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Special Issue on
"Corporate Social Responsibility & Governance"

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Call for Papers

Corporate governance (CG) and corporate social responsibility (CSR) have been important research issues for decades. In finance literature, the relationship between CG and CSR has been studied in conjunction with the relationship between CSR and corporate financial performance (CFP) or risks. In fact in these studies, CG is analysed as a pre-requirement or a component of CSR (Roshima et al., 2009; García-Sánchez et al., 2015). The considerable number of studies that examine the interrelations among CSR and CFP or risks report conflicting evidence (Becchetti and Ciciretti, 2009). This lack of consistency in the results may be explained by two factors. First, the relationships between CG, CSR, and financial performance or risks are partially explored in pairs, sometimes including the fact that these factors may operate in reverse and create a synergetic circle, but they are not examined as a whole (Waddock and Graves, 1997). However, these relationships are more complex, and a global model is required to better understand them (Flammer, 2015). Second, the multiplicity of data and methodologies used can explain the different empirical results observed. Specifically, a problem of endogeneity exists between CSR and CFP variables, and the strength of the link between financial and CSR performances depends on the way in which the two performances are measured, as well as numerous moderating variables (Orlitzky, 2013; Gramlich and Finster, 2013).

Other domains of the literature in management tried to explain the relationship between governance and CSR engagement, policy or strategy (Carroll, 1999; Danvila del Valle et al., 2013; Zingales et al., 2016). In particular they defined some typologies of CSR strategic behaviors according to the governance of firms, and showed that management and structure of CSR strategies depend on governance factors.

Finally, ethical behavior and CSR practices of agents in the financial sector have come under increased scrutiny over the past several years. An in-depth examination of the issue of CSR and governance is

particularly important given the alarming increase both in frequency and severity of incidents of corporate fraud. The scandals associated with Enron, WorldCom and Lehman Brothers, as well as the Ponzi schemes of Allen Stanford, Bernard Madoff and others have served to undermine the confidence of investors and the public. Remarkably, Dyck, Morse and Zingales (2014) estimate that only 1 in 4 committed frauds is detected in the U.S. market, and that about 15% of U.S. firms were engaged in corporate fraud over the period 1996-2004. This is particularly troublesome for those who believe that the US has the highest standards of monitoring and investor protection worldwide. Equally disturbing, they find that the annual cost of fraud among large US corporations is about $380 billion. For markets with weaker regulatory than the US, these results are especially disconcerting.

Given the underdeveloped nature of financial markets and the banking systems of many countries (particularly emerging and frontier markets), alternative solutions for financing investments have appeared, including Microfinance entities. Some major international banks have joined local microcredit providers to service this niche, both to demonstrate their commitments to social development, as well as for profit. Banks are increasingly rethinking their activities and criteria to finance projects and firms in developing countries. As highlighted by Gangi and Trotta (2015), the investment funds linked to social commitment aims, in times of economic crisis, show greater stability in their benefits than the funds whose sole aim is profit. It seems that the moral and economic values linked to CSR provide balance and solidity to the system as well as temper the required freedom and search for profits in the markets.

This special issue aspires to provide a forum for new research that looks at the nexus of corporate social responsibility and governance within and across companies as well as markets in general around the world.

Suggested Topics

This special issue aims to consider the diverse relationships between corporate social responsibility and the problematic of corporate governance (please note that this list of topics is not exhaustive):

- Corporate social responsibility, governance and financial outcomes
- CSR policy or strategy and governance
- CSR and governance measures
- CSR reports or disclosures and governance
- CSR in Public-private partnership: models of governance
- CSR and governance to prevent fraud
- Ethics, CSR and mechanisms of governance in financial sector
- Sustainable banking, Microfinance, and Microinsurance
- Ethical or sustainable investments, CSR funds and their mechanisms of governance.

The deadline for full submissions to the special issue is **October 30, 2017**.

Details of Paper Content, Length, and Due Date

Submission to the special issue have to be send by email to jmsahut@gmail.com
Please follow JoMG guideline for manuscript presentation: http://link.springer.com/journal/10997

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Further Information

For questions regarding the content of this special issue, please contact the guest editors: Prof. Jean-Michel Sahut (jmsahut@gmail.com)

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