

The PRI Academic Network Conference 2021

The UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) works to understand the investment implications of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors and to support its international network of investor signatories in incorporating these factors into their investment and ownership decisions. The PRI acts in the long-term interests of its signatories, of the financial markets and economies in which they operate and ultimately of the environment and society as a whole.

The PRI Academic Network is a vibrant and flourishing international community of over 4,000 academics and investment practitioners on ESG and investment. Academics are from RI-related disciplines, spanning accounting, economics, finance, law, management, sociology, and other subjects in the social and natural sciences.

The conference focuses on the latest research on responsible investment practices. The event is for academic researchers in sustainability and will also be an opportunity for academics and investors to engage with each other, learn and discuss the latest insights, and to network.

As in previous years, we will hold again the **PRI Academic Network Conference** in 2021. Given the current global pandemic, we allow for some flexibility in the planning of the conference:

- 1) Health situation permitting: the PRI Academic Network Conference will again be alongside PRI in Person – the largest global conference on responsible investment – and will be held **in person on Monday 13 September 2021 in Tokyo**.
- 2) If the health situation does not permit traveling and group gatherings: the conference will be converted into a **5-day virtual event during 13-17 September** (like last year).

Call for Papers

Aligning with key themes at PRI in Person, we invite submissions of papers that focus on responsible investment, especially inviting submissions on the following topics:

The development of a sustainable financial system

- ESG investing and investment horizons
- Risk management in the context of RI
- ESG-related regulatory developments (for e.g. EU sustainable finance)
- Fiduciary duty
- Sustainable pension systems
- The role of financial regulators
- Transition risks

The role of responsible investment in meeting global goals

- SDGs
- Investing for impact / outcomes
- Diversity and inclusion
- Lobbying
- Artificial intelligence
- Climate change
- Energy transition
- Biodiversity and conservation

ESG integration

- Financial performance
- Fixed income and ESG investment performance
- Behavioural finance and investment biases: implications for RI

ESG engagement

- Corporate reporting (e.g. TCFD) and ESG disclosure
- Engagement strategies
- Hard to abate sectors and corporate emission reductions
- Incentives, corporate culture and long-term value creation

We encourage both theoretical and empirical contributions from diverse disciplines such as accounting, economics, finance, law, management, and other subjects in the social and natural sciences.

Submission information

Paper submission is now open! Submit your paper via email to cflammer@bu.edu and adhere the following guidelines:

- Subject line: indicate “2021 PRI Academic Network Conference – Paper Submission”
- Copy all co-authors on the submission email
- For each paper submission, submit i) one anonymized PDF, and ii) one PDF that lists all coauthors
- Indicate your interest in what conference format you would be willing to participate if your paper gets accepted:
 - a) 1-day in person conference in Tokyo only
 - b) 5-day virtual conference only
 - c) both

Please note

- Full papers only. Extended abstracts will not be considered
- Only papers English can be submitted, with a page limit of 60 pages
- Working papers only. Published or forthcoming papers should not be submitted
- A maximum of two papers per author will be considered. Use separate emails in case of two submissions.

Accepted papers will be featured on the PRI website unless otherwise agreed. Past conference papers can be found here: www.unpri.org/academicresearch

Reviewing criteria

Submissions will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

- Contribution to responsible investment research
- Originality of subject of study or approach
- Methodological strength
- The practical significance of the research

Conference papers will be judged in a double-blind review process by the PRI Academic Network Committee, which is composed of academics and practitioners, and the Conference Committee.

Conference Committee

- Caroline Flammer (conference chair)
Associate Professor of Strategy & Innovation, and Dean's Research Scholar
Questrom School of Business, Boston University
- Pedro Matos
Professor of Business Administration (Finance), and John G. Macfarlane Family Chair
Darden School of Business, University of Virginia
- Laura Starks
Professor of Finance, Charles E. & Sarah M. Seay Regents' Chair in Finance
McCombs School of Business, University of Texas Austin

Timeline

1 May 2021	Submission deadline for all papers
31 May 2021	Notification to applicants
10 September 2021	Presentation slides to be sent to the PRI ahead of the conference

Contact

For questions regarding submission, please contact cflammer@bu.edu

For questions about the conference, please contact events@unpri.org