

How to explore your data
Gassen, J. June 2018: Presentation, Emerging Accounting Scholars Research Workshop, Bucharest, Romania

Increase reproducibility of research by interactive robustness sections
Gassen, J. June 2018: Presentation, 13th International Conference Accounting and Management Information Systems (AMIS), Bucharest, Romania
Managerial accounting discretion and firm fundamentals
Olsson, P. June 2018: Accounting research workshop, Journal of Accounting, Auditing, and Finance Conference, Seogwipo City, JeJu Island, Korea; June 2016: Accounting research workshop, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany; June 2016: Accounting research workshop, University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Research design issues – the importance of sample selection, biases, and null hypotheses
Olsson, P. June 2018: Presentation, Bolzano-Padova Accounting Summer Camp, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy

Replication in accounting research
Gassen, J. June 2018: Presentation, IAAER ACCA Workshop, Bucharest, Romania

About the usefulness of open science for empirical archival research
Gassen, J. May 2018: Presentation, EAA Doctoral Colloquium, Milan, Italy

Reproducible exploratory data analysis: A step towards open science in empirical accounting research
Gassen, J. May 2018: Plenary Session, EAA Doctoral Colloquium, Varese, Italy

The returns to early-stage investment

Who benefits from strategy disclosure? Evidence from Italian market microstructure data
Gassen, J. May 2018: Presentation, EAA Conference, Milan, Italy

Analysts’ earnings adjustments and changes in accounting standards
Olsson, P. October 2017: Accounting and finance seminar, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK; October 2017: University of Exeter, England, UK; March 2016: Accounting and finance seminar, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Vienna, Austria

Post-factual corporate management – Thoughts on the further development of European corporate governance
Gassen, J. October 2017: Keynote, IfU Anniversary Symposium, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Bochum, Germany

Financial information dynamics in an entrepreneurial setting
Kisseleva-Scherenberger, K. July 2017: Presentation, PhD XIII International Accounting Symposium, Ramón Areces Foundation, Madrid, Spain

The Null Hypothesis – the importance of sample issues
Olsson, P. August 2016: Keynote, National Doctoral Tutorial, Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland

Current trends in accounting research
Olsson, P. June 2016: Presentation, XII International Accounting Research Symposium, Fundación Ramón Areces, Madrid, Spain

Earnings quality and managerial discretion
Olsson, P. June 2016: Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, München, Germany

Venturing with(out) accounting – Towards an expertise-based theory of entrepreneurial accounting.
Kisseleva-Scherenberger, K. June 2016: Presentation, PhD Day, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

IFRS: Past, present, and future
Olsson, P. April 2016: Accounting and finance seminar for financial analysts, Institute for Financial Research, Stockholm, Sweden
CONFERENCES, BY INVITATION

2020 IASB Research Forum in conjunction with Accounting and Business Research, serving as guest editor, Oxford, UK
Olsson, P. November 2020

The American Finance Association 2020 Annual Meeting, San Diego, USA

Accounting and Business Research and China Journal of Accounting Research Joint Conference, Guangzhou, China
Olsson, P. November 2019.

Informing the IASB Standard Setting Process (IASB and IAAER), London, UK
Olsson, P. October 2019.

46th European Finance Association Annual Meeting, Carcavelos (Lisbon), Portugal

ACCA Early Career Workshop, participation as advisor, Bucharest, Romania
Olsson, P. June 2019.

AMIS IAAER 2019 Joint Conference, Bucharest, Romania
Olsson, P. June 2019.

Tagung des Ausschusses Unternehmensrechnung im Verein für Socialpolitik, Universität Basel, Switzerland

The state of corporate disclosure under the EU NFRD, Brussels, Belgium
Olsson, P. February 2019.

AAA-IAS IAAER Joint Conference, participation as Vice President of Research, Miami, USA
Olsson, P. January 2019.

Mobilising savings surplus across eurozone countries, Berlin, Germany
Olsson, P. December 2018.

