SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee

George Nel (Stellenbosch University)

Contents

Section A: Brief overview of review process and accepted papers per institution

Overall, 69 submissions have been accepted for presentation at the conference of which 22 are full papers that will be included in the conference proceedings (Track 1), 38 are abstracts (Track 2) and nine relate to innovative teaching initiatives (Track 3).

Track 1: Refereed category

Out of the 50 papers submitted to the 'refereed category' category (Track 1), 22 have been accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings (representing 44%). The authors of the remaining 28 papers were given the opportunity to present their papers in the non-refereed section (Track 2) to gain further valuable input at the Conference from their peers in order to improve their papers. This is in line with the SAAA's mission to foster a strong research culture and to create research opportunities. Some authors did however decide to withdraw their papers. The result is that 11 papers were transferred to Track 2, and 17 papers were withdrawn by the authors.

All papers submitted to the 'refereed category' were subjected to a rigorous process of double-blind peer review, meaning they were reviewed by to two reviewers from an independent South African University, and in some cases, international reviewers. Comments and suggested amendments from the reviewers were communicated to authors. Reviewers decided on the acceptance of the papers for presentation at the conference and inclusion in the conference proceedings.

The review process was facilitated by 10 Subject Representatives (SAAA Extended Executive Committee) and 95 reviewers. Please refer to Section B for a list of subject representatives and reviewers. The accepted papers were contributed by academics representing several universities. The details on the 22 accepted papers are as follows (weighted according to author affiliation):

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
Akademia	1.00
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	0.50
Durban University of Technology	1.00
North-West University	5.25
University of Cape Town	2.00
University of Pretoria	1.50
University of the Free State	4.17
University of the Witwatersrand	3.50
Vaal University of Technology	0.50
Walter Sisulu University	1.83
Independent	0.50
OTHER UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
Glasgow Caledonian University	0.25
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAPERS	**22.00**

The table below summarises the 22 accepted papers according to the subject area:

SUBJECT	**LABEL**	**NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS**
Financial Accounting & Reporting	FAR	3
Auditing (including Governance)	AUD	5
Accounting Education	EDU	5
Management Accounting & Finance	MAF	6
Public Sector Accounting	PIA	1[1]
Taxation	TAX	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF PAPERS		**22.00**

[1] Included under Financial Accounting & Reporting in the concurrent programme.

Track 2: Non-refereed category

Out of the 43 abstracts submitted to the 'non-refereed category' (Track 2), 27 will be presented at the conference. Although only two submissions in this category were rejected, 14 authors withdrew their submissions for several reasons. In addition, 11 papers were transferred from Track 1, resulting in 38 submissions that will be presented in this category. It is worth noting that only abstracts were reviewed for this category.

The accepted abstracts were contributed by academics representing several universities/entities. The details on the 38 accepted submissions are as follows (weighted according to author affiliation):

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	2.50
Central University of Technology	1.25
Durban University of Technology	5.50
Nelson Mandela University	2.50
North-West University	3.66
Mangosuthu University of Technology	0.50
Stellenbosch University	1.75
Tshwane University of Technology	1.08
University of Cape Town	3.67
University of Fort Hare	1.25
University of the Free State	2.00
University of KwaZulu Natal	1.00
University of Pretoria	3.00
University of South Africa	3.17
University of the Witwatersrand	0.50
Walter Sisulu University	1.00
Independent	0.33
South African Institute of Taxation (SAIT)	1.00
OTHER UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
University of Lincoln (United Kingdom)	0.08
IESEG School of Management (France)	0.08
Northen Illinois (United States)	0.08
Ghent University (Belgium)	0.08
Temple University (United States)	0.08
University of Cape Coast (Ghana)	0.08
Lakehead University (Cayman Islands)	0.08
Monash University (Australia)	0.08
Multimedia University (Malaysia)	0.08

