

FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING 2026 ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

17–18 JUNE 2026



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER 

WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the School of Finance and Accounting, Westminster Business School, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the 6th Finance and Accounting (F&A) 2026 Annual Research Symposium. The theme for this year's symposium is 'Sustainability in the Digital Era.'

In our rapidly evolving digital landscape, sustainability has become a critical imperative that intersects with virtually every aspect of finance and accounting. The digital transformation is reshaping how organisations approach environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, sustainable finance, and responsible business practices. From blockchain-enabled carbon credit trading to AI-powered ESG analytics, digital technologies are creating unprecedented opportunities and challenges for sustainable finance and accounting.

The symposium will examine the intersection of sustainability and digital innovation across finance, data analytics, and accounting. We invite research on topics including sustainable finance, digital assets and environmental impact, ESG reporting and analytics, fintech solutions for sustainability, green finance technologies, sustainable investment strategies, corporate governance in the digital age, climate risk management, and the role of artificial intelligence in sustainable decision-making.

Academic keynote speaker

Professor Martin Dallimer, Professor in Environmental Sustainability, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London.

Industry keynote speaker

Mr. Tim Smolcic, Director Tech Sustainability, HSBC, London.

We hope you will take time to attend the sessions, network and, above all, enjoy the meeting!

Thank you.
Best Wishes,

Programme Chairs



Mostafa Hussien



Issam Malki



Tantawy Moussa



Sheeja Sivaprasad

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026
MORNING SESSIONS 9 – 10.50AM

SESSION TRACK: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA
ROOM: M323, 9 – 10.50AM
SESSION CHAIR: AIGERIM UMBETBAYEVA

Title of Paper: Environmental performance and the formation of board interlocks: Symbolic and substantive drivers of social selection

Presenter: Slobodan Kacanski, Roskilde University, Denmark

Title of Paper: The Right to Free Speech and Green Innovation

Presenter: Hyun A. Hong, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA

Title of Paper: Beyond Returns: Rethinking the ESG-Financial Performance Relationship Through Long-Run Price Dynamics and Firm Heterogeneity

Presenter: Julie Ayton, Westminster Business School, London, UK

Title of Paper: Sustainability Pays: ESG Alignment, Funder Identity, and the Dynamics of Startup Investment

Presenter: Giulia Fantini, School of Management, Swansea University, UK

SESSION TRACK: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & CSR
ROOM: M324, 9 – 10.50AM
SESSION CHAIR: NEETA SHAH

Title of Paper: Blind until Shaken by! Shareholder Voting without Shareholders

Presenter: Irem Erten, Warwick Business School, UK

Title of Paper: The Association between CEO Attractiveness and Corporate Social Responsibility Performance

Presenter: Kevin Cao, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

Title of Paper: The impact of CSR expenditure on dividend policy and firm value: Examining the role of ownership as the intervening variable

Presenter: Neha Gosain, IILM Lodhi Road, India

SESSION TRACK: BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
ROOM: M207, 9 – 10.50AM
SESSION CHAIR: AMANI FARAJI

Title of Paper: Once Bitten, Twice Shy: S&L Crisis Experience and Depositor Reactions to Default News

Presenter: Yang Qiu, School of Management, Zhejiang University, China

Title of Paper: Operational Losses and Insider Trading: Evidence from U.S. Financial Institutions

Presenter: Anna Chernobai, Syracuse University, USA

Title of Paper: Climate Risk and Credit Allocation: A Study of Domestic and Foreign Banks in Türkiye

Presenter: Canan Yildirim, Rennes School of Business, France

SESSION TRACK: DIGITAL ASSETS & DIGITALISATION
ROOM: M212, 9 – 10.50AM
SESSION CHAIR: SONILA MALKO

Title of Paper: Assessing the Role of Crypto Analysts: Early Evidence from Research Reports

Presenter: Shijie Yang, College of Business of the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), China

Title of Paper: AI and the Accounting Profession in Iraq: Examining Perceived Impacts on Roles, Performance, and Employability

Presenter: Diary Jalal Ali, University of Halabja, Iraq

Title of Paper: Redefining the Digital Frontier: The Revolutionary Impact of Technology on Entrepreneurship and Business

Presenter: Diary Jalal Ali, University of Halabja, Iraq

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



PROFESSOR MARTIN DALLIMER
Professor in Environmental Sustainability, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London.

