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**UNIVERSITY OF  
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INNOVATION CENTRE**

## **ESG Evolution: Navigating Future Challenges and Opportunities**

### **Sustainable Financial Innovation Centre (SFIC) Annual Conference**

**Special Issue Conference Sponsored by**

**The University of Birmingham; European Financial Management Association; UAE-UK Business Council; and Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA).**

**Conference Programme - November 29<sup>th</sup> – December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**



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



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Day 1: Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	
<b>Reception</b>	<b>TBC</b>
Day 2: Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	
<b>Registration</b>	<b>8:00-8:30</b>
Main Auditorium	
<b>Introduction: Douglas Cumming, Sofia Johan and Hisham Farag</b>	<b>9:00-9:10</b>
<b>Welcome Address: Prof. Yusra Mouzughi</b>	<b>9:10-9:20</b>
Provost, University of Birmingham Dubai	
<b>Opening Address: Main Auditorium</b>	<b>9:20 - 9:30</b>
<b>The Rt Hon. The Lord Udny-Lister, UK Chair, UAE-UK Business Council</b>	
<b>Private Wealth and Sustainable and Impact Investment- Panel discussion</b>	<b>9:30 - 10:15</b>
<b>Bradley Jones</b> , Executive Director, UAE-UK Business Council <b>Silvina Bruggia</b> , Director, Sustainable Finance - Emerging Markets, Data & Analytics, LSEG <b>Heba Al Emara</b> , Managing Director, Vistra <b>First Abu Dhabi Bank -FAB - TBC</b> <b>Hisham Farag</b> , SFiC, Director	
<b>ESG Disclosure Requirement: shaping Corporate Transparency.</b>	<b>10:15 -10:45</b>
<b>Mohammad Junaid Essa</b>	
Head of Corporate Governance, Securities and Commodities Authority, UAE	
Closing the opening session	<b>10:45-10:55</b>
Conference Photo	<b>10:55-11:00</b>
Refreshment Break	<b>11:00-11:30</b>
<b>Parallel Sessions</b>	<b>11:30-13:00</b>
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0208 - Chair: Arman Eshraghi</b>	<b>11:30-13:00</b>
<b>Investor Gambles and Political Signals</b>	<b>11.30-12.00</b>
Arman Eshraghi, Cardiff University, UK Discussant: Linqun Chen, University of Exeter	
<b>Benchmarking with Sustainability Mandates</b>	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
Linqun Chen, University of Exeter Discussant: Sofia Brito Ramos, ESSEC Business School	
<b>In labels we trust? The influence of sustainability labels on mutual fund flows</b>	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
Sofia Brito Ramos, ESSEC Business School, France Discussant: Arman Eshraghi, Cardiff University, UK	

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<b>Parallel Session : Room 0209 - Chair: Viet Dang</b>	<b>11:30-13:00</b>
<b>Extreme weather events and the timeliness of payment in supply chains: Evidence from Hurricane Katrina</b>	<b>11.30-12.00</b>
Viet Dang, University of Manchester, UK	
Discussant: Suman Neupane, University of Queensland, Australia	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
<b>Green Bonds: Unveiling Peer Influence</b>	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
Sara Al Rasheed, University of Birmingham, UK	
Discussant: Viet Dang, University of Manchester, UK	
<b>Director Job Security and Corporate Environmental Policies</b>	<b>11:30-13:00</b>
Suman Neupane, University of Queensland, Australia	
Discussant: Sara Al Rasheed, University of Birmingham, UK	
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<b>Parallel Session : Room 0409 - Chair: Samir Saadi</b>	<b>11:30-13:00</b>
<b>Data Breach Disclosure Laws and Cost of Debt</b>	<b>11.30-12.00</b>
Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France	
Discussant: Qingjie Du, University of Birmingham, UK	
<b>Strong vs. Stable: The Impact of ESG Ratings Momentum and their Volatility on the Cost of Equity Capital</b>	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
Monia Magnani, Bocconi University	
Discussant: Samir Saadi, Paris School of Business, France	
<b>It pays to disclose: CSR disclosure and firm stock volatility</b>	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
Qingjie Du, University of Birmingham	
Discussant: Monia Magnani, Bocconi University	
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<b>Lunch</b>	<b>13:00-14:00</b>
<b>Keynote Speech: Main Auditorium</b>	<b>14:00-15:00</b>
 <b>Lemma W. Senbet:</b> Dean's Chaired Professor at the University of Maryland, US	
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<b>Parallel Sessions</b>	<b>15:00-16:30</b>
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0208 - Chair: Di Luo</b>	
<b>Environmental Risk Management at a Crossroads: Choices between Cross-Border Acquisitions and Alliances</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>
Di Luo, University of Dundee, UK Discussant: Imen Derouiche, University of Luxembourg	
<b>Are climate risk disclosures in earnings conference calls relevant to analysts?</b>	<b>15:30-16:00</b>
Walid Ben-Amar, University of Ottawa, Canada Discussant: Di Luo, University of Dundee, UK	
<b>Sustainability-Forward-Looking Disclosure and Stock Liquidity: A European Investigation</b>	<b>16:00-16:30</b>
Imen Derouiche, University of Luxembourg Discussant: Walid Ben-Amar, University of Ottawa, Canada	
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0209 - Chair: Onur Tosun</b>	<b>15:00-16:30</b>
<b>CEO Values and Corporate ESG Performance</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>
Onur Tosun, Cardiff University Discussant: Rui Xue, La Trobe University	
<b>The Green Side of Debt Heterogeneity: Evidence from Facility-Level Toxic Releases</b>	<b>15:30-16:00</b>
Waleed Ihsan, American University of Sharjah Discussant: Onur Tosun, Cardiff University	
<b>To Wheel and Deal: Undesired Corporate Sustainability Practices under Imperfect ESG Rating Scheme</b>	<b>16:00-16:30</b>
Rui Xue, La Trobe University, Australia Discussant: Waleed Ihsan, American University of Sharjah, UAE	
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0409 - Chair: Andrew Lepone</b>	<b>15:00-16:30</b>
<b>The Equity Market Response to the National Government's Carbon Neutral Initiatives</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>
Andrew Lepone, Macquarie University Discussant: Nebojsa Dimic, University of Vaasa, Finland	
<b>Sustainable Finance and Uncertainty: Evidence from Emerging Markets</b>	<b>15:30-16:00</b>
Nebojsa Dimic, University of Vaasa, Finland Discussant: Maria Francisca Cruz, Lancaster University, UK	
<b>From Climate to Economy: Understanding Climate Risks in the U.S. Market</b>	<b>16:00-16:30</b>
Maria Francisca Cruz, Lancaster University, UK Discussant: Andrew Lepone, Macquarie University	
<b>End of Parallel Sessions, Day one</b>	
<b>Gala Dinner- <a href="#"><u>Al Hadheerah Restaurant, Bab Al Shams</u></a></b>	<b>19:00-23:00</b>