OTHER UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES (CONTINUED)	
Sri Sri University (India)	0.08
Covenant University (Nigeria)	0.08
Greenwich University (United Kingdom)	0.08
Glasgow Caledonian University (United Kingdom)	0.33
Binder Dijker Otte (BDO) Global	0.25
Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University	0.25
Computer Assisted Analysis Techniques and Solutions (CAATS) (Canada)	0.25
Kabale University (Uganda)	0.33
TOTAL NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS INCLUDED IN ABSTRACT BOOK	**38.00**

The table below summarises the 38 accepted abstracts according to the subject area:

SUBJECT	LABEL	NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS
Financial Accounting & Reporting	FAR	3
Auditing (including Governance)	AUD	10
Accounting Education	EDU	14
Management Accounting and Finance	MAF	3
Public Sector Accounting and Internal Audit	PIA	3[2]
Taxation	TAX	5
TOTAL NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS		**38**

Track 3: Show-and-Tell - Innovative teaching initiatives

The nine submissions that were submitted in this category dealing with innovative teaching initiatives in accountancy education for an integrated world view were all accepted for presentation at the conference. Submissions in this category were evaluated by a panel of individuals nominated by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

[2] Included under Auditing in the concurrent programme.

The details on the nine accepted submissions are as follows (weighted according to author affiliation):

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
Cape Peninsula University of Technology	0.67
North-West University	1.00
Stellenbosch University	1.50
University of Cape Town	3.00
University of the Western Cape	0.33
University of Pretoria	1.00
University of the Witwatersrand	1.00
OTHER UNIVERSITIES/ENTITIES	
Karlstad University (Sweden)	0.50
TOTAL NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS	**9.00**

Section B: Executive Committee Subject Representatives and Reviewers (All Tracks)

The review process was facilitated by 10 Subject Representatives (SAAA Extended Executive Committee) and 101 reviewers. This section acknowledges the aforementioned.

TAXATION SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVES: Ms Tsireledzo Nemudzudzanyi (University of the Witwatersrand) Mr Ockert Fourie (University of the Witwatersrand)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Amanda Singleton	Nelson Mandela University
Herman Van Dyk	North-West University
Jolani Wilcocks	University of South Africa
Ayesha Le Roux	Nelson Mandela University
Annette Becker	University of South Africa
Jackie Arendse	Rhodes University
Lilla Stack	Rhodes University
Richard Poole	Rhodes University
Lizel Bester	University of the Free State
Andre Neethling	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Phillip de Jager	University of Cape Town

AUDITING SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVES: Dr Juan-Pierré (JP) Bruwer (Cape Peninsula University of Technology) Dr Léandi Steenkamp (Central University of Technology)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Henriette Scholtz	Stellenbosch University
Jean Mvunabandi	Durban University of Technology
Philna Coetzee	Tshwane University of Technology
Blanche Steyn	University of Pretoria
Mario Labuschagne	Nelson Mandela University
Lise Botha	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Kato Plant	University of Pretoria
Houdini Fourie	Nelson Mandela University
Nandi Lubbe	Central University of Technology
Yolandé Smit	Higher Colleges of Technology
Andre Essop	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Riaan Rudman	Stellenbosch University
Mariska Wannenburg	Akademia
Shihaam Shamsoodien	University of Cape Town
Elza Odendaal	University of South Africa
Lourens Erasmus	University of South Africa
Anthony Ezeonwuka	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Lindiwe Mabesele	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Warren Maroun	University of the Witwatersrand
Olive Stumke	North-West University
Jurika Groenewald	University of South Africa
Michael Buchling	University of the Witwatersrand
George Nel	Stellenbosch University
Shelly Herbert	University of Cape Town

