EDITORIAL: A multidisciplinary approach to corporate governance research

Dear readers!

We are pleased to present the recent issue of the journal *Corporate Ownership and Control*. The recent issue of the journal *Corporate Ownership and Control* is devoted to the issues of corporate governance, board of directors, CEO practices, mergers and acquisitions, firm performance, sustainability, ownership, ESG, intellectual capital and other related issues.

In particular, *Jing Zhao* analyzed a hand-collected, unique dataset on chief executive officer (CEO) employment contract details for S&P 500 companies throughout 1993–2005 and studied a substantial heterogeneity in contract provisions and their impact on acquirer risk-taking in mergers and acquisitions (M&As). The author concluded that contract provisions that provide job and compensation security and equity incentives appear to encourage valuable risk-taking. In contrast, bureaucratic type provisions (automatic contract renewals; lack of equity incentives) motivate risky but value-decreasing deals. *Biplob Chowdhury*, *Dinesh Gajurel*, and *Ibrahim Shaikh* collected a sample of young Australian firms to document whether institutional pressures to adopt board independence and replace the founder, or original, pre-IPO insiders by Australian companies negatively impacts post-IPO financial performance. The scholars found that the presence of a few of the original insiders significantly improves post-IPO financial performance. *Karim Mamdouh Ahmed Salaheldin*, *Abdel-Kader Mohamed Abdel-Kader Ahmed Mubarak*, and *Mona Ibrahim Dakrory* investigated the direct effect of country branding on competitive advantage, applying it to the commercial aviation industry in Egypt. The results of the analysis reported that there is a positive relationship between the country branding and competitive advantage in Egyptian commercial aviation industry. *Farhana Begum*, *Kazi Saidul Islam*, *Sangida Akter Saroni*, *Muhammad Khalilur Rahman*, *Bibhuti Bhusan Sarker*, and *Normah Omar* examined the profitability and financial sustainability of banks in Bangladesh before and during COVID-19. The study compares the profitability and financial sustainability of 23 listed private commercial banks. The findings construe a significant impact of the unprecedented pandemic. Within a short period of time, sample banks' profitability and financial sustainability deteriorated significantly. *Enrico Sorano*, *Paolo Pietro Biancone*, *Guido Giovando*, and *Alberto Sardi* identified and applied a useful approach for performance measurement system (PMS) design in a local government according to national legislation. It is recognized as the most effective method for obtaining an in-depth understanding of complex environments. To define the steps for developing a PMS, the context and regulation of an Italian municipality are investigated in this research.

Some of the aspects of the topics studied in mentioned papers were explored in the academic literature previously; for example, there are many studies on corporate governance and performance of companies (Collin et al., 2022; Sharaf-Addin & Al-Dhubaibi, 2022; Alijoyo & Sirait, 2022; Mirone et al., 2021; Megginson et al., 2019; Kostyuk et al., 2017; Kostyuk, 2003).

Mariastella Messina studied how a learning process could favor the selection and management of projects to include in the portfolio, considering the relevance of strategic orientation. The results show that the role played by previous learning can provide very useful information for division managers in the company to pick up the best project to include in the portfolio, which meet business strategic priorities. *Vishwa Hamendra Prasad*, *Nikleshwa Datt*, and *Vishal Sharma* explored the impact of COVID-19 on small and medium enterprises in Fiji, which are at risk of crisis. According to the findings, small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) in Fiji have experienced negative consequences of COVID-19 in the way of shortages of supplies, carriage disruptions, decreased demand for products and services, decreased earnings and sales, inadequate operations, and lockup and staff layoffs. *Giorgio Bertinetti* and *Guido Max Mantovani* studied the firm as a "nexus of stakeholders", each bearing return-to-risk expectations about the sharing of the corporate performance. The proposed methodology to detect a governance risk premium (GRP) is then applied to the Italian case to test its strength. *Tobias Wulfert* and *Benjamin Dennhardt* evaluated and demonstrated generic platform ignition strategies in e-commerce. Applying the model, the authors showed that subsidies, seeding, marquee, single side, micro market, piggybacking, opening up, and big bang marketing are potential strategies for reaching a critical mass of participants in e-commerce ecosystems. *Mohammad F. Al-Anaswah*

and *Rana Albahsh* declared that there was a greater focus on corporate responsibility, transparency, disclosure practices, and risk management to enhance accountability. Moreover, following the 2008 financial crisis, corporate governance has become an increasingly important topic in the fields of business and economics in recent years, particularly. Despite this, there has been no comprehensive examination of the subject to date. The study seeks to address this gap by providing a retrospective analysis of the emergence of corporate governance in business and economics.

The authors of the above mentioned papers contributed to the previous research by Thamaree and Zaby (2023), Sylos Labini et al. (2020), Esposito De Falco et al. (2019), Otman (2019), Rizzato et al. (2018), Eulerich et al. (2013), Grant and Kirchmaier (2004).

Anjali Srivastava and *Anand* explored how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) scores impact firm value in the presence of concentrated ownership. The sample consists of 15,640 firm-year observations across 46 countries from 2011–2020. The results of this study show that the ESG score has a positive association with the firm value, supporting the stakeholder theory. Further results indicate that ownership concentration has a negative moderation effect on the association between ESG and firm value, supporting the entrenchment effect. *Kamal Al-Bakri* contributed to the literature by segmenting the G7 banks' governance practices into heterogenous groups and examining their impact on financial sustainability measures. The author used a unique two-step algorithmic analysis to reveal natural groupings based on 12 board characteristics and ESG reporting followed by utilizing regression analysis to examine their impact on financial performance. Using 3,573 bank-year observations for G7 listed banks over the period 2011–2019, the author provided evidence that corporate governance mechanisms are important in differentiating banks' practices and considered essential to their financial sustainability. *Enrico Sorano*, *Alessandro Rizzi*, *Guido Giovando*, and *Alberto Sardi* defined an approach useful for establishing the economic congruity and community benefits for direct awards to in-house companies. The results highlight an integrated approach for establishing and reporting the economic adequacy and benefits of the chosen management as well as for comparing the pricing and benefits of the works or services directly awarded. *Massimo Cecchi* investigated the weaknesses of intellectual capital estimation models, constructing and empirically verifying a new model that has the same strengths as the value-added intellectual coefficient (VAIC) but not its weaknesses. The author analyzed the epistemological and methodological aspects of the models existing in the literature, highlighting their weak points. Using a logical-deductive methodology, the author built a theoretical model, named "HDC", to discover the "hidden capital". The author provided the empirical verification of the HDC model on a sample of over 1,800 listed European companies observed in the pre-pandemic period 2011–2019 (over 10,000 firm-year observations). *Carlo Bellavite Pellegrini*, *Rachele Camacci*, *Laura Pellegrini*, and *Andrea Roncella* examined the interaction between systemic risk and corporate governance in European financial institutions. The authors investigated how two corporate governance issues, ownership concentration, and institutional investors' presence, affect systemic risk. The authors measured systemic risk and analyze balanced panel data of 96 listed banks from 19 European countries during the period 2011–2020. The findings evidenced that ownership concentration decreases systemic risk, while the high presence of institutional investors increases it.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of our journal!

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