



Public Interest Newsletter

Spring 2018



“Placing the public interest above self-interest is the hallmark of a profession”... Eddie Stamp, 1983...

Join us in Chicago for the Mid-Year Meeting!



Dear Public Interest Section Members,

Have you begun to mark your calendars for the next two months? Then please keep in mind that a pair of noteworthy events will occur in late March. One is the arrival of Spring in the northern hemisphere. And the other is the mid-year conference of the Public Interest Section of the American Accounting Association.

What if you are feeling impatient for Spring? To accelerate its arrival, you can always root for [Punxsutawney Phil](#) to fail to see his shadow. If this occurs, Spring will begin on February 2nd.

Regrettably, our favorite groundhog is powerless to advance the date of our mid-year conference. However, there

are other ways to begin enjoying this academic experience before you join us in Chicago on March 23rd. [You can volunteer, for instance, to serve as a reviewer, a moderator, or a discussant.](#)

And you can [register to attend the conference](#) at any time.

You'll undoubtedly find it worthwhile to join us in the Windy City. For instance, in addition to our manuscript presentation sessions, our conference will feature an Editor's Panel. **Richard Kravitz** of *The CPA Journal*, **Pamela Roush** of *Accounting and the Public Interest*, **Marcia Annisette** of *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, and **Charles Cho** of *Journal of Business Ethics* and the *Public Interest and Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal* will provide valuable commentary about the publishing environment.

In response to attendee feedback at our previous conferences, we'll dedicate our Friday lunch period to catching up with old and new friends. And the President of the American Accounting Association will deliver an address on Saturday at noon.

We have also invited a representative from the [Roosevelt Institute](#) to discuss their projects. In addition, she will describe how the Institute is working with students on college campuses to “make a difference” in society. Our attendees are sure to discover that the Institute's agenda matches our own values and beliefs.



So please join us on March 23rd and March 24th. And in the meantime, if you're able to serve as a volunteer, we'll be delighted to hear from you!

Respectfully,

Michael Kraten



Michael Kraten

Vice Chair of International Membership

Midyear Editor's Panel

The Public Interest section is grateful to these distinguished editors, who have agreed to serve on the editor's panel at the 2018 midyear meeting



Dr. Marcia Annisette is the co-editor-in-chief of *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*. She serves on the editorial boards of 11 other, top-ranked journals including Accounting Organizations and Society, Contemporary Accounting Research, and Accounting Auditing and Accountability Journal. She is Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Accounting at the Schulich School of Business, York University, Toronto.

Previously, she held academic appointments in England, the USA, Spain, and her home country, Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Annisette's major research interest is in the social organization of the accountancy profession. She has twice won "best article of the year" awards and is a frequent plenary speaker at conferences around the world. In addition to research and speaking engagements, she directs The Schulich School's Master of Accounting Program.



Richard Kravitz is Editor in Chief of *The CPA Journal*. Among his many distinctions, he is Adjunct Professor at Texas A&M Law School and a Fellow of the American College of Forensic Accounting. Formerly, he was President and Group Publisher of Panel Publishers/Wolters Kluwer, as well as Executive Vice President and Group Publisher at Aspen/Kluwer Law International, The Hague. He held other editorial/publishing positions, and has

published over 30 articles on ethics and corporate morality, financial fraud, and social responsibility. He won the Max Block Award for excellence in Journalism and other prestigious awards.

Members of the Public Interest section know Mr. Kravitz as a passionate observer of global corporate behavior. Through his visits with global Executives and board members and as a global publisher, he has unique insight into the behavior and motivation of Directors and Board members of multinational corporations.



Dr. Charles Cho is the *Accounting Section Co-Editor of the Journal of Business Ethics* as well as *Associate Editor of Accounting and the Public Interest and Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal*.

In addition, he serves on the editorial boards of 14 other academic journals. He is a regularly-invited plenary and keynote speaker at international conferences. Dr. Cho is a Council member

of the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research, and Chairs its International Associates Committee. Prior to his academic career, he worked with KPMG LLP and other public accounting firms in auditing and taxation.

Currently, Dr. Cho holds the Erivan K. Haub Chair in Business & Sustainability at the Schulich School of Business, York University. His research interests include Social and Environmental Accounting, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Accounting and the Public Interest. He designs and teaches CSR/sustainability and business ethics courses at the undergraduate, graduate (MBA, MSc), and PhD levels as well as in executive programs for corporate managers.



Dr. Pamela B. Roush, current editor of *Accounting and the Public Interest*, has served on editorial boards of multiple academic journals. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including Accounting Horizons, Accounting and the Public Interest, Research in Accounting Regulation, Journal of Business Ethics, Research on Professional Responsibility and Ethics in Accounting, and Current Issues in Accounting.

She has held leadership positions in the American Accounting Association (AAA) Ethics and Professionalism Committee, the AAA Public Interest Section, the Central Florida Institute of Internal Auditors (CFIIA) Academic Relations Committee, and the AAA Audit Section Education Committee.

Dr. Roush is an Associate Professor of Accounting in the College of Business Administration (CBA) at the University of Central Florida. Her research interests include corporate social responsibility (CSR), corporate governance, ethics and auditor independence. She has won "best paper" and outstanding author contribution awards, and has presented her work at national and international venues. She was selected by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) to serve on the PCAOB Auditor Independence Research Team.

Editorial Columns

If You Sense That You Need A Different Approach, Why Not Explore Alternative Accounting Practices?



Caroline Lambert

Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee of the [May 2018 Alternative Accounts Conference at HEC Montreal](#)

One of the strengths of mainstream accounting research is its standardized regularity. We define our exogenous and endogenous variables based on prior research studies. Then we develop our experimental hypotheses. And after drawing a sizable sample from our clearly defined population of transactions, we use large-scale statistical methods to test those hypotheses.

But what if the variables aren't easily defined? Or the population, for that matter? Or what if a sizable sample cannot be extracted and quantitatively tested at a meaningful level of significance?

In other words, what if you sense that you need a different approach? How should you proceed? Under such circumstances, you may wish to explore alternative accounting research practices.

For instance, let's say that you're evaluating the anti-theft preventive controls at the card, dice, and roulette tables of a casino. How can an auditor test those controls while the games are in progress on a floor that never closes?

The best approach for testing whether controls are in place to prevent dealers from stealing chips may be to employ the auditing method of focused observation. And to make the system more "auditable," the casino may choose to keep all of the stacks of chips in plain sight.

Indeed, the "plain sight" tactic may convey an additional benefit by deputizing gamblers to serve as auditors...



To view the entire article, please visit: <https://aaapublicinterest.org/2017/12/23/if-you-sense-that-you-need-a-different-approach-why-not-explore-alternative-accounting-practices/>

Critical Auditing Studies and "The Bigger Picture"

For many years, accounting researchers have studied the culture, the technology, and the regulation of audit firms. We've observed and explained the complex factors that have shaped the profession.

But while studying these details, is it possible that we have missed the bigger picture? Should we be critically appraising the audit function instead of simply understanding it? In order to assess its future relevance to our society, and to its role within it?

The Elsevier journal *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* is addressing these questions by [publishing a special issue entitled Critical Auditing Studies: Adopting a Critical Lens to-](#)

[ward Contemporary Audit Discourse, Practice and Regulation.](#)

The editors are Anna Samsonova-Taddei of the Alliance Manchester Business School of the University of Manchester and Yves Gendron of the Faculté des sciences de l'administration of Université Laval.

The editors are calling for manuscript submissions that focus a critical lens on our profession, addressing such topics as: (1) the consequences of the rise of audit firms' commercialism, (2) the ongoing changes in regulatory approaches to auditing, (3) claims about auditors' knowledge base, (4) auditing and the public interest, (5) the shifting identities of audi-

tors, and (6) control and surveillance within accounting firms.

What type of content is suitable for the special issue? Anna cites a recent report and notes that: *The strong impression is that now is not a time for complacency but nor is it a time for knee-jerk reaction or base political point scoring. Substantive change and developments in the competencies and capabilities of audit and auditors requires more fundamental action than...*

To view the entire article, please visit: <https://aaapublicinterest.org/2018/02/05/critical-auditing-studies-and-the-bigger-picture/>