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING & REPORTING SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVES: Dr Elaine Rabin (Institute of Accounting Science) Prof Joseph Akande (Walter Sisulu University)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Onesmus Ayaya	University of Limpopo
Wayne van Ziyl	University of the Witwatersrand
Samiah Fakier	University of Cape Town
Collins Ngwakwe	University of Limpopo
Ronald Nhleko	North-West University
Jacqui-Lyn McIntyre	North-West University
Cosmos Ambe	University of the Free State
Dannielle Cerbone	University of the Witwatersrand
Francois Toerien	University of Cape Town
Sapho Gwadiso	University of Cape Town
Danie Schutte	North-West University
Leana Esterhuyse	University of South Africa
Ahmed Adekunle	Walter Sisulu University
Luan Roodt	Nelson Mandela University
Danie Coetsee	University of Johannesburg
Vanessa Gregory	University of KwaZulu-Natal
Sapho Gwadiso	University of Cape Town
Adeoye Afolabi	Kwara State University
Nomayano Mnyaka-Rulwa	Walter Sisulu University
Stéfani Coetzee	Academic One
George Nel	Stellenbosch University
Phillip de Jager	University of Cape Town

PUBLIC SECTOR SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVES: Prof Onesmus Ayaya (University of Limpopo) Ms Sindi Mokgopha (Tshwane University of Technology)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Jan Van Romburgh	North-West University
Kayleigh Greenslade	University of the Witwatersrand
Hamman Schoonwinkel	Stellenbosch University
Ilse Morgan	University of South Africa
Cosmas Ambe	University of the Free State
Gibson Nyirenda	University of Limpopo
Shelly Herbert	University of Cape Town

MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVES: Prof Reon Matemane (University of Pretoria) Ms Andrea Govender (Nelson Mandela University)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Tracy Beck	Nelson Mandela University
Phatu Monakali	Nelson Mandela University
Naeem Kader	Nelson Mandela University
Algene Koeberg	Nelson Mandela University
George Sarpong	Nelson Mandela University
Prof Phillip De Jager	University of Cape Town
Aletta Neethling	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Elda du Toit	University of Pretoria
Merwe Oberholzer	North-West University
Surika Van Rooyen	North-West University
Ronell Britz	University of the Free State
Ferina Marimuthu	Durban University of Technology
Alastair Marais	University of KwaZulu Natal
Wayne Van Zijl	University of the Witwatersrand
Stephen Ndlovu	University of South Africa
Abongeh Tunyi	University of Sheffield
Shaun Watson	University of Free State
Mphagahlele Ndlovu	University of South Africa
Freddy Munzhelele	University of Venda
Nyasha Dhlembeu	University of Pretoria
Katlego Kekana	University of Johannesburg
Shelly Herbert	University of Cape Town

ACCOUNTING EDUCATION SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVE: Prof Gretha Steenkamp (Stellenbosch University)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Sivuyile Nzimeni	University of the Free State
Wendy Terblanche	University of Fort Hare
Tracy Beck	Nelson Mandela University
Lunga Mantashe	University of Fort Hare
Theresa van Oordt	University of Pretoria
Cobus Rossouw	University of the Free State
Adele Alice Robinson	Durban University of Technology
Tammy Ntisana	University of Fort Hare
Nico van der Merwe	North-West University
Ilse Lubbe	University of Cape Town
Sophia Brink	Stellenbosch University
Julia Sibanda	University of the Free State
Herman Viviers	North-West University
Lilian Nwosu	North-West University
Haneke van Zyl	University of the Free State
Hamman Schoonwinkel	Stellenbosch University
Bradley van der Ross	Nelson Mandela University
Juan Ontong	Stellenbosch University

SHOW-&-TELL / TEACHING AND LEARNING SUBJECT REPRESENTATIVE: Dr Veruschka Pelser-Carstens (North-West University)	
Reviewer	**Institution**
Mandi Olivier	South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
Alex Van Der Watt	South African Institute of Chartered Accountants

Section C: Best Paper Awards and Sponsors

Authors competed for best paper awards in all three the tracks of the conference, namely:

- **Track 1: Refereed** (included in the conference proceedings);
- **Track 2: Non-refereed** (not included in the conference proceedings); and
- **Track 3**: **Show-&-Tell:** Innovative teaching initiatives in accountancy education for an integrated world view.