Interuniversitäres Forschungskolloquium, Universität Bayreuth, Germany

EFRAG academic panel meeting, Brussels, Belgium

Nordic Initiative for Corporate Economics (NICE) Conference, participation as member of the steering committee, Stockholm, Sweden
Olsson, P. August 2018.

ISA – Übernahme durch das IDW, Nürnberg, Germany
München, Germany
Gewehr, M. July 2018.

Second Annual Scandinavian Accounting Research Conference, Oslo, Norway
Olsson, P. April 2018.

Bundeswettbewerb der Finanzen, participation as member of the jury, Berlin, Germany
Olsson, P. June 2018.
Olsson, P. June 2017.
Olsson, P. June 2016.
“How to explore your data,” Emerging Accounting Scholars Research Workshop, Bucharest, Romania Gassen, J. June 2018.

13th International Conference Accounting and Management Information Systems (AMIS), Bucharest, Romania Gassen, J. June 2018.


Journal of Business Finance and Accounting Conference, participation as member of the editorial board, Dunboyne Castle, Ireland Olsson, P. May 2018.

KPMG Trend Summit, München, Germany Gassen, J. May 2018.

VHB-Tagung, Magdeburg, Germany Gassen, J. May 2018.

34th Doctoral Colloquium of the European Accounting Association, Varese, Italy Gassen, J. May 2018.

Tagung des Ausschusses Unternehmensrechnung im Verein für Socialpolitik, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Austria Gassen, J. and Olsson, P. April 2018.

Grundlagen und Organisation der Aufsichtsratsarbeit, Akademie für Beiräte und Aufsichtsräte, München, Germany Gewehr, M. April 2018.

Berichterstattung des Abschlussprüfers - Herausforderungen für die mittelständische Praxis, IDW Akademie, Düsseldorf, Germany Gewehr, M. December 2017.


Der neue Bestätigungsvermerk (IDW PS 400er - Reihe), 59. IDW Arbeitstagung Baden-Baden, Germany Gewehr, M. November 2017.


Review of Accounting Studies (RAST) Conference, participation as member of the editorial board, Barcelona, Spain Olsson, P. October 2017.

Shaping the future of corporate reporting, Brussels, Belgium Olsson, P. September 2017.
2017 Journal of Business Finance and Accounting (JBFA) Capital Markets Conference, participation as editorial board member, Hong Kong, China

Ausschuss Unternehmensrechnung im Verein für Socialpolitik, cooptation as new member, Konstanz, Germany

Winter Accounting Camp at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, Charlottesville, USA
Olsson, P. February 2017.

Review of Accounting Studies (RAST) Conference, participation as member of the editorial board, Philadelphia, USA
Olsson, P. September 2016

Accounting IS Big Data Conference, American Accounting Association, San Francisco, USA
Kisseleva, K. July 2016.

Accounting Summer School with Qi Chen (Duke University), Bern, Switzerland
Kisseleva, K. July 2016.

XIII International Accounting Symposium, Madrid, Spain
Olsson, P. July 2016.

31. Münsterisches Tagesgespräch: Restrukturierung, Sanierung und Insolvenz – Herausforderungen in der Unternehmenskrise, Münster, Germany
Gewehr, M. June 2016.

ARCA (Amsterdam Research Center in Accounting) Workshop Research Seminar Series, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

BMF im Dialog mit Peter Thiel: Wie Innovation unsere Zukunft rettet, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

DARC (Dutch Accounting Research Conference), Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

Noah Berlin 2016 Conference, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

Seedcamp x Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

Startup Europe Summit, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

Startup Grind Europe, London, UK
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

VC networking reception by Dentons, GP Bullhound and Technology Crossover Ventures, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. June 2016.

10. Berliner Bilanz Forum: Die Umsetzung der CSR – Richtlinien: Konsequenzen, Herausforderungen und Perspektiven für die Lageberichterstattung, Berlin, Germany
Gewehr, M. May 2016.

Financial accounting seminar with Anne Beyer (Stanford University), Graz, Austria
Kisseleva, K. May 2016.

