



NEWSLETTER No. 118 [February 2021]

The FORUM, Newsletter of the International Accounting Section

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President's Letter – February 2021



Dear Fellow Section Members,

What a pleasure it was to see such engagement in our joint AAA International Section/IAAER meeting held from January 28-30, 2021. The quality of the meeting was outstanding--every session was well attended with active participation! It is impossible in this letter to thank all of the many individuals who made this meeting so successful. Nonetheless, I again must thank meeting co-chairs Sydney Shu (Miami University – Ohio) and Kim Duong (Old Dominion University), as well as track chair Oksana Kim (Minnesota State University – Mankato) and Donna Street (IAAER Director of Research and University of Dayton), for their outstanding work in organizing the meeting. The Ph.D./New Faculty Consortium was well organized by Maria Vulcheyva (Florida International University) and involved many of the executive leaders of IAAER. Young researchers and others told me how much they appreciated the plenary sessions. Four of the sessions addressed connections between accounting research and practice issues across the breadth of areas of interest to our members. Ann Tarca (IASB) discussed international financial reporting research opportunities related to standards post-implementation reviews. A follow-up panel with Ann, Paul Munter (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) and Holger Erchinger (KPMG LLP), moderated by Katherine Schipper (Duke University), further discussed these opportunities. Worldwide education issues were the topics for our IAAER President Keryn Chalmers (Swinburne University) along with her welcoming remarks for the joint meeting. A session on Worldwide Challenges Calling for Research in Auditing and Ethics involved panelists Brett James (International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board), Gwenda Jensen (International Public Sector Accounting Assurance Standards Board), Diane Jules (International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants), and Anna Gold (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

Meeting registrants will receive an email from AAA with links to return to recordings of all sessions and to presenters' slide decks. I know I will return to all of the plenary sessions for items related to my responsibilities in research, teaching, and administration.

Top among the high quality research presented at the meeting were three outstanding papers and four outstanding reviewers who received awards announced on the lobby page of the meeting and in the virtual receptions. The paper details are listed in this newsletter. I very much enjoyed the session in which the best papers were presented by Christopher Oehler (Goethe University), Manuel Herkenhoff (University of Münster), and Huichi Hung (North Dakota State University). And everyone so enjoyed the virtual receptions/networking sessions that we lingered longer than the planned time! I was glad to meet our outstanding reviewer award recipients who attended those receptions: Jeff Chen (Texas Christian University), Xi Ai

(University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Devendra Kale (University of Rhode Island), and Lynn Linghuan Wang (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology). The JIAR plenary session showcased two outstanding papers that were presented by Satoshi Sugahara (Kwansei Gakuin University) and Iftekhar Hasan (Fordham University, University of Sydney, and Bank of Finland).

Upcoming events: March has some important activities for section members and doctoral students! **Virtual research workshops** will resume in March 2021. Registration is open for the March events that are free and open to any registrants; information can be found in this Forum newsletter and on the section web page. As well, AAA IAS members should nominate your students for the **Outstanding International Accounting Dissertation Award** and/or your colleagues in the section for the **Ian Hague Outstanding International Service Award or the Outstanding International Educator award**. Nominations are due March 1, 2021 and winners will be announced during the AAA Annual Meeting. More information can be found in section emails and directly on our IAS web page at <https://aaahq.org/IA/awards>. Also located there is the link for PhD Student Travel Grants—since the AAA annual meeting will be virtual, the grants will cover the cost of meeting attendance including registration and membership fees.

I look forward to seeing you all either at the virtual research workshops, during the virtual JIAR Conference in June, or at the AAA virtual annual meeting in August.

Sincerely yours,
Judy K. Beckman, Ph.D., CPA (University of Rhode Island)
President, AAA International Accounting Section

Recent IAS Activities – 2021 Midyear Conference

The 2021 IAS Midyear Meeting took place virtually on January 28-30, 2021. The meeting was jointly held with the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER). The IAS PhD-New Faculty Consortium, partially funded by the KPMG Foundation and organized by Maria Vulcheyva (Florida International University), was successfully held on January 28, 2021. There were 40 participants, including 22 junior faculty and PhD students, 9 faculty leaders, who gave keynote speeches, served on panels, and lead breakout sessions, and 9 senior mentors, who assisted with a mentoring session that took place at the end of the Consortium. The International Accounting Section's program, organized by co-chairs, Sydney Shu (Miami University) and Hong Kim Duong (Old Dominion University), had 38 submissions and 11 concurrent sessions and several panel discussions, including the Academic Research Needs to Support IASB Post-implementation Reviews of Standards, Worldwide Challenges Calling for Research in Auditing and Ethics, and JIAR plenary session.

