

EDITORIAL: The recent trends in corporate governance research

Dear readers!

I am honoured to introduce the first issue of 2021 (Volume 5) of the journal *Corporate Governance and Sustainability Review*.

Corporate governance has always inspired and stimulated the interest of researchers. One possible explanation can be reconducted to the fact that the related rules, principles, and mechanisms are innate in all entities, organisations, institutions in which our lives are placed. In this line, there is a strong relationship between the researcher and the aim of research which strengthens and maintains increasing the interest in on-topic researches. In simple terms, corporate governance is a part of that environment which we take apart in. Thus, following the changes of the related environment and the involved actors (individuals, organisations, companies, etc.), it constantly changes across time and market. This reason makes corporate governance always an actual research field.

The eight papers included in this issue offer the opportunity to capture the latest trends in on-topic researches. Since I see some common features among the papers, I retain usefully to present them by proposing a unitary view of all contributions.

The thread of this issue concerns the centrality of the emerging marketing and economies in developing new knowledge and understanding in corporate governance studies.

Adherently to this approach, *Anurag Agnihotri* and *Shagun Arora* offer a significant contribution to discuss the main indicators of effective corporate governance in the health care sector in India. Since such sector is regulated by the State, it is interesting and innovative approach used by the authors to aim the objective by collecting the viewpoint of the stakeholders, including patients, doctors, and the management. Two of the papers focus on the banking setting. In particular, based on the poor bank performance in last years in Nigerian banks, *Victor Onuorah Dike* and *Joseph Kwadwo Tuffour* offer some insights to put into play and discussing the role of various regulatory actions and the effectiveness of the practices of corporate governance until now. By developing a qualitative approach, the authors explore how the practices of corporate governance affect bank performance in the investigated context. Further, *Mythili Kolluru* explores the association between rewards and employee performance. Using a mix of quantitative tools (factor analysis, structural equation modelling, and multivariate analysis of variance), this study provides critical insights into how companies can adopt effective reward management to sustain and compete in the dynamic business landscape and modulate performance management in Omani banks.

The peculiar features of emerging markets and economies also are key to understand how corporate governance and sustainability work together in such contexts. For instance, *Hugh Grove*, *Maclyn Clouse*, and *Tracy Xu* highlight the role of boards of directors' practices and performance in attracting new finance towards sustainable, long-term value creation. This issue is considered as an opportunity to strengthen corporate performance which enhances the gatekeeper role of boards of directors in helping both shareholders and stakeholders. This paper provides a contribution to the previous literature by Al-Tamimi and Charif (2013), Provasi and Riva (2013), Eklund, Palmberg, and Wiberg (2009), Guerra, Fischmann, and Machado Filho (2008), Koehn and Ueng (2007), Kyereboah-Coleman and Biekpe (2006), Kostyuk (2003).

Yet focused on the relationship between corporate governance and sustainability, but considering reporting prospective, *Philip R. Walsh*, *Ranjita Singh*, and *Matthew Malinsky* emphasise the role of corporate sustainability reporting by Canadian companies operating in emerging countries. The authors explore this issue in light of a vaster theoretical framework concerning the strategic legitimacy addressed by Dell'Atti, Manzanegue, and Hundal (2020), Sylos Labini, Kostyuk, and Govorun (2020), Esposito De Falco, Alvino, and Kostyuk (2019).

Following the growing interest in sustainability, *Arash Mashhady* explores some features of sustainable human resource management (HRM). In particular, the study investigates this issue in the light of the triple-bottom-line (TBL).

Finally, *Poojaa Gokarna* and *Bala Krishnamoorthy* investigate how the understanding of corporate social responsibility (CSR) can be declined in the Indian context. By adopting a qualitative approach, authors explore CSR by considering several dimensions (economic, environment, ethical, consideration, employee, consumerism, community development, legal, stakeholder expectation, and philanthropy). This paper is an excellent contribution to the previous research by Naz (2018), Cranmer (2017), Hafez (2016), Crifo and Reberieux (2016).

Finally, given the significant changes in the global environment, either political or economic leads, trade patterns result significantly affected by the latest changes. Based on this argument, *Areej Aftab Siddiqui* and *Parul Singh* offer insights into the impact of the US-China trade war on exports of India to the US.

The proposed brief thread is supposed to offer a unified lecture key among the contributors. However, it is already intuitive that the investigated aims significantly differ among them and also develop different methodologies of analysis (both qualitative and quantitative ones).

About future research, I expect that corporate governance studies will continue to evolve because of the evolving of the actors, the organisations, and, in more general terms, the environment which we live in. Research should contribute to provide new knowledge in order to offer a better understanding of investigated issues and, when possible, to put simplicity into the complexity of existing realities (even more interacted).

The last argument concerns the new challenges based on the existing COVID-19 epidemic. In such a critical moment, research must have the role. Further studies should wear a higher practical approach as contributes to the fundamental literature by Nerantzidis, Filios, and Lazarides (2012), Boubaker (2007), Turnbull (2005), Melis (2003).

The knowledge should be offered in support of difficult realities. Surely, corporate governance approaches may contribute to propose some solutions in terms of adequate and the best tenure of rules, principles, and mechanisms in such epidemic scenario in the waiting of a new era of welfare and prosperity.

Enjoy the reading!

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