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**Birmingham Business School and Emerging Markets
Review
Sustainable Financial Innovation Centre (SFIC)
Special Issue Virtual Conference
Developments in Sustainable Finance and Responsible
Investments in Emerging Markets**

December 19 - 20, 2020 via Zoom

Keynote Speaker: Professor Jonathan A. Batten

**Professor of Finance, School of Economics, Finance and Marketing, RMIT
University, Melbourne Campus.**

**Editor in Chief of Journal of Financial Markets Institutions & Money and
Emerging Markets Review**

Conference Organizers and Guest Editors:

Douglas Cumming

**College of Business, Florida Atlantic University and Birmingham Business School,
University of Birmingham**

Hisham Farag

Birmingham Business School, University of Birmingham Business School

Sofia Johan

College of Business, Florida Atlantic University

Submission Deadline: September 30th, 2020



Overview

The world has witnessed a series of unprecedented challenges that has a significant influence on world economies. These challenges has shaped and will continue to shape the 21st century e.g. climate change, global warming and demographic shifts. The visible, catastrophic, effects of climate change have been observed in recent Californian wildfires, typhoons in south-east Asia and droughts in Africa and Australia and recently in Amazon rainforest fire. These episodes have devastated infrastructure, ruined natural habitats and inflicted suffering on our collective wellbeing. Governments have sought to alleviate the effects of climate change through the Paris Acord. Part of this strategy focuses on climate-related financial risks that mitigate and limit the rise in global temperatures. The British government for instance has committed to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. However, the current political landscape has exacerbated the matter when the US president withdrew from Paris Accord. Stakeholders, as the result, put much pressure on companies to raise the awareness of the concept of ethical finance and to adhere with the Principles of Responsible Investments (PRI) and to ban investments in “Sin Stocks” that could have a negative impact on human being and environment. Islamic financial institutions’ portfolios (asset approximately USD 2 trillion in 2018) do not include sin stocks. Policymakers and prudential supervisors instigate changes in governance and regulations to ensure companies comply with the requirements of the green and low-carbon economy. Regulatory bodies are also required to continue to raise the disclosure bar to address these climate-related risks and to “green” the financial system. The above has shed the light on a new finance paradigm with different agency dynamics with respect to stakeholders in which maximization of shareholder wealth could be easily challenged. This motivates financial institutions to create more innovative and sustainable financial instruments e.g green bonds to combat climate change and to help companies meet their environmental and sustainability goals. More recently, the Bank of England governor Mark Carney and François Villeroy de Galhau, governor of the Banque de France, state, “*If some companies and industries fail to adjust to this new world, they will fail to exist*”.¹ HSBC has recently announced their global commitment to provide \$100 billion in sustainable financing and investment by 2025. The objective of this special issue conference is to promote both theoretical and empirical research on the challenges and opportunities, developments and dynamics of Sustainable Finance and Responsible Investments and its impact on emerging markets and world economies.

Suggested Topics:

Research on sustainable finance has implications on governance, regulations, risk management and financial institutions. Possible topics/research questions include, but are not limited to:

- What are the characteristics and the new developments in Sustainable Finance e.g. green finance, green hire purchase, green lending, green bonds...etc?

¹ <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2019/april/open-letter-on-climate-related-financial-risks>



- What are the implications for the global challenges e.g. climate change and global warming on the development of Sustainable Finance financial instruments?
- What is the economic impact of Sustainable Finance on the theory of Finance e.g. capital structure; long term firm performance, and corporate failures?
- What is the relationship between Islamic Finance and Sustainable Finance?
- What is the expected role of regulations and prudential supervisors to enhance corporate governance and promote Sustainable Finance?
- How FinTech and emerging new technologies would lead to substantial enhancements in entrepreneurship with respect to access to Sustainable Finance?
- What are the economic and social implications of Sustainable Finance on the development of Responsible Investments and Ethical Finance?
- How Sustainable Finance substantially improves financial inclusivity worldwide?

Conference Submission Details:

- The Covid pandemic may require changes over the coming months. We will host the conference via Zoom.
- Interested authors should submit two versions of their paper, one including author information and one with no identifying information to: sficemrconf@contacts.bham.ac.uk by September 30, 2020. Early submissions are encouraged and will be reviewed earlier.
- Papers will be reviewed anonymously and authors will be notified of the decision by October 31, 2020.

Publication opportunities



At the authors' option, papers that are presented at the conference may be considered for publication by Emerging Markets Review and Review of Corporate Finance. In

consultation with the Editors-in-Chief of Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions and Money, Emerging Markets Review and Review of Corporate Finance

(RCF), authors of other selected papers submitted will be invited to submit their manuscripts to a regular issue of these journals with fast track review. RCF is published by Now Publishers <https://www.nowpublishers.com/> commencing in 2021. <https://www.bam.ac.uk/news/new-journal-announcement>
For further information, please refer to the conference website.