We live in a time of rapid technological, environmental, and societal change. Urbanisation and agricultural intensification have driven unsustainable resource use and ecosystem degradation. At the same time, technological innovation is transforming economies, reshaping how people interact with the environment, and could fundamentally shift how we might deliver a more sustainable, equitable and just future. For instance, the importance of healthy,

biodiverse ecosystems for carbon storage, food production, climate resilience, and human wellbeing, is increasingly recognized. Yet, habitat and biodiversity loss continue apace. To what extent, then, might technological innovations offer solutions to improve how we deliver multiple sustainability goals from landscapes that are under pressure from many competing demands.

Working across diverse regions, my research centres on applying and integrating quantitative and qualitative research techniques from across the natural and social sciences to understand how to deliver sustainable, viable and equitable solutions to some of the environment and development challenges facing the world today.



MR. TIM SMOLCIC
Director Tech Sustainability, HSBC, London.

Tim Smolcic is a global technology executive and a leading voice in sustainable IT, with over 15 years of experience driving innovation at the intersection of enterprise technology, cloud computing, AI, and environmental impact.

Currently serving as Director at HSBC, Tim leads global transformation and strategic initiatives, integrating sustainability as a core design principle for modern enterprise infrastructure.

A passionate advocate for responsible technology, Tim is an active partner of the ITU Green Digital Action initiative. His work focuses on embedding sustainability into the digital ecosystem – particularly the development of open-source tools that enable real-time measurement of software-related carbon emissions. His patented carbon tracking framework is now listed on the UN Digital Public Goods Register.

Tim brings industry-wide insights from his ongoing research into the measurement and reporting of AI energy consumption. His work identifies critical gaps in current methodologies and reporting frameworks, offering evidence-based recommendations to align AI development with global sustainability goals. Through cross-sector collaboration, Tim is helping define what ‘green AI’ means in practice – and where the industry must evolve to close the disconnect between innovation and environmental accountability.

KEYNOTE AGENDA

6TH FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA* THEME: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

Wednesday 17 June 2026, Hogg lecture Theatre
Keynote Address at 11.00am followed by lunch and afternoon sessions

11.00 – 11.05am – Opening Address

Presenter: Professor Christos Kalantaridis
Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of College, Westminster Business School

11.05 – 11.10am – Welcome Address

Presenter: Dr Emma Elkington
Head of School of Finance and Accounting, Westminster Business School

11.10 – 11.40am – Keynote Address I

Professor Martin Dallimer
Professor in Environmental Sustainability, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London

11.40 – 11.45am – Research Update

Presenter: Professor Franz Buscha
Associate Head of College for Research and Knowledge Exchange, Westminster Business School

11.45am – 12.15pm – Keynote Address II

Mr. Tim Smolcic
Director Tech Sustainability, HSBC, London

12.15 – 12.45pm – Q&A

12.45 – 12.50pm – Vote of Thanks

Presenter: Dr. Sonila Malko
School of Finance and Accounting, Westminster Business School

* Introductions by Ms. Busra Akcan, Doctoral Student

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026
AFTERNOON SESSIONS 2–3.50PM

SESSION TRACK: FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS
ROOM: M323, 2 – 3.50PM
SESSION CHAIR: SOOLYN XU

Title of Paper: Can Event Study Methodology Keep Up with Cryptocurrencies?

Presenter: Juliane Proelss, University of Concordia, Canada

Title of Paper: Re(Visiting) Time Series Foundation Models in Finance

Presenter: Eghbal Rahimikia, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester, UK

Title of Paper: Option Return Co-movements

Presenter: William Nguyen, Sydney University, Australia

Title of Paper: Measuring Greenwashing in ESG Research: Methodological Approaches and Limitations

Presenter: Nataliia Miedviedkova, Westminster Business School, London, UK

SESSION TRACK: CORPORATE FINANCE
ROOM: M324, 2 – 3.50PM
SESSION CHAIR: JULIE AYTON

Title of Paper: Industry Characteristics and Capital Structure: A Quantitative Analysis

Presenter: Ajay Subramanian, J Mack Robinson College of Business, USA

Title of Paper: Which Political Risk Matters: Macro or Firm-Level

Presenter: Ali Malik, Leicester University, UK

Title of Paper: Firm-Level Convergence Analysis and Diversification implications: Evidence from the Magnificent Seven

Presenter: Tugba Bas, Fenerbahce University, Turkey

SESSION TRACK: THE ALPHA GAME
ROOM: M207, 2 – 3.50PM
SESSION CHAIR: NATALIA KRASNIKOVA

Title of Paper: Dinner Table Alphas

Presenter: Huaizhi Chen, University of Texas at Dallas, USA

Title of Paper: Jewish Fund Managers and the Money Myth: Stereotype vs. Performance

Presenter: William Joseph Klubinski, Northumbria University, UK

SESSION TRACK: ESG RATINGS
ROOM: M216, 2 – 3.50PM
SESSION CHAIR: YUNXU CHEN

Title of Paper: ESG Rating Divergence: How Methodology and Regional Context Shape Financial Institution Assessment

Presenter: Umida Nematova, Westminster International University in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Title of Paper: Can CEO Activism Boost ESG Ratings?

Presenter: Denis Schweizer, University of Concordia, Canada

Title of Paper: The Impact of ESG Rating Disagreement on Stock Returns for the top 100 UK companies (2017–2024) Excluding the financial sector

Presenter: Sina Mousavi, Westminster Business School, London, UK

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1, WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026
DOCTORAL PANEL I 4 – 6PM

DOCTORAL PANEL I
SESSION TRACK: BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABILITY
ROOM: MG28, 4 – 6PM
SESSION CHAIR: TANTAWY MOUSSA

Title of Paper: CEO risk taking Incentives and Corporate Exposure to Biodiversity Risk: Evidence from US Firms

Presenter: Rana Shrief, Swansea University
Discussant: Hao Wu, QMUL, London, UK

Title of Paper: Universal Owners and Corporate Externalities

Presenter: Manyun Tang, Said Business School, Oxford, UK
Discussant: Zhang Zheng, Bayes Business School, London, UK

Title of Paper: Biodiversity Risk in Commodity Futures Markets

Presenter: Zhang Zheng, Bayes Business School, London, UK
Discussant: Manyun Tang, Said Business School, Oxford, UK

Title of Paper: Digital Innovation Amplifies Sustainability: Intangible Asset Synergies and Firm Performance

Presenter: Hao Wu, QMUL, London, UK
Discussant: Rana Shrief, Swansea University, UK

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE DAY 2, THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 2, THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026
MORNING SESSIONS 9 – 10.50AM

SESSION TRACK: CEO AND SUSTAINABILITY ROOM: M323, 9 – 10.50AM SESSION CHAIR: OBBY PHIRI
Title of Paper: The Informational Value of CEO Activism for Analysts Presenter: Juliane Proelss, University of Concordia, Canada
Title of Paper: How ESG Factors Influence Market Power in Consolidated Market Presenter: Abdullah Aldousari, Aberystwyth University, UK
Title of Paper: Generalist CEOs and Cost Behavior Presenter: Khaled Abdulsalam, College of Business Administration, Kuwait
Title of Paper: Linking Monetary Policy to Sustainable Finance Panel Evidence from the UK, USA, Canada, and the EU Presenter: Kamaran Yaqub, Sulaimani Polytechnic University, Iraq

SESSION TRACK: BANKS AND ASSURANCE ROOM: M324, 9 – 10.50AM SESSION CHAIR: NATALIJA MIEDVIEDKOVA
Title of Paper: Nonlinear Ex-Dividend Pricing: Disentangling Taxes and Frictions Presenter: Ketian Guan, Brandeis University, USA
Title of Paper: Is Bank CEO Pay Sensitive to Operational Risk Event Announcements? Presenter: Anna Chernobai, Syracuse University, USA
Title of Paper: Enhancing the Timeliness of Impairment Recognition: The Influence of Audit Industry Specialisation Presenter: Sonila Malko, Westminster Business School, UK
Title of Paper: Perceived Impact of Central Bank Supervision on Bank Performance and Financial Stability Presenter: Sharoo Fadhil, Qaiwan International University, Iraq

SESSION TRACK: CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ROOM: M216, 9 – 10.50AM SESSION CHAIR: PYTHAGORAS PETRATOS
Title of Paper: Third-Party Provision of Carbon Emission Data and ESG Ratings: Evidence from Climate TRACE Presenter: Igor Kadach, IESE Business School, Spain
Title of Paper: Greenwashing as Strategic Disclosure: A Cross-Disciplinary Synthesis for Markets and Stakeholders Presenter: Luca Menicacci, Faculty of Economics and Management, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy
Title of Paper: Accounting and accountability of climate change mitigation strategy: The implication on sustainable development in Africa Presenter: Mohammed Amidu, University of Ghana Business School, Ghana

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 2, THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026

DOCTORAL PANEL II 11AM – 1PM & DOCTORAL PANEL III 2 – 4PM

DOCTORAL PANEL II

SESSION TRACK: BOND MARKETS & SUSTAINABILITY

ROOM: MG28, 11AM – 1PM

SESSION CHAIR: ISSAM MALKI

Title of Paper: Informational Efficiency, Dealer Networks, and Corporate Bond Market Frictions

Presenter: Shiqing Liang, Bristol University, UK

Discussant: Seyed Mojtaba Mousavi, Queen Mary University, London

Title of Paper: Climate Risk and Corporate Bond Returns: Decomposing Firm-Level Risk Using 10-K Filings

Presenter: Seyed Mojtaba Mousavi, Queen Mary University, London

Discussant: Shiqing Liang, Bristol University, UK

Title of Paper: Pathways for the adoption of granular matching in renewable energy accounting: Evidence from implementation efforts in Europe

Presenter: Hanna Scholta, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Discussant: Rukhsana Bibi, Riphah International University and COMSATS University, Pakistan

Title of Paper: A Non-Linear Framework of Macro-Finance Determinants. An analysis of Pakistan's Commodities Future Volatility of Metals, Energy and Agriculture

Presenter: Rukhsana Bibi, Riphah International University and COMSATS University, Pakistan

Discussant: Hanna Scholta, Technical University of Munich, Germany

DOCTORAL PANEL III

SESSION TRACK: ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

ROOM: MG28, 2 – 4PM

SESSION CHAIR: ISSAM MALKI

Title of Paper: Mutual Fund Carbon Divestment: Strategic Investment Reallocation toward Firms without Carbon Transparency

Presenter: Sompasorn Ruksomboonde, Singapore Management University, Singapore

Discussant: Lihang Chen, Bayes Business School, London, UK

Title of Paper: Green Money Talks: Responsible Ownership and Disclosure of Material Climate Commitments

Presenter: Alessio Venturini, Surrey University

Discussant: Sompasorn Ruksomboonde, Singapore Management University, Singapore

Title of Paper: Does Local Political Corruption Spur Corporate Carbon Emissions?

Presenter: Lihang Chen, Bayes Business School, London, UK

Discussant: Alessio Venturini, Surrey University