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Day 2: Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2024

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<b>Registration:</b>	<b>8.30-9.00</b>
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<b>Parallel Session Room 0208 - Chair: Alper Kara</b>	
<b>ESG Relevance and firm performance: New insights</b>	<b>9:00-9:30</b>
Alper Kara, Brunel University London, UK	
Discussant: Chen Zhang, Concordia University, Canada	
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<b>The Spillover of Corporate ES on Bank Loan Cost</b>	<b>9:30-10:00</b>
Siti Farida, University of Birmingham, UK	
Discussant: Alper Kara, Brunel University London, UK	
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<b>From Boardroom to Public Sphere: How CEO Activism Affects Financial Analyst Evaluations</b>	<b>10:00-10:30</b>
Chen Zhang, Concordia University, Canada	
Discussant: Siti Farida, University of Birmingham, UK	
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<b>Parallel Session Room 0209 - Chair: Nader Atawnah</b>	<b>9.00-10.30</b>
<b>Do Companies' Green Credentials Enhance Informal Financing? Global Evidence from Trade Credit Provisions</b>	<b>9:00-9:30</b>
Nader Atawnah, United Arab Emirates University, UAE	
Discussant: Yves Rannou, Clermont Business School, France	
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<b>How can Socially Responsible Investment Labels be more Relevant? An Analysis of a Multi-Grade Labelling Scheme for Sustainable Mutual Funds</b>	<b>9:30-10:00</b>
Yves Rannou, Clermont Business School, France	
Discussant: Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham Ningbo, China	
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<b>The Effects of ESG Activities on Stock Price Crash Risk: Evidence from the U.S- China Trade War</b>	<b>10:00-10:30</b>
Xiuping Hua, University of Nottingham Ningbo, China	
Discussant: Nader Atawnah, United Arab Emirates University, UAE	
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<b>Parallel Session Room 0409 - Chair: Yomna Abdulla</b>	
<b>Evolution of ESG scores: Effect of GCC governments' initiative</b>	<b>09.00-09.30</b>
Yomna Abdulla, University of Bahrain	
Discussant: Vu Thuy Linh (Jenny) ESADE Business School, Spain	
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<b>The marriage of fintech and ESG in investment bank. Did Covid matchmake them?</b>	<b>9:30-10:00</b>
Vu Thuy Linh (Jenny)ESADE Business School	
Discussant: Biju Ajithakumari Vijayappan Nair, University of Kerala, India	
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<b>Does the ESG disclosure lower commercial banks' non-performing loans? Evidence from an emerging economy</b>	<b>10:00-10:30</b>
Biju Ajithakumari Vijayappan Nair, University of Kerala, India	
Discussant: Yomna Abdulla, University of Bahrain	
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<b>Refreshment Break</b>	<b>10:30-11:00</b>
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<b>Meet the Editors: Main Auditorium</b>	<b>11:00-12:00</b>
Douglas Cumming; Omrane Guedhami; Sofia Johan; Arman Eshraghi; and Hisham Farag	