For Track 1, best paper awards were nominated by reviewers and track chairs, and the final decision was made by independent members of the scientific committee. For

Track 2, best papers awards were nominated by reviewers and the final decision made by a panel of subject experts from the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA). A panel of nominated individuals from SAICA evaluated all accepted submissions under Track 3 to determine the overall winner.

The details of the best papers that were sponsored are as follow:

Track 1: Refereed

- Best overall Paper – South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)
- Best Financial Accounting & Reporting Paper – Chartered Institute for Business Accountants (CIBA)
- Best Accounting Education Paper - South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)
- Best Taxation Paper – South African Institute of Taxation (SAIT)
- Runner-up Management Accounting & Finance Paper – Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)
- Second runner-up Management Accounting & Finance Paper – Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

Track 2: Non-refereed

- Best overall Paper – South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA)
- Runner-up – Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)
- Second runner-up - Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)

Track 3: Show-&-Tell

- Best overall Paper – South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)

On behalf the SAAA and our sponsors we extend our congratulations to all the winners!

Section D	**CONCURRENT SESSION 1 (THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2023)**						
VENUE	MANICA ROOM	ZEBE AND SENA	LUPATA ROOM	ZIMBAS ROOM	SOFALA ROOM	KRATAN ROOM	WARRIORS HALL
Theme	Track 1 Accounting Education	Track 1 Management Accounting & Finance and Reporting	Track 2 Accounting Education	Track 2 Accounting Education	Track 2 Financial Accounting & Reporting	Track 2 Taxation	Track 3 Show and Tell
Chairperson	JP Bruwer (CPUT)	Aletta Neethling (CPUT)	Jeff Mosala (WITS)	Herman Viviers (NWU)	Joseph Akande (WSU)	Haruna Maama (DUT)	Leandi Steenkamp (CUT)
09h35-10h05	Alta Koekemoer, Elmarie Goodchild, Cobus Rossouw and Kobus Swanepoel. A Board Game as a Learning Intervention to Enhance Communication Skills among Postgraduate Accountancy Students [1]	Aadil Seedat, Kayleigh Greenslade and Wayne van Zijl. South African NPO Financial Reporting Practices [3]	Tammy Ntisana and Kato Plant. A Systematic Literature Review: Assessment of Critical Thinking in Accounting and Auditing Education [22]	Nadia Gulko, Lies Bouten, Natalie Churyk, Patricia Everaert, Elizabeth Gordon, Seyram Kawor, Camillo Lento, Nick McGuigan, Sanlie Middelberg, Saravanan Muthaiyah, Suresh Sahoo, Olubukunola Uwuigbe and Nadeeka Withanage. The role of student background and other individual characteristics in perceptions of teaching excellence by accounting and business students [23]	Ronald Nhleko and Daniel P Schutte. A proposed model for evaluating the explanatory value of banks' public credit-risk disclosures under IFRS-9 [24]	Pieter Van der Spuy and Phillip de Jager. Is Tax Avoidance Really Tax Avoidance in the Context of State Failure [25]	Mareli Rossouw and Gretha Steenkamp. Developing critical thinking skills of first year Financial Accounting students
10h05-10h35	Jana Lamprecht, Charlotte Malan and Marianne Viljoen. Designing a Model to Develop SMART #GOAL_diggers: Theory and Practice [2]	Thato Mpete, Thomas Gutmayer, Dannielle Carbone and Warren Maroun. Exploring Segmental Reporting in Integrated Reporting [4]	Lorelle De Villiers, Tarish Jagwanth and Suzan Terblanche. Waiving a 40% subminimum class mark rule in accounting 1 – beneficial for students or not? [26]	Nico van der Merwe, Stuart McChlery and Herman Viviers. Integrating societal worldviews and ethics competencies in an accounting curriculum [27]	Sophia Brink and Gretha Steenkamp. Developing and confirming illustrative examples on accounting for credit card reward programme transactions [28]	Anculien Schoeman. Enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation with a national tax lottery: Prospects for consumer acceptance and engagement [29]	Jacqui Kew and Shelly Herbert. Business Acumen for Accountants