Award Winners of the 2021 Midyear Meeting

Best Paper Award

Marius F. Gros, Universität Bremen
Martin Nienhaus, Goethe University
Christopher Oehler, Goethe University

“Causal Evidence on the Effects of Enforcement Investigations”

Huichi Huang, North Dakota State University
Yutao Li, University of Lethbridge

“The PCAOB International Inspections Regime and Debt Contracting: Evidence from American Depository Receipt Firms”

Manuel Herkenhoff, University of Münster
Martin Nienhaus, Goethe University

“For Better or Worse? Financial Reporting Harmonization and Transnational Information Transfers”

Best Reviewer Award

Zeyun (Jeff) Chen (Texas Christian University)
Xi Ai (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
Devendra Kale (University of Rhode Island)
Lynn Linghuan Wang (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

IAS Conference Announcement – The Eighth International Conference of JIAR

The Eighth International Conference of the Journal of International Accounting Research (JIAR) will be held June 24-26, 2021, preceded by the JIAR Doctoral / New Faculty Consortium on June 23, 2021. The in-person conference will transfer to a virtual setting but will preserve the key elements of our traditional program. Our members from around the world will be able to attend the meeting, interact with each other, and strengthen the work being shared.

The goal of the conference is to expand the diversity and scope of international accounting research, through increased understanding and awareness of the challenges and opportunities of international accounting. Original and rigorous research work will provide academics, practitioners, and regulators with deeper insights into international accounting issues.

Innovative and high-quality international accounting research related to all areas (financial, managerial, audit, and tax) is welcome. Papers can be submitted for consideration in one of two tracks: Plenary Session submissions or Concurrent Session submissions. Submission deadline is extended to **Sunday, February 28, 2021, 11:59 pm EDT.**

The JIAR Doctoral/New Faculty Consortium will be held on June 23, 2021 during two separate sessions, 8:00–11:00 am EST and 7:00 – 10:00 pm EST. There will be no additional fee to attend the consortium and application deadline to attend is extended to **Sunday, February 28, 2021, 11:59 pm EDT.**

Click [here](#) for more detail.

Call for Papers and Volunteers at the Annual Meeting

The 2021 AAA Annual Meeting will be held on August 2-5, 2021. The IAS's program at this year's fully virtual Annual Meeting will be organized by co-chairs, John Changjiang Wang (University of Cincinnati) and Brigitte Muehlmann (Babson University). IAS members are encouraged to submit papers for the conference and/or volunteer to serve as a reviewer, moderator, or discussant. The submission deadline is **Wednesday, February 17, 2021.** Volunteers can sign up [here](#).

Teaching Resources and Research Webinar Series

Teaching Resources. A collection of course syllabus is available on the IAS website at: <https://aaahq.org/IA/Resources/Teaching-Resources>. Thanks to co-chairs of the IAS Curriculum Committee 2019-2020, Asheq Rahman (Auckland University and Technology) and Laura Swenson (University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee), this Repository of Accounting Syllabi emerged during the 2019-2020 academic year and was created to foster collaboration and sharing of teaching ideas and materials across the IAS members. We thank those that have contributed and ask that any others interested in contributing to the repository of syllabi contact Asheq Rahman (asheq.rahman@aut.ac.nz) or Laura Swenson (swensola@uwm.edu).

Spring 2021 IAS Research Webinar Series. The first 2021 webinar will be March 2nd, and our presenter will be Ana Marques of The University of East Anglia.

The webinar will be one hour in length with the first 30 minutes reserved for the author's presentation, and the second 30 minutes reserved for a question & answer session. Participants will be able to submit questions during the webinar using the chat function in zoom and may be asked to unmute themselves during the session to ask their question. Webinar sessions will be recorded and made available through the IAS section website. Please note that you may be recorded if you unmute your audio or video during the seminar.