Corporate reporting: Enhancing transparency and value, from the non-financial information directive to integrated reporting. Joint event of FEE and IIRC. Brussels, Belgium
Olsson, P. April 2016.

Schmalenbach – Tagung 2016: Aktuelle Kapitalmarktkommunikation und neue Anforderungen an das Zusammenspiel von Aufsichtsrat, Vorstand und Wirtschaftsprüfer, Köln, Germany

Startup Camp Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. April 2016.

Review of Accounting Studies (RAST) Conference, participation as member of the editorial board, London, UK
Olsson, P. October 2015

Introduction to Venture Capital @ SAP, Berlin, Germany

Startups’ Accounting and Finance Meeting @ Factory, Berlin, Germany
Kisseleva, K. February 2016.
TEACHING

ESMT Berlin offers a full-time MBA, an executive MBA, and a master’s in management to an internationally diverse student body, as well as open enrollment and customized executive education programs for transitioning managers, senior executives, and practice groups.

CFRA Director and Professor of Accounting Per Olsson introduces students to the concepts and methods of financial reporting and auditing, and to real-world examples of how financial information affects decision making for diverse stakeholders – creditors, investors, executives, et cetera.

As the accounting and finance landscape changes rapidly, it is imperative that education changes with it. The CFRA helps develop forward-thinking course material, as well as new courses, among them courses in valuation, entrepreneurial finance, and more.

ACADEMIC COURSES

The CFRA offers courses in these program areas each semester:

Financial accounting and performance measurement (MBA program)

Financial accounting and decision making (MIM program)

These courses give students a fundamental understanding of the external financial reporting process, focusing on the understanding of financial reports and the financial ramifications of managerial choices and actions. These courses include lectures, in-class exercises, group work on case studies, and the discussion of case solutions. Computer-based solutions of in-class exercises give students the opportunity to set up and learn from their own financial spreadsheet calculations. Importantly, course material is continuously developed to include new topics in digitalization, sustainability, financial management in new ventures, et cetera.

Valuation (MIM program and MBA program)

This course focuses on the valuation of companies (equity securities and entire firms). The tools and techniques include hands-on preparation of full financial models, estimation and forecasting of free cash flows and other valuation attributes, application of valuation models (such as free cash flow, residual income and EVA), and understanding market-multiples valuation.

The course includes modules on CSR related issues that are important for financial reporting and valuation, as well as modules on start-up valuation and other issues facing entrepreneurial firms.

The CFRA also creates special programming within ESMT educational networks and initiatives:

Startup Financing, Valuation, and Venture Capital Global Network for Advanced Management

MBA Global Network Week at ESMT Berlin, October 14-18, 2019

MIM Global Network Week at ESMT Berlin, June 11–15, 2019

MIM Global Network Week at ESMT Berlin, June 11–15, 2018

Global Network Weeks give students and faculty from participating global business schools the opportunity to pursue intensive study at another network school. The CFRA course aimed to provide participating master’s in management (MIM) students with little or no finance background with fundamental knowledge of valuation techniques and the capital-raising process in startup companies. At the end of the course, students knew more about different forms of entrepreneurial finance and were able to evaluate financing alternatives for new ventures, understand venture capital investments, and value startup firms using various financial models and valuation approaches.
HONORS AND AWARDS

Per Olsson
Mario Rese Best Teacher Award, Full-time MIM Program 2017 and 2018, ESMT Berlin

President’s Honor Roll for Teaching Excellence, Full-time MIM Program 2017 and 2018, ESMT Berlin

Mario Rese Best Teacher Award, Full-time MBA Program 2016 and 2018, ESMT Berlin

President’s Honor Roll for Teaching Excellence, Full-time MBA Program 2017 ESMT Berlin

Joachim Gassen
German Academic Association for Business Research (VHB) award for the best textbook in business economics: “Internationale Rechnungslegung,” (International Accounting) 10th edition, with Bernhard Pellens, Rolf Uwe Fülbier, and Thorsten Sellhorn

PROMOTING YOUNG TALENT

Host of the Federal Finance Competition (Bundeswettbewerb Finanzen)
June 21–23, 2018
June 1–3, 2017
June 17–18, 2016
FUTURE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The CFRA aims to bring together research and practice. Taking neither a pure academic approach nor a pure technical one, the CFRA expertly makes both relevant to the ongoing work of accountants in business or the public sector.