CONCURRENT SESSION 2 (THURSDAY, 29 JUNE 2023)							
VENUE	MANICA ROOM	ZEBE AND SENA	LUPATA ROOM	ZIMBAS ROOM	SOFALA ROOM	KRATAN ROOM	WARRIORS HALL
Theme	Track 1 Auditing	Track 2 Accounting Education	Track 2 Auditing	Track 2 Auditing and Management Accounting & Finance	Track 2 Financial Accounting & Reporting and Management Accounting	Track 2 Taxation and Auditing	Track 3 Show and Tell
Chairperson	Cosmas Ambe (UFS) and George Nel (SU)	Riley Carpenter (UCT)	Tsireledzo Mulaudzi (WITS)	Tracy Beck (NMU) and Andrea Govender (NMU)	Trust Chireka (WSU)	Anculien Schoeman (UP)	Veruschka Pelser-Carstens (NWU)
11h00-11h30	Juan-Pierré Bruwer and Ashwin Petersen. The relationship(s) between the internal control activities used, perceived stakeholder reputation and the economic sustainability of South African small, medium and micro enterprises [5]	Ilse Lubbe, Mandie Wentzel, Gail Fortuin and Elmarie Papageorgiou. Identifying and understanding the personal values of Accounting Educators of South African universities [30]	Haruna Maama. The moderating role of corporate governance on tax planning and firm value [31]	Lise Botha, Phillip De Jager, Francois Toerien and Ezelda Swanepoel. What is in a word? The information value of Key Audit Matters included in the extended audit report [32]	Nolwando L Mgilane, Haruna Maama and Ferina Marimuthu. Nexus between environmental reporting and financial performance of manufacturing firms listed on the JSE in SA [33]	Michelle Kirsten. The efficacy of the South African General Anti-Avoidance Rule: Using lessons from New Zealand [34]	Rolien Kunz, Corlia Steyn, Marina Kirstein and Yvonne Rossouw. Transforming an undergraduate muffin into a CTA cupcake
11h30-12h00	Xiaoxing Huo, Blanche Steyn, Anne Crafford and Kato Plant. Critical review on identity and professional identity: a guidance to accountants and auditors [6]	Lizelle Bruwer. Evaluation of the use of a supplemental online teaching tool during COVID-19: A WhatsApp tax chatbot [35]	Lourens J Erasmus and Philna Coetzee. Good corporate governance in central government: A decision tree classification and prediction analyses [36]	Leandi Steenkamp, Louis Smidt, Sezer Bozkuş Kahyaoğlu and David Coderre. The use of Generalised Audit Software for tests of controls by internal audit functions in the Federal Government of Canada: A comparative analysis of maturity level assessments [37]	Francois Toerien, Alessandro Calvosa and Phillip de Jager. Determinants of Listed Property Capital Structure: Evidence from an Emerging Market [38]	Herman van Dyk and Herman Viviers. Enhancing the monitoring and enforcement of tax compliance through improved beneficial ownership transparency [39]	Juan Ontong, Zurelda Mongane and Sybil Smit. Reflecting on why transformation students in a comprehensive bursary program may academically be unsuccessful