Thank you to all who contributed to a successful webinar series in 2020. **Recordings of the Fall 2020 Webinar Series are available** on the IAS section website at:

<https://aaahq.org/IA/Resources/Webinars>

March 2nd Webinar:

Tuesday, March 2nd: 9:00 am–10:00 am, Eastern (2:00 pm–3:00 pm, GMT)

- Presenter: Ana Marques – Norwich Business School - The University of East Anglia
- Paper: “*The Role of Foreign Institutional Investors in Sustainability Assurance*”
- Moderator: Cristina Florio, University of Verona
- To register in advance for the March 2nd webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Webinars:

Tuesday, March 16th: 2:00 pm–3:00 pm, Eastern (6:00 pm –7:00 pm, GMT)

- Presenter: David Godsell – Gies College of Business - University of Illinois
- Paper: “*Financial Reporting Consequences of Sovereign Wealth Fund Investment*”
- Moderator: Bowe Hansen, Virginia Commonwealth University
- To register in advance for the March 16th webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Minutes from the IAS Committee Chairs Meeting at the 2021 Midyear Meeting

American Accounting Association

International Accounting Section (IAS) Committee Chairs' Meeting Minutes

2021 Midyear Zoom Meeting
5:00 – 6:00pm 28th January 2021

Attendees

Officers: **Judy Beckman** (President), **Bowe Hansen** (VP-Academic), **Thomas Young** (VP-Practice), **Gia Chevis** (Treasurer), **Stephen Salter** and **Kriengkrai Boonlert-U-Thai** (Advisory Board), **Mahendra Gujarathi** (Council Representative), **Rob Larson** (Historian), **Elaine Henry** (Past President), **Helen Kang** (Secretary)

Committee Chairs:

Sydney Shu (Mid-year Conference Co-Chair), **Hong Kim Duong** (Advisory Board, Mid-year Conference Co-Chair), **Maria Vulcheyva** (Mid-year Doctoral Consortium), **John Wang** (Annual Program Co-Chair), **Brigitte Muehlmann** (Annual Program Co-Chair), **Agnes Cheng** (Publications Committee Co-Chair/JIAR Conference Planning Chair), **Minna Yu** (International Relations), **David Godsell** (Research Committee Chair), **Stephani Mason** (Membership Committee Chair), **Asheq Rahman** (Teaching and Curriculum Co-Chair), **Laura Swenson** (Teaching and Curriculum Committee Co-Chair), **Ya-Wen Yang** (Communications Director), **Maria Caban-Garcia** (Regional Programs Co-Chair), **Elizabeth Gordon** (Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee Chair), **Wayne Thomas** (Outstanding Educator Award Chair), **Richard Morris** (Country Liaison – Australia), **Marcelo Moraes** (Country Liaison – Brazil), **Samir Trabelsi** (Country Liaison – Canada), **Elizabeth Gutierrez** (Country Liaison – Chile), **Mohammad Nurunnabi** (Country Liaison – Saudi Arabia), **Mine Aksu** (Country Liaison – Turkey), **Ana Marques** (Country Liaison – United Kingdom)

I. **Call to Order:**

Bowe Hansen (on behalf of Judy Beckman) called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and welcomed participants. Introductions by each participant followed.

II. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the IAS Committee Chairs Meeting held at the 2020 AAA Virtual Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

III. **Committee Reports**

Bowe Hansen briefly commented about 2022 MYM – since the discussions are still ongoing, he is not yet able to confirm location. The Meeting will be held at the end of January 2022.

Betsy Gordon reminded everyone about the outstanding dissertation award – nominations are due on 1 March 2021.

Bowe Hansen also mentioned the survey which will be going out after the meeting in relation to volunteering for 2022 committees – membership as well as for the chair positions. If the latter is too daunting, please do consider joining as members – which will be much appreciated.