In the next period, the CFRA will continue to grow its strong international academic network as its USP. Thus, the research undertaken by the Center and the cooperation of researchers from around the globe will positively contribute to the interaction of financial accounting and decision making at all levels. The Center will continue to prioritize cross-cutting research areas as well as cooperation with institutions working in similar fields for mutual benefit.

Entrepreneurial accounting and financial management activities will stand or fall with the availability of sufficient data. The CFRA is aware that confidentiality issues vis-à-vis management, co-owners, and third parties such as lenders might create hurdles that affect program development and results, and that access to relevant (sensitive, corporate data) affects research quality.

Research, document, and encourage reporting and stability in the financial sector

Help practitioners understand the roles and expectations of stakeholder groups and their related reporting requirements so that companies create and apply appropriate financial reporting and auditing instruments.

Conduct research with partner-client firms to help them create their own financial data collection and analysis strategies that improve and manage their financial performance and reporting efforts.

Strengthen CFRA research networks and the German academic environment for financial reporting and auditing research via large scale, multi-party research business initiatives.

Continue research underway with Paderborn University that reinvestigates how financial reporting transparency can be measured in the equity market. This includes the construction of an extensive dataset describing the financial reporting behavior of publicly listed firms and the identification of financial reporting components that are theoretically and empirically connected to equity capital market outcomes. Based on these insights, the research will further explore whether refined measures of financial reporting transparency can help to improve company valuation.
Build on CFRA contributions to the growing body of research on entrepreneurial financial management

Collect data on the kind of financial information that founders voluntarily provide to their investors as part of contractual and regulatory requirements and how this is and should be communicated for reliable evaluation of the company’s economic potential.

Contribute to analysis of (risk-adjusted) returns from investing in early-stage companies by identifying the true distribution of returns (without survival bias) and risk-return trade-off differences.

Continue collaboration with Columbia University researchers on the development of a research concept on how financial statements predict the future performance and value of early-stage companies.

Grow CFRA influence among Germany’s leading financial groups and institutions to shape financial policy and regulatory picture

Connect with trade association leaders, academics, as well as with senior federal and regional government officials in key domains: accounting, corporate governance, economic policy, financial stability, and the finance/financial sector.

Advise regulators to establish open and low-friction access to financial and non-financial disclosures.

Disseminate CFRA research, perspectives, and personnel throughout industry conferences and forums hosted by third parties.

Organize and co-organize high-profile, people-driven events that bring together academic and industry leaders and is value-added to the financial reporting and auditing field.

Move insights of quality academic financial research beyond the walls of academia and Germany’s borders

Share investigations with senior officials from international financial bodies, such as the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs at the European Commission, the OECD, the Financial Stability Board, and the fiscal attachés and special auditors of EU Member States.

Use established ESMT media connections and channels to place CFRA research and expert voices in popular financial market publications, such as the Financial Times, Forbes, and Handelsblatt Global.

Research and document impact of digitalization on financial reporting and auditing, especially regarding cost efficiencies and industry disruption aspects

Broaden understanding of innovative information distribution channels and tools and their effects on user demand for and company supply of financial information, Research information processing by distinct groups, such retail and institutional investors and website users (as revealed, for example, by access to investor relation data on web pages).

Understand how companies are optimizing their disclosures and reports with machine learning algorithms and how this affects the attractiveness of corporate disclosures for the human reader.

Create a case study on new digital Audit Quality Indicator (AQI) tools for assessing audit quality to identify how new AQIs (based on internal and external data) can be constructed and used to benchmark external client/market outcomes.

Exchange scientific literature on information processing and data visualization with client supervisory board members towards the development of prototypical information tools (dashboards) and evaluation by researchers in the field.
CONTACT

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