VENUE	MANICA ROOM	ZEBE AND SENA	LUPATA ROOM	ZIMBAS ROOM	SOFALA ROOM	KRATAN ROOM	WARRIORS HALL
12h00-12h30	Blanche Steyn and Brenda Pooe. The role of the social and ethics committee [7]	Olihile Walton Mosiako. The use of leaner analytics to combat student achievement gap: low-income-household students studying accounting at the University of the Free State [40]	Alastair Marais, Patricia Shewell and Claire Vermaak. The moderating role of 'tone at the top' on the relationship between audit committee effectiveness and financial statement manipulation [41]	Jean Damascene Mvunabandi and Ferina Marimuthu. How can new fraud combination theory help forensic auditors and external auditors in fraud risk assessments? [42]	Aletta Neethling and JP Bruwer. The influence of strategic management initiatives on the financial sustainability of South African small medium and micro enterprises: an online desktop review [43]	Bafo Khanyeza. Preventing endemic fraud and corruption through auditors and legally enshrined disciplinary boards – Empirical evidence from South Africa and a doctrinal review [44]	Ilse Lubbe, Faeeza Jaffer, Erica Derbyshire, Mojalefa Mosala and Kato Plant. Using case studies and role-play for ethics debates in accounting education
12h30-13h00	Cosmas Ambe, Frans Prinsloo and Nomanyano Mnyaka-Rulwa. Remuneration Governance Practice Disclosure in South African Universities [8]	Rolien Kunz, Corlia Steyn and Gerrit Penning. Discussion Forums as an Active Learning Teaching Tool in Auditing [45]	Ilse Morgan, Louis Smidt and Lourens Erasmus. Accountability and transparency mechanisms in continuous assurance to achieve good governance in the South African public sector [46]	Beatah Sibanda, Benon Basheka and Jan Van Romburgh. Investigating the critical success factors for adopting blockchain technology in Gauteng Government departments. [47]	Mvelo Siyaya. Effect of internal audit effectiveness on organisational process performance indicators [48]	Andries Swanepoel. Reasons for committing economic crimes in South Africa [49]	Rikus De Villiers, Herman Viviers, Elsabé Kilian, Lindie Venter, Cilliers van Zyl and Jack Jonck. The usefulness of using the "Minute to win it" game concept in assisting PGDA students to adapt in their transition from undergraduate to post-graduate studies.

CONCURRENT SESSION 3 (FRIDAY, 30 JUNE 2023)						
VENUE	WARRIORS HALL	ZEBE AND SENA	LUPATA ROOM	ZIMBAS ROOM	SOFALA ROOM	KRATAN ROOM
Chairperson	Wendy Terblanche (UFH)	Nokwanda Zulu (DUT)	Lourens Erasmus (UNISA)	Blanche Steyn (UP)	Sapho Gwadiso (UCT)	Mareli Rossouw (SU) and Juan Ontong (SU)
Theme	Track 1 Accounting Education	Track 1 Management Accounting & Finance	Track 2 Accounting Education	Track 2 Accounting Education, Auditing and Taxation	Track 2 Reporting, Accounting Education and Research	Track 3 Show and Tell
09h35-10h05	Haneke Van Zyl and Sivuyile Nzimeni. An Exploration of Human Capital Investment and Senior Student Academic Performance at a South African University [9]	Cosmas Ambe and Nomanyano Mnyaka-Rulwa. Linking firm performance measures and key performance indicators of JSE listed firms: A systematic review [12]	Andrea Govender and Mvemve Mdingi. Effects of e-learning on accounting throughput: A case study of first year accounting students at two HEIs in SA [50]	Leandi Steenkamp, Anna Coetzee and Desere Kokt. Auditing and assurance challenges in South African private retirement facilities [51]	Adedeji Gbadebo, Joseph Akande and Ahmed Adekunle. Detecting Earnings Management on Financial Reporting of Nigerian Banks: The Distribution of the Financial Ratios Approach [52]	Tonielle Prince. The impact of blended learning course delivery on student engagement within accounting education
10h05-10h35	Karen Odendaal and Nico van der Merwe. The use of the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting to solve complex accounting problems: a case applied to tertiary students [10]	Ikra Enslin, Sanlie Middelberg and Helena Fourie. European Green Deal: Risks and opportunities for the South African citrus export market [13]	Stephanie Caroline Samuel and Brian Ngiba. Investigating accounting post-graduate student experiences: project-based learning methods at a UOT [53]	Smangele Nzama and Adele Alice Robinson. Accounting Curriculum and Employability of Accounting Graduates: A case study of South African Universities of Technology (UoTs) [54]	Karel Fouché, Carla Coetzee and Riana Steyn. Are We Still Ticking the Boxes: Optimising External Auditing for Higher Education: A Case Study [55]	Gary Marques. Using lessons learned during lockdown to improve student interaction and academic behaviours
10h35-11h05	Lorraine Erica Derbyshire, Jacobus Paulus Fouché, Stuart McChlery and Diana Da Silva. A Critical Analysis of South African Financial Literacy Education Programs for Small and Micro-Enterprise Owners [11]	Carlos De Jesus, Phillip De Jager and Philip Stallkamp. Pecking order theory: Application to a period of high information asymmetry [14]	Bradley van der Ross and Tracy Beck. Third year diploma in accountancy students' perception of ethics [56]	Carla Bendeman, Tracy Johnson and Riley Carpenter. A comparative study of the tax benefits available to non-profit organisations and their donors in South Africa, India and Australia [57]	Anchal Ramsarghey and Kevin Ramsarghey. Accounting academics' experiences with the teaching-research nexus [58]	Juan Ontong, Katharina Rahnert, Gretha Steenkamp and Niklas Jakobsson. A helping hand in accounting education: Evidence from a developing country