- a. **2021 MYM** – Kim Duong and Sydney Shu updated on the Mid-Year Meeting. There were around 38 submissions and 11 concurrent sessions. Difficulties associated with different time zones were noted in scheduling presentations for both the presenters and the discussants. There was great effort to ensure that a well-balanced, high-quality program was organized and presented at the virtual midyear meeting this year. Under the guidance of Judy Beckman, they took responsibility to manage the peer review process by assigning reviewers, discussants, and moderators. It was noted that given the significant challenges imposed by COVID-19 on scheduling (time zone differences) due to the presence of a global audience, presenters, discussants and moderators. Careful planning was required for plenary sessions, concurrent sessions as well as networking sessions in different regions/countries to ensure that international attendees could attend most of the conference and create a better attendee experience. All sessions are already posted on websites. Judy Beckman thanked both Kim Duong and Sydney Shue for organizing a successful MYM, and also thanked Oksana Kim for being the Track Chair working on helping with the papers: this system will be retained for the annual meeting.
- b. **PhD Consortium** – Maria Vulcheva reported that there were 40 participants (22 junior faculties and PhD students and 18 mentors and moderators) in the consortium. The Consortium consisted of one panel discussion, break-out sessions, a presentation, and ended with a mentoring session. Nine junior faculties/PhD students in advanced stage of their program were matched with nine senior faculty mentors. The mentoring session was the last portion of the Consortium and the nine junior faculties/PhD students provided positive feedback for the session.
- c. **Outstanding Dissertation Committee** – Betsy Gordon reported that call for the outstanding dissertation has gone out (submission deadline is 1st March). She already has received a couple of submissions and reminded the chairs to encourage others to put in submissions.
- d. **Outstanding Educator Award Committee** – Wayne Thomas reported that the award has been posted to the section website and requests for nominations have been sent out. The deadline for nominations will be 1st March. No submissions yet, so please encourage for nominations. Betsy Gordon has reminded the chairs that nomination process is quite straight forward, so please consider nominating those who are worthy of the Award.
- e. **Outstanding Service Award Committee** – Elain Henry reported that she has communicated with Giorgio Gotti via email today. He has received two nominations already, but more nominations are definitely welcome – due on 1st March.
- f. **Research Committee** – Judy Beckman reported that she has exchanged emails with David Godsell in relation to awards for best papers and best reviews. David Godsell has proposed

awards for three best paper awards (top 10% in each category) who will be announced at the virtual receptions on Friday.

David Godsell reported on the process of choosing outstanding paper awards and outstanding discussant awards. He has reported on the merits of awarding more than one award per category – assistant professors may find this to be useful in preparing their CVs. Judy Beckman pointed out that the two out of three best paper awards were by two PhD students of Professor Martin Nienhaus, who will be at the reception for the awards.

- g. **PhD Student Travel Grant Committee** – Judy Beckman also reported on behalf of Tami Dinh. PhD student grant for the annual meeting is still on – please encourage PhD students to apply for these grants. Instead of reimbursement for travel costs, recipients of the grant will cover the AAA virtual annual meeting registration fee as well as membership fee in the International Accounting Section. Grant award recipients must agree to be a discussant during a concurrent session of the Section at the Annual Meeting.
- h. **Nominations Committee** – Judy Beckman (on behalf of Elaine Henry and Steve Lin) reported that nominations have been made to AAA. They were earlier than usual this year and will return to the regular timeframe next year (late February/early March). She thanked Gia Chevis for stepping up to be the VP-Academic (President-elect) for 2022. VP-Practice Tom Young also asked to be nominated for the second year. Chris Skousen has been nominated as the Council Representative and Helen Kang has asked to be nominated again for the Secretary role. Three advisory positions were also nominated: Betsy Gordon, Maria Vulcheyva, and for the Assistant Professor position, Chuong Do from the University of Nevada, Reno. For nominations committee, Grace Pownall and Stephani Mason. Elaine Henry reported that the nominations committee didn't have the number of positions required for each committee, so it took a lot of effort by Steve Lin to fill these positions.

Judy Beckman reported that Executive Committee and AAA have been discussing about the 2022 MYM. Bowe Hansen reported on the progress in relation to several different cities and how AAA will support in relation to the budget. While we are getting close to choosing the location, the location for next year's MYM will not be announced in this meeting.

- i. **JIAF Conference/Publications Committee** – Agnes Cheng reported that the 2021 conference will be virtual from 23rd to 26th June. The virtual conference will be sponsored by Steve Lin's university. The deadline will be 31 January, but likely to be extended. The conference in Taiwan will therefore be postponed to 2022. In terms of publications, the best paper award from 2019 will be considered in May. She will be discussing with Judy Beckman in relation to increasing the number of the publications committee members (currently, there are four).
- j. **Communications Director** – Ya-wen Yang reported that the section website will be updated after the meeting with information about the awards. The next newsletter is being prepared

and she asked for any news/information to be included. Teaching and curriculum committee has prepared international syllabi which are also available on the section website.

- k. **Teaching and Curriculum Committee** – Asheq Rahman reported that he and Laura Swenson have created a repository of international accounting syllabi. There are now around 30 syllabi which are available on the section website. He has noted that institutions, especially in Australia and New Zealand, there are no ‘international accounting’ syllabi as such. Laura Swenson reported that they have contacted over 160 schools and received responses from 62 schools (40% response rate). Of those 62, 42% had some international accounting content and 56% did not. Most were US schools. Of those who did not have ‘international accounting’ content, 65% do discuss IFRS in some form. If there is anyone with ‘international accounting’ syllabi, please contact the Committee. It would be good to have a panel/plenary session at the annual meeting on the topic. Asheq Rahman added that he and Laura Swenson have been talking about the issue of a plenary session, potentially in conjunction with the AIS. Judy Beckman noted that Mohammad Nurunnabi commented that he is interested in the project. She has also noted that this session can be followed by a data analytics session as per the annual meeting. She has noted that the matter could be followed up by the committee as well as with Brigitte Muehlmann (Annual Meeting Co-Chair) who is also member of the member of the Emerging Technologies Section.

