

# CSR LRN Newsletter

23 May 2014

## Inside this issue

- 2 New publications
- 4 Events and calls for papers
- 10 Upcoming events and deadlines



## Dear members, dear colleagues.

Before coming to the summer break, we are pleased to present another CSR LRN Newsletter. As usual, this issue includes a number of exciting upcoming events as well as several interesting recent publications. A number of events listed in the previous letter will be taking place in the upcoming months so please check out the previous Newsletter as well.

In order to be able to continue to put together an informative Newsletter, we urge you to continue to send us your comments, as well as information about relevant publications and events, so that they can be included in the next Newsletter.

The present Newsletter has been put together by Dániel and Eskil, but henceforth Eskil will fulfil the task. Therefore, if you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter or any other questions, you are most welcome to contact Eskil at [ekr.ikl@cbs.dk](mailto:ekr.ikl@cbs.dk).

Enjoy reading.

Best regards,

Dániel and Eskil

Please, circulate this newsletter among your colleagues.

### Board members:

Chairman: Karin Buhmann ([buhmann@life.ku.dk](mailto:buhmann@life.ku.dk)), secretary, newsletter editor: Katerina Peterkova ([katpe@asb.dk](mailto:katpe@asb.dk)), webmaster: Dániel Gergely Szabó ([dangs@asb.dk](mailto:dangs@asb.dk)), Lovisa Halje ([lovisa.halje@jur.uu.se](mailto:lovisa.halje@jur.uu.se)), Eskil Kristian Riskær ([ekr.ikl@cbs.dk](mailto:ekr.ikl@cbs.dk))

## New publications

### ***Refining the Rules of the Game: The Corporate Responsibility to Respect Human Rights***

**Justine Nolan**

In: Utrecht Journal of International and European Law, [S.l.], v. 30, n. 78, p. 7-23, feb. 2014. ISSN 2053-5341.

Available at: <<http://www.utrechtjournal.org/article/view/ujiel.ca>>

#### *Abstract*

The growth of transnational corporations over the past few decades has been paralleled by concerns to find ways of regulating the deleterious impacts on human rights by the ever-increasing number of companies whose corporate tentacles stretch across national boundaries and beyond the reach of traditional corporate control mechanisms. The steady evolution of a global social expectation that companies should respect international human rights standards, combined with the occasional foray by states in adopting an expansive approach to protecting rights, is changing the nature and possibility of developing a firmer basis for corporate accountability for human rights. What we are witnessing is a process of re-regulation whereby state and non-state actors are utilizing a combination of public and private regulation to improve the framework for corporate rights compliance. The regulation of corporate activity with respect to human rights requires a multiplicity of stakeholders and a very nuanced mix of public and private regulation that may be difficult to replicate easily across different sectors, states and cultural boundaries.

### ***Using Private Contracts for Climate Change Mitigation***

**Kateřina Peterková Mitkidis**

In: Groningen Journal of International Law. Vol. 2, No. 1: Energy & Environmental Law

Available at: <<http://groningenjil.com/issue-01-energy-and-environmental-law/>>

#### *Abstract*

Regulation of climate change is caught up in a stalemate. Differences between developed and developing countries prevent reaching an international agreement. Transnational private regulation has unclear legitimacy, effectiveness and enforcement. National efforts are valuable, but their limited geographical reach creates incentives for companies to outsource environmentally heavy activities to countries with weaker regimes, the so-called "carbon leakage" effect. As a result the carbon emissions among international supply chains amount to multiple yearly emissions of some developed countries. This gap needs to be closed if we aim for effective global solutions to climate change. The majority of scholars agree that no single regulatory tool alone can remedy the situation, but that a combination of public and private, mandatory and voluntary regimes is necessary. The author proposes that supply chain contracts are the missing piece in the international climate change regulatory matrix. The article discusses why, despite their potential, supply chain contracts have hitherto experienced only little attention and why they can be successful where other regulation fails. It concludes that the potential of private contracting should be triggered by adequate regulation.

### ***Legal vs. Normative CSR: Differential Impact on Analyst Dispersion, Stock Return Volatility, Cost of Capital, and Firm Value***

**Maretno A. Harjoto**

**Hoje Jo**

In: Journal of Business Ethics, February 2014

*Abstract*

This study examines how the sell-side analysts interpret firms' corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities. Specifically, we examine the differential impact of overall, legal, and normative CSR on the analysts' earnings forecast dispersion, stock return volatility, cost of equity capital, and firm value. Employing a sample of U.S. public firms during 1993–2009, we find that overall CSR intensities reduce analyst dispersion of earnings forecast, volatility of stock return and cost of capital (COC), and increase firm value. However, its impact is reduced for firms with better accounting and disclosure quality. When we disaggregate CSR into legal and normative CSR, we find that legal (normative) CSR decreases (increases) analysts' dispersion, stock return volatility, and COC, while legal (normative) CSR increases (decreases) firm value. The sell-side analysts tend to have less (greater) information asymmetry regarding the net benefits of pursuing CSR that is (not) required by laws. We find, however, that the benefit of having normative CSR realized in 1 year lag such that analyst dispersion, stock return volatility, COC decrease, respectively, and firm value increases. Furthermore, we find that the benefit of normative CSR is offset for firms with higher accounting and disclosure quality.

***The Legal Aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility: Interview with Ursula Wynhoven*****Benjamin Thompson****Erica Teeuwen****Irina Georgieva**

In: Utrecht Journal of International and European Law, Vol. 30, No. 78, pp.139-144, 2014

Available at: <[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2413471](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2413471)>*Abstract*

The Global Compact (UNGC) represents the world's largest corporate citizenship initiative today. Created under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) to encourage companies around the world to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, the UNGC brings together businesses, UN agencies and labour groups in search of compromises.

***Regulating Accounting for Sustainable Companies: Some Considerations on the Forthcoming EU Directive*****David Monciardini**

in: European Company Law, Issue 2, pp. 121–124, 2014

*Abstract*

On April 2013 the EU Commission published its much anticipated proposal for a new Directive on 'non-financial reporting'. The article suggests that the framework used by the Commission is rather weak and improvements are proposed. It maintains that national sustainability codes could be developed and the attention should shift to regulate large institutional investors' reporting.

***Integrated Reporting for Sustainable Companies: What to Encourage and What to Avoid*****Charlotte Villiers**

in: (European Company Law, 2014, Issue 2, pp. 117–120)

*Abstract*

This article explains the concept of integrated reporting as a sustainable development mechanism. It warns against capture by market actors and urges greater involvement of stakeholders, NGOs and civil society in the development of the framework for integrated reporting. A system of assurance is also required.

## Events and calls for papers

### Future Infinite Academic: Sustainable Futures in Changing Climate

11-12 June 2014, Helsinki, Finland

<http://www.wanhasatama.com/Sites1/FutureInfinite/en/Pages/default.aspx>

#### OVERVIEW:

The 16th International Futures Conference organised by Finland Futures Research Centre deals with the different dimensions of Sustainable Futures in a Changing Climate. The UN Rio +20 summit in 2012 and governmental commitments to create universal sustainable development goals have generated new and fresh debates on how to best pursue environmental sustainability with social equity. At the same time, it has become globally acknowledged that sustainable development cannot be treated without reference to climate change – and vice versa.

#### Keynote Speakers:

**Dr. R.K. Pachauri**, Chairman of IPCC:

“Climate Change & Sustainable Development: Challenges & Opportunities”

**President Tarja Halonen**, Co-chair of UN High-level Panel on Global Sustainability:

“The Rights and Responsibilities of People in Sustainable Development after 2015”

**Prof. Ying Chen**, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:

“China’s climate policy and low carbon development”

**Dr. Louis Lebel**, Unit for Social and Environmental Research, Chiang Mai University:

“The politics of uncertainty and adaptation to climate change”

**Prof. Sohail Inayatullah**, Graduate Institute of Futures Studies, Tamkang University: “The Practice of foresight: what works (and what doesn't)”

**Prof. Joyeeta Gupta**, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, University of Amsterdam:

“Climate governance in the context of environment and development governance”

#### Working groups:

WG 1: Forests and Climate Change: from Global Trends to Local Landscapes

WG 2: Institutional Analysis and Energy Transitions Chairs

WG 3: North-South Research Collaborations – For Whom and For What?

WG 4: Climate Change and Corporate Actions

WG 5: Arctic Futures 2033 – Opportunities and Threats for Sustainability

WG 6: Climate Change Mitigation Opportunities in Rural Futures

WG 7: Climate Governance in the South: Policies and Politics in Mitigation and Adaptation A

WG 8: Climate Governance in the South: Policies and Politics in Mitigation and Adaptation B

WG 9: Urban Adaptation in a Changing Climate

WG 10: Urban Sustainability

WG 11: Reasons and Implications of Climate Change

WG 12: Methodological and Theoretical Perspectives to Climate Change and Futures Studies

This conference is part of the first international Future Infinite Conference, consisting of two parallel series of lectures. The academic part will take place on 11-12 June with the title “Sustainable Futures in a Changing Climate

– Future Infinite Academic". All the academic participants are most welcome to join the second part of the event "Future Infinite", targeted on corporate leaders and decision-makers. On Friday 13 June, the Future Pitches section of the conference will be held. In this part of the programme, partner companies will share their perspectives on the future. In addition, best entries to the Everyday Innovations of the Future competition for students will be showcased at the conference.

### **Future Infinite: Solving Global Challenges for Better Futures**

**12-13 June 2014, Helsinki, Finland**

<http://www.wanhasatama.com/Sites1/FutureInfinite/en/Pages/default.aspx>

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The future has its challenges. World population is growing rapidly, which leads to the depleting of resources, like water and raw materials. Also the world population is aging, unemployment rate of the young people is rising, climate change is causing extreme weather events and causing huge economic losses. We are operating in a more complex environment, in which small events can lead to huge consequences. This happened in year 2008, in global financial crises.

#### **Luckily we are not victims of the future.**

We, as the people, communities, organizations and businesses have a possibility to affect the course of the future. At the best, we are changing the future challenges to big opportunities, for new businesses, that are bringing wealth to the nations. The solutions for the future challenges might feel unbelievable today. To find them, we need to smash our conventions.

Future Infinite conference is a melting pot that brings together the most insightful people and the biggest ideas in research, government and business from around the world. The idea of the conference is that by discussing the challenges of the future in heterogeneous groups we can find solutions and new practices that are making the future brighter for all of us.

This conference is part of the first international Future Infinite Conference, consisting of two parallel series of lectures. The academic part will take place on 11-12 June with the title "Sustainable Futures in a Changing Climate – Future Infinite Academic". All the academic participants are most welcome to join the second part of the event "Future Infinite", targeted on corporate leaders and decision-makers. On Friday 13 June, the Future Pitches section of the conference will be held. In this part of the programme, partner companies will share their perspectives on the future. In addition, best entries to the Everyday Innovations of the Future competition for students will be showcased at the conference.

**2nd International Conference, Faculty of Management (University of Łódź, Poland) and CSR Impact Foundation**

**"Making a difference. CSR Trends II"**

**10-11 July 2014, Łódź, Poland**

<http://www.csrtrends.eu/>

**Deadline:** paper proposals 15 May; draft paper 1 July

**OVERVIEW:**

CSR concept development has gone through several transformations but from the very beginning it was based on the assumption that business has moral obligations to society. The understanding of these obligations has evolved from personal obligation of a manager (Bowen), integrating different kinds of responsibilities (Carroll), respecting needs of stakeholders and management of stakeholders relations (Freeman), and – currently – management of company's impacts on society and environment (ISO 26000:2010, COM(2011) 681 final).

The last approach suggests that actions undertaken by businesses are important contribution to sustainable development and really make a difference. The focus of our conference is to highlight examples and trends that have impact on society and change it. We will focus on major challenges that business faces today. We would like to facilitate the discussion about possibilities to create innovative solutions that help to cope with social and environmental problems, sustainability and materiality of CSR strategies, role of consumers or changes in global supply chains.

The added value of the conference lies in that it will highlight viewpoints of different sectors. Scientists and practitioners representing business, NGOs and public administration are kindly invited to participate in the conference. We are going to find new ways and discuss the direction in which the business with contribution of other sectors should move to make a difference. We would like to create an opportunity to share research results, exchange experiences from business practice and put it all together, leading to a small step in further CSR development.

If you are interested in attending the conference, we therefore kindly invite you to submit proposal of paper addressing the following areas:

- How to measure CSR?
- Sustainability and materiality of CSR strategies
- Social innovations and social entrepreneurship
- Good and bad practices from different sectors
- Methodology of CSR
- Sustainable business models and shared value creation
- Human rights and business
- Sustainable supply chains
- Intersectoral cooperation
- Sustainability of larger systems and the role of business (eg. sustainable cities)
- Responsible management education (including a role of PRME)
- Modern forms of communications with stakeholders and the role of consumers in CSR development
- The role of ESG reporting including issue of mandatory reporting

**10th ESIL Anniversary Conference**  
**“Business and Human Rights: International Law and ...”**  
**3 September 2014, Vienna, Austria**  
<https://esil2014.univie.ac.at/home>

**Call for Papers:** 31 May 2014 (Please submit a 500 words abstract proposal via email to Damiano de Felice at d.de-felice1@lse.ac.uk)

**OVERVIEW:**

The European Society of International Law (ESIL) Interest Group on Business and Human Rights is calling for papers in view of its panel at the 10th ESIL Anniversary Conference, to be held in Vienna, Austria, on 3 September 2014.

Following the overarching theme of the Research Forum, "International Law and ...: Boundaries of International Law and Bridges to Other Fields and Disciplines", we invite papers addressing the interplay between international law and other fields of law or other disciplines from the perspective of business and human rights. Papers may consider (but are not limited to) the following perspectives:

- Public law (including constitutional and administrative law)
- Private law (including company, labour and competition law)
- Research methodologies
- Religion
- Economics
- Political Science
- Arts (including literature, aesthetics and film)
- Feminism
- History
- Anthropology
- Sociology
- Sports
- Linguistics

Successful applicants will be informed by 15 June 2014.

The deadline for the submission of final papers is 15 August 2014.

**TBLI Conference Nordic 2014**

**"Connecting the Dots"**

**10-11 September 2014, Oslo, Norway**

<http://www.tbliconference.com/index.php/upcoming-conferences/tbli-nordic-2014>

**Early Registration:** until June 10, 2014, - 2 Days, NOK 4500

**OVERVIEW:**

TBLI CONFERENCE is dedicated to building a global community of ESG & Impact Investors for over 16 years, offering a unique global learning and networking event series in financial hubs across Europe, Asia and the US. Its mission is to raise awareness and provide learning opportunities for financial professionals, asset owners and managers on benefits and opportunities in sustainable investing. The conferences also serve as a high performance switchboard where successful avant-garde investors and managers energize and update their colleagues and peers - with the aim of mobilizing private capital for sustainable businesses.

**CSR-Conference Series at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**  
**“6th International Conference on Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility”**  
**8-9 October 2014**  
<http://www.csr-hu-berlin.org/>

**Deadlines:** Call for papers, 31 May; Doctoral Workshop, 1 May; Special Issue Long Range Planning, 1 December

**OVERVIEW:**

The conference will focus on “Innovating for Sustainability” by exploring the integration of the vast knowledge we possess on organizational and product innovation with the work on CSR. Given the challenge to global sustainability, incremental improvements are not enough to meet this challenge. Instead, sustainability-driven creative destruction increases the likelihood to improve companies’ and societies’ value creation.

**TOPICS:**

In Plenary and 32 Parallel Sessions of the conference various topics of current relevance will be presented and discussed, among them:

- Multi-stakeholder governance
- Sustainability and innovation
- Investors and sustainability
- Embedding sustainability into organizations
- CSR networks and cooperation
- Responsible supply chain management
- Measuring, reporting, evaluating, rating CSR
- Internal and external communications of CSR
- Social innovation
- Social entrepreneurship

**2014 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights**  
**1-3 December 2014, Geneva, Switzerland**

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Business/Forum/Pages/2014ForumOnBusinessandHumanRights.aspx>

**Registration** will open in June 2014.

**OVERVIEW:**

Business and human rights has become an issue that States and businesses worldwide cannot ignore. Business enterprises contribute in important ways to the realization of human rights, including by providing access to decent work and improved standards of living. At the same time, business activities may also involve adverse impacts on human rights, as underlined by tragedies like the Rana Plaza factory collapse, recurring reports of migrant worker exploitation, environmental impacts affecting people’s rights, and the many cases that never attract international attention. Meanwhile, as the post-2015 development agenda is being crafted, there is a growing worldwide recognition of the human rights aspects of sustainable development and of the role business enterprises can and should play in addressing global challenges such as climate change, poverty and inequality. It was against this back ground that the Human Rights Council in 2011 unanimously endorsed the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. A growing number of States and business actors are taking real steps to put into practice the Guiding Principles’ three pillars: the State duty to protect human rights, the corporate



responsibility to respect human rights, and the right of victims to access an effective remedy. Important implementation challenges, however, remain.

The United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights was established to serve as a key global platform for stakeholders to take stock of such challenges and discuss the way forward, and the first two Forums, held in 2012 and 2013, have been the largest global gatherings for multistakeholder dialogue on business and human rights to date.

Building on the previous two events, the third Forum, to be held from 1 to 3 December 2014 in Geneva (Switzerland) and guided by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, will focus on the following main areas:

- Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement
- Discussing national action plans to implement the Guiding Principles
- Exploring access to effective remedy
- Identifying current and good practice

The Forum is open to all relevant stakeholder groups including States, the wider United Nations system, intergovernmental and regional organizations, business enterprises and associations, labour unions, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, academics, indigenous peoples and affected communities.

Registration will open in June 2014.

Proposals for side events, new developments to be featured at the Forum and potential speakers can be made online.

The preliminary Forum agenda will be posted on the web in September 2014.

## Upcoming Events

- May 29-June 1 **Law and Inequalities: Global and Local**  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
<http://www.lawandsociety.org/minneapolis2014/Minneapolis2014.html>
- June 2-3 **Achieving Sustainable Construction Health and Safety**  
 Lund, Sweden (info in January 2014 Newsletter)
- June 11-12 **Future Infinite Academic: Sustainable Futures in Changing Climate**  
 Helsinki, Finland (info above)
- June 12-13 **Future Infinite: Solving Global Challenges for Better Futures**  
 Helsinki, Finland (info above)
- June 12-14 **CSR, Business Ethics and the Law – European Perspectives**,  
 Berlin, Germany (info in January 2014 Newsletter)
- June 16 **Contracting, Contracts, and Corporate Social Responsibility**  
 Copenhagen, Denmark (info in January 2014 Newsletter)
- July 10-11 **2nd International Conference and CSR Impact Foundation, "Making a difference. CSR Trends II"**  
 Łódź, Poland (info above)
- Sept 3 **10th ESIL Anniversary Conference "Business and Human Rights: International Law and ..."**  
 Vienna, Austria (info above)
- Sept 10-11 **TBLI Conference Nordic 2014 "Connecting the Dots"**  
 Oslo, Norway (info above)
- Sept 15-16 **Community Sustainability and Organisational Governance, 4th Organisational Governance Conference**  
 Bucharest, Romania (info in January 2014 Newsletter)
- Oct 8-9 **CSR-Conference Series at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, "6th International Conference on Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility"**  
 Berlin, Germany (info above)

MAY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

SEPTEMBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Upcoming Deadlines

- May 31 **CSR-Conference Series at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, "6th International Conference on Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility"**  
 Call for papers
- May 31 **10th ESIL Anniversary Conference "Business and Human Rights: International Law and ..."**  
 500 words abstract proposal
- June 1 **Community Sustainability and Organisational Governance, 4th Organisational Governance Conference** Full papers and abstracts (info in January 2014 Newsletter)
- June 10 **TBLI Conference Nordic 2014 "Connecting the Dots"**  
 Early registration
- July 1 **2nd International Conference and CSR Impact Foundation, "Making a difference. CSR Trends II"**  
 Draft paper
- Aug 15 **10th ESIL Anniversary Conference "Business and Human Rights: International Law and ..."**  
 Final papers