

PRI ACADEMIC NETWORK CONFERENCE

in collaboration with David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable enterprise, Concordia University Montréal and 3ci, Carleton University, Ottawa

MONTRÉAL, 22-24 SEPTEMBER, 2014



CALL FOR PAPERS

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ACADEMICS AND PRACTITIONERS

The [PRI Initiative](#), the [David O'Brien Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at Concordia University](#), and [3ci at Carleton University](#) are pleased to announce the Seventh Annual Academic Network Conference on Responsible Investment, to be held 22-24 September 2014 at the Hilton Montréal Bonaventure, Montréal, Canada. For the first time, the PRI Academic Network Conference will be held in the same week and venue as the main PRI In Person 2014 event (September 24-26) which last year attracted over 400 institutional investors.

Details of the conference will be posted on the [PRI website](#) as they become available. All enquiries should be directed in the first instance to academic@unpri.org. There will be no separate Student Symposium this year, but we invite submissions by Ph.D and Masters students to be considered for the conference. The conference will consist of three or four keynote addresses, as well as plenaries and break-out panel sessions comprising of academics and practitioners.

As an international event, this is a unique opportunity for academics, students and investment professionals to hear the latest findings, communicate priorities for future research and to network with each other.

The overall theme for the conference is ***Bridging the Gap between Academics and Practitioners***. We invite paper submissions and panel proposals addressing this, particularly in the following areas:

- **ESG Integration** across asset classes and industries. Empirical evidence of the impact of ESG integration on firms' performance and valuation. Is there any evidence that ESG integration is a systematically priced risk factor? What are the value drivers of firms that successfully integrate ESG into their operations?
- **ESG Reporting and transparency**. Empirical studies on corporate transparency and the quality of sustainability reporting. What are the implications of increased sustainability reporting on corporate performance? Has increased corporate recognition of ESG factors had

an impact on global sustainability indicators? Do the depth and breadth of sustainability reports provide an opportunity for firms to credibly signal their ESG performance?

- **Shareholder Engagement.** What is the impact of shareholder engagement on long-term stock performance and company standards? Studies of the measurable impact of shareholder activism on ESG metrics. How can short and long term shareholder engagement approaches be reconciled?
- **Short termism and structural market failures.** What are the structural market failures in the energy, mining, and other sectors that may cause a mispricing of assets and a departure from equilibrium pricing? How might stranded assets affect corporate valuation? How effective are current ESG metrics? How do we best quantify ESG risks and develop forward looking metrics that address the risks of short termism and structural market failures? What is the role of patient capital? What is the future of Renewable Energy Investment? Studies on green building finance and climate capitalism.
- **Social finance.** Where does Impact Investing fit in the growing Responsible Investment universe? What are the financial implications of poverty economics, inequality, human capital and employee relations or human rights? Where do financial innovations such as vaccine bonds, species protection funds and options fit in? Studies on the impact of grey and black market networks. Integrating art and science in sustainable investing.

In addition to full papers, we also invite poster presentations and proposals to host workshops.

CONFERENCE PRIZES

Sustainalytics Prize for Excellence in RI Research – an international award which recognizes the most outstanding conference paper by a student or students (€2500) and the most outstanding conference paper by an academic or academics (€3500). The judges of the prize will be the [Steering Committee](#) of the Academic Network, plus a nominee of Sustainalytics. The awards will be made at the conference dinner on **23 September, 2014**.

Those wishing to be considered for a prizes should indicate this in their application.

Information on the FIR-PRI European Research Awards 2014 will be available on the dedicated website [here](#) with the award ceremony repeated at the conference.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS

Working drafts or extended abstracts of their papers (minimum 8 pages; all stylistic conventions accepted) will be considered for the conference by 15 June 2014. For the Sustainalytics Prize a full paper must be submitted no later than 1 August 2014.

Applicants are invited to submit their application through the link [here](#)

Extended abstracts should include:

- Summary of the significance of the research
- Relevance to the conference theme and specifically to institutional investors
- Description of research methods and findings
- Expected contribution to theory and / or practice

The document must be accompanied by a cover page that includes:

- The candidate's contact information
- A working title
- The conference theme/s being addressed
- Biographical information on the author(s),
- Agreement that working papers can be featured on the PRI website post the conference (unless otherwise agreed)

For PhD or Master's students who would like to be considered for an award: The cover page and abstract must be accompanied by a reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature if sent by e-mail.

WORKSHOPS

The purpose of workshops at the Academic Network Conference is to support research on emerging issues in responsible investment. If you would like to host a workshop at the conference, please include the following in your proposal:

- Workshop background and purpose, and its connection to the conference themes
- List of key participants
- Tentative agenda
- Expected projects/outcomes from workshop

Proposals for workshops will be reviewed by the PRI Secretariat and the Academic Network and will be evaluated for their potential to stimulate interesting discussion and research.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

15 June 2014 - Final materials for all conference participants to be submitted

10 July 2014 - Notification by PRI of acceptance to present a paper or host a workshop will be provided.

31 August 2014 - PRI –Sustainalytics Prize winners will be selected.

The award presentation for the Sustainalytics Research Prize will be held on 23 September at the conference.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Conference Papers

Proposed conference papers will be reviewed by a selection panel of academics and investment professionals. Judging criteria include:

- Practical significance of the research, particularly the potential to apply research in investment environments
- Contribution to responsible investment research
- Originality of subject of study or approach; there is an emphasis on empirical analysis
- Methodological strength
- Applicability for institutional investors and PRI signatories

TRAVEL SUBSIDIES

We will not be able to offer travel subsidies for post-doctoral or academic presenters. We have some funds to assist in student travel and we encourage graduate students to submit abstracts. Graduate students should include any request for travel subsidy, specifying their need and amounts required, in their application.

Detailed travel information and accommodation for the conference will be provided closer to the conference dates or on request.