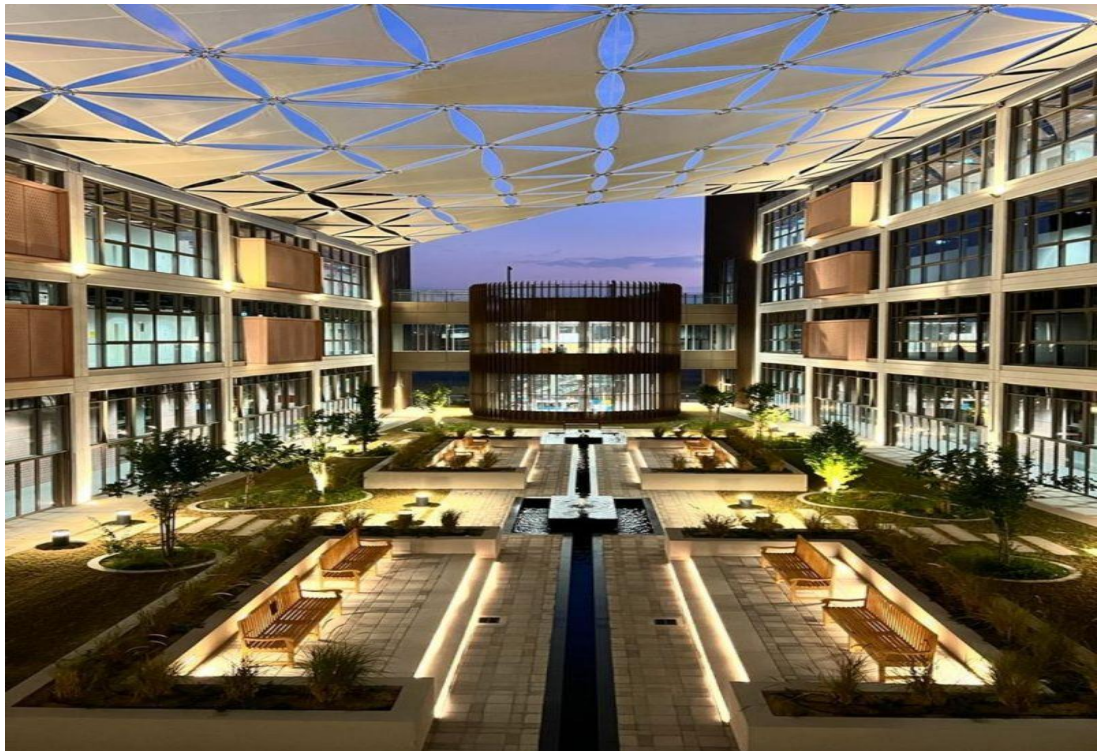
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<b>Parallel Session: Room 0208 - Chair: Yaopeng Wang</b>	<b>12:00-13:30</b>
<b>Greenwashing and Investment Inefficiency: Evidence from Chinese Market</b> Yaopeng Wang, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, China Discussant: Yuhao Yang, Macquarie University, Australia	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
<b>Keep the Mask On: Strategic Silence and Managerial Opportunism</b> Yuhao Yang, Macquarie University, Australia Discussant: Najaf Khakan, LIWA college, UAE	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
<b>The moderating role of Fintech firms in carbon emissions and corporate risk-taking</b> Najaf Khakan, LIWA college, UAE Discussant: Yaopeng Wang, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology, China	<b>13:00-13:30</b>
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0209 - Chair: Charilaos Mertzanis</b>	<b>12:00-13:30</b>
<b>Epidemiological resilience, ESG disclosure and firms' financing constraints</b> Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University Discussant: Ali Hassan Saleem	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
<b>Exploring the Drivers of Fintech Investment Disclosure in Banks: Insights from the Dynamic Landscape of the GCC Region as a Testing Ground</b> Zakaria Boulanouar, United Arab Emirates University, UAE Discussant: Charilaos Mertzanis, Abu Dhabi University	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
<b>Geopolitical Risk Consideration and Sustainability Reporting</b> Ali Hassan Saleem, University of Nottingham, UK Discussant: Zakaria Boulanouar	<b>13:00-13:30</b>
<b>Parallel Session: Room 0409 - Chair: Asma Houcine</b>	<b>12:00-13:30</b>
<b>The impact of CEO compensation on earnings management with corporate social responsibility as mediating variable</b> Asma Houcine, Excelia Business School, France Discussant: Osama Fayez Atayah, Canadian University Dubai. UAE	<b>12:00-12:30</b>
<b>Enhancing Cost of Capital Efficiency in Fintech Firms through High-Quality ESG Disclosures</b> Osama Fayez Atayah, Canadian University Dubai. UAE Discussant: Mohamed Taieb Kchaou, University of Sfax, Tunisia	<b>12:30-13:00</b>
<b>Impact of female participation in top executives and corporate governance on corporate social responsibility reporting</b> Mohamed Taieb Kchaou, University of Sfax, Tunisia Discussant: Asma Houcine, Excelia Business School, France	<b>13:00-13:30</b>
Lunch	<b>13:30-13:45</b>
<b>Closing remarks and next steps</b>	<b>14:00-14:30</b>



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