

BAFASIG on Corporate Governance Annual report 2020-2021

Given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, no conference took place and it was a very quiet year. We did, however, hold an online AGM and are now looking to organising online events now as well as a plenary for the SIG.

1. Publication of Special Section of Qualitative Research in Financial Markets

As an initiative launched at the 2016 annual conference, we launched a Call for Papers for a Special Issue of QRFM on “Qualitative Research in Corporate Governance”. This special issue was recently finalised with the editorial paper being accepted for publication in February 2020, entitled “**Exploring the evolution of qualitative research in financial markets and corporate governance: Identifying potential paths for future research**”. This Guest Editorial is authored by Jill Atkins (University of Sheffield), Sharif Khalid (University of Sheffield) and Elisabetta Barone (Brunel, University of London). The editorial paper adopts a broad agenda by seeking to explore the evolution of qualitative research across financial markets, of which a major part is devoted to corporate governance research. Given the establishment of the new Centre for Qualitative Research in Financial Markets, at the University of Dundee, the paper also focuses on the contribution of the Centre’s journal, *Qualitative Research in Financial Markets (QRFM)*, of which this is a guest editorial, to the body of qualitative financial markets research. We begin by problematizing financial markets and finance research, as the dominant quantitative and positivist paradigm may be seen to stifle interpretive, qualitative scholarly activity in financial markets, restrict interdisciplinary work, and hinder attempts to render financial markets research more societally relevant. From this perspective *QRFM* may be seen as an oasis, providing an outlet for qualitative finance researchers globally to explore and critique financial markets mechanisms, corporate governance, shareholder activities and stock markets in an interpretive paradigm, frequently using qualitative or mixed methods approaches. We also identify gaps in the research published in *QRFM*, especially in terms of research topic. The paper concludes by providing an agenda for future qualitative research in financial markets and corporate governance. The special section should be in print in the next couple of weeks. There have been multiple delays at Emerald due to changing roles within the organisation that have slowed down the publication process.

2. AGM and Executive Steering Committee Membership

We held our AGM in November online due to the Covid situation. Minutes taken by our Secretary, Sabur Mollah, included below:

British Accounting & Finance Association Special Interest Group on Corporate Governance

AGM

6.00pm 4th November 2020

Google Meet MIMNUTES

AGENDA

1. Chair's welcome and introduction – no preceding minutes given
2. Apologies from Executive Steering Group
3. Executive Steering Group Membership – confirmation of secretary and treasurer, chair role – vote
4. Accounts – update on bank account
5. Approval of new constitution – discuss
6. Strategic plans for 2020-21
7. Conference and doctoral colloquium 2021– dates and theme/speakers
8. Vote on Chair Person
9. Any other business

Attendees:

- Jill Atkins
- Sabur Mollah
- Nnamdi Okolo
- Christoph Biehl
- Christopher Napier
- Mingzhu Wang
- Federica Doni
- Sharif Khalid
- Bruce Burton
- David Ewers

Minutes

Agenda item 1: Chair's Welcome

Prof. Jill Atkins (JA) welcomes the attendees to the meeting and highlights the SIG's achievements in 2019-20. Prof. Atkins emphasises the impact of the ongoing COVID pandemic. She also mentions the sudden resignation of the treasurer the previous December and informs the committee about the new appointment of the treasurer. The chair also informs the committee about a special issue of QRFM on corporate governance that is soon to be in print – it was based around an earlier SIG conference..

Agenda item 2 – Apologies:

- Dr Theresa Dunne
- Professor Warren Maroun
- Dr Simon Tan

Agenda item 3: Confirmation of New Appointments

Executive steering group confirms the appointment of the secretary and treasurer.

- Prof. Sabur Mollah was appointed as the secretary and Mr. Nnamdi Okolo was appointed as the treasurer during 2019 CG-SIG conference in Sheffield.

Agenda item 4: Accounts

Jill Atkins presents the accounts of the SIG and updates the attendees on income and expenses incurred over 2019-20.

- Year-end income over expenses £2,514.14
- Approval of accounts

- o Proposed: Professor Napier
- o Seconded: Dr Biehl
- o Vote: 10 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Agenda item 5: Approval of new constitution – discuss

- Explanation of the need to adopt the new constitution.
- Adoption of the new constitution
- o Proposed: Professor Napier
 - Proposed to adopt the new constitution allowing the chair to agree any drafting amendments with BAFA.
- o Seconded: Dr Biehl
- o Vote: 10 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Agenda item 6: Strategic Plan for 2020-21

Two key annual events to be organised by the SIG Governance:

Governance Webinar

Dr Chris Biehl suggests to organize a webinar. He proposes Mrs Martina Macpherson and Lord Sikka as the speakers for the webinar.

Sustainability and governance conference 2021

Prof. Sabur Mollah informs about the conference that should be co-hosted by the SIG and governance group at Sheffield University Management School

QRFM Special Issue:

Prof Atkins proposes for a new special issue on COV-19 and governance.

Prof Atkins emphasis the need to update the website and further popularize the SIG

Action items:

- Follow-up on website
- Follow-up on social media
- Follow-up on constitution

Agenda item 7: Approval of 2019 Minutes

- The minutes for 2019 was presented.
- The minutes are approved anonymously.

Agenda item 8: Vote on Chair Person

- Vote on the chair person
- o Proposed: Professor Napier proposes Jill Atkins
- o Seconded: Dr Biehl
- o No competing candidates are proposed.
- o Vote: 10 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Agenda item 9: Any Other Business

- An idea for a newsletter was proposed.
- Simon Tan resigns from the executive committee and is thanked for his long service.

- Minhthu Wang resigns from the executive committee and is thanked for her long service and for producing the newsletter for several years

The current membership of the executive steering committee is as follows:

1. Professor Jill Atkins – Chair - University of Sheffield
2. Sabur Mollah – Secretary - University of Sheffield
3. Nnamdi Okolo – Treasurer - University of Sheffield
4. Christoph Biehl, External Relations, Henley Business School, University of Reading
5. Professor Bruce Burton, Editor, Qualitative Research in Financial Markets
University of Dundee.
6. Dr. Federica Doni, University of Milano-Bicocca
7. Dr. Theresa Dunne, University of Dundee
8. Dr. David Ewers, Henley Business School, University of Reading
9. Sharif Mahmoud Khalid, Governance Case Study Writing & Development
University of Sheffield
10. Professor Warren Maroun, Newsletter Editor, University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg, South Africa
11. Professor Christopher Napier, Royal Holloway, University of London
12. Professor David Power, University of Dundee
13. Professor Ian Thomson, University of Birmingham