- l. **Practice Issues** – Judy Beckman thanked the ongoing support from KPMG. There is a conversation in regard to contributions to be made at the AAA Annual Meeting. Tom Young reported the goal is to provide support for the section. KPMG will be supporting the annual meeting practice/research panel and plenary sessions. The possibility of being a Co-Chair of the meeting was also raised. Judy Beckman also mentioned the difficulties with making sessions and panels available for the global audience.

- m. **Membership Committee** – Stephani Mason reported that she has started working with Judy Beckman on a campaign called “reclaim, recruit and retain” in order to counter the overall decline in membership, not just in our section, but for the AAA. She will be talking to those who are not current members to see whether they will come back on board. In December, they have reached out to AAA to contact ex-members. AAA has a rule about how many years we can go back in relation to ex-membership. They are trying to find out how to contact ex-members and talk to other sections regarding membership. She has asked for any comments in terms of how to recruit new members, from different sections as well. For retaining members, first time attendees will be contacted as well to let them know about our section. Stephani Mason now has data from AAA (was on hiatus so there was a bit of a delay). Judy Beckman emphasized that our section is about international accounting research, and we need to reach global participants by accommodating, for example, time differences in reaching out to them.

- n. **Regional Program** – Maria Caban-Garcia reported that due to the pandemic, there were no conferences. There is a plan for Southwest region to have a conference on 18-19 March which will be held virtually, and she will work on including some international content. AAA will also host Spark meeting on 24-26 May.
- o. **International Relations Committee** – Minna Yu reported that since August, the section has held webinars comprising international presenters. Judy Beckman and others have provided support. Webinars are now available IAS websites. Minna Yu and Christina Florio have spread the word regarding webinars to members via international liaisons. She has thanked Bowe Hansen for initiating and scheduling the webinars and expects the Spring series (comprising six webinars) to be streamlined and easier to run. She welcomes any feedback on webinars regarding presenters and the format and as a section, how we can improve them in the future. This is the second year Minna Yu and Christina Florio have been chairing the international relations committee and continue to promote communications between members and international liaison officers.

Judy Beckman noted that the schedule for the upcoming Spring webinars is out and emails will be coming out from AAA. Webinars will start in March up to the JIAR conference and are expected to continue.

- p. **2021 Annual Meeting Program** – John Wang reported that he and Brigitte Muehlmann have been working on the annual meeting which will be held virtually. The submission deadline is 17 February, so no information regarding the number of submissions for the meeting yet. The committee met few days ago and discussed few issues – how many panels should be there, how to recruit volunteers for discussants and moderators, and any initiatives for this year’s meeting. The committee considered reaching out for panels on sustainability reporting, current trend of international research, teaching, and standards/regulatory update.

The committee will continue to think about what panels will be useful to our members and the AAA community. The committee also talked about having more involvement of accounting PhD students and junior faculties and will look at prior participants of the doctoral consortium to follow up and invite them to serve as volunteers for the annual meeting. Any suggestions are welcome.

Brigitte Muehlmann reported that while there are issues holding a virtual annual meeting, there are also opportunities. For example, panelists can be brought together from all over the world for a discussion which may not have been possible physically. She will be talking to Tom Young and asks all committee chairs to consider what they wish to be included in the panels and how the virtual meeting can be an opportunity to do things that cannot be done physically. Judy Beckman agreed that this is an opportunity to do try things we have not tried in the physical meeting.

IV. Any Other Business

- a. Bowe Hansen reported that the Spring research webinar series is ready to start. AAA email has already been sent out with links to registration for the first two webinars.

- b. Kim Duong has commented on recruiting volunteers for moderators and discussants for the MYM. It was a difficult process which involved contacting AAA for the list of members, checking their time zones, checking for their participation at the meeting, making sure that at least the presenter is given a reasonable time to present. This has resulted in rather strange session times. Kim Duong also commented that AAA will not provide IT support after 5pm at the MYM, so that will be something to remember.

Judy Beckman adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm