

EDITORIAL: Sustainable corporate governance and regulation — A new paradigm for future research

Dear readers!

We are happy to announce that issue 4 (special issue) of the *Journal of Governance and Regulation* has been released. This issue contains 19 papers that investigate a multiplicity of topics related to the current debates in the governance and regulation domains, ranging from risk management and ownership structure to sustainability. Overall, all the authors of the papers published in this issue of the journal provide a significant contribution to the previous research in the field.

In recent years, there have been several remarkable trends in research related to the subjects covered by the papers in the current issue of the *Journal of Governance and Regulation*. In particular, sustainability represents an emerging theme in governance research, which gained momentum due to the occurrence of multiple circumstances.

In the wake of unprecedented environmental challenges and growing awareness of the interconnectedness of human activities with the planet, the presence of the sustainability theme in research has grown significantly. As we stand at the intersection of technological advancements, scientific breakthroughs, an urgent need for ecological preservation and a request for more diversity and inclusion into corporate boundaries, an increasing number of scholars have taken a proactive stance toward investigating the impact of integrating sustainability principles into all facets of companies, in order to deepen our understanding of these crucial problems as well as their applicability to current debates and challenges in governance and regulation.

As global challenges pose risks to companies, affecting their long-term viability and performance, scholars have started to recognize the need to address these challenges in their studies, in order to help companies enhance business resilience and mitigate risks associated with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

Traditional approaches to corporate governance and regulation have so far focused primarily on financial performance and shareholder value creation. However, the paradigm is shifting towards a more comprehensive understanding that encompasses the broader impacts of business activities on the environment and the society, considering the needs of all the corporate stakeholders (e.g., investors, employees, customers, the society at large).

Companies are called to a positive contribution to society beyond delivering financial performance as a consequence of the growing pressure by policy-makers and regulatory authorities, that have increasingly issued sustainability-related guidelines and implemented directives and regulations to enhance ESG disclosure and to stimulate corporate sustainable practices.

The role of researchers is paramount to unravel the complexities brought by sustainability, so as to offer a more nuanced understanding of the interplay between ESG factors in corporate decision-making, suggesting effective strategies to integrate sustainability into governance frameworks, and ensuring compliance with the evolving regulations.

In conclusion, in an era where ESG considerations are integral to business success and societal well-being, researchers are called to assume a leading role in shaping the future of research in corporate governance and regulation, providing valuable insights into both current and prospective challenges in this field.

*Francesca Romana Arduino,
Department of Business and Management, LUISS University, Rome, Italy,
Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Governance and Regulation*

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