CONCURRENT SESSION 4 (FRIDAY, 30 JUNE 2023)				
VENUE	WARRIORS HALL	ZEBE AND SENA	LUPATA ROOM	KRATAN ROOM
Theme	Track 1 Financial Accounting & Reporting	Track 1 Management Accounting & Finance	Track 1 Taxation	Track 1 Auditing and Management Accounting & Finance
Chairperson	Ronald Nhleko (NWU)	Juan Ontong (SU)	Haruna Maama (DUT)	Reon Matemane (UP)
11h30-12h00	Stéfani Coetzee, Danie Schutte and Merwe Oberholzer. An evaluation of the going concern principle on JSE-listed companies [15]	Trust Chireka. The impact of corporate life cycle on dividend policy in listed South African non-financial firms [17]	Herman Albertus Viviers and Herman Van Dyk. A critical analysis of the incongruities arising from the application of the Value-Added Tax relief regime granted to South African Property Developers [18]	Mariska Wannenburg. A literature review of commercial forensic investigations of white-collar crime [20]
12h00-12h30	Sapho Gwadiso. Revenue and other income: an undefined difference between IAS18 & IFRS15 [16]		Nomusa Mntambo and Asheer Jaywant Ram. Cryptocurrencies and VAT in South Africa: Recommendations based on a comparative study [19]	Nokwanda Zulu. The impact of power outages on the firm value of manufacturing firms listed in JSE [21]

Section E: Session Chairs

Session chairs play an important role in any conference, not only to introduce presenters and to ensure that the programme stays on track in terms of timekeeping, but also to facilitate and encourage robust discussions.

SESSION CHAIRS	
Chair	**Institution**
Dr JP Bruwer	Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
Dr Aletta Neethling	Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)
Mr Jeff Mosala	University of the Witwatersrand (WITS)
Prof Herman Viviers	North-West University (NWU)
Prof Joseph Akande	Walter Sisulu University (WSU)
Dr Haruna Maama	Durban University of Technology (DUT)
Dr Leandi Steenkamp	Central University of Technology (CUT)
Prof Cosmas Ambe	University of the Free State (UFS)
Prof Riley Carpenter	University of Cape Town (UCT)
Ms Tsireledzo Mulaudzi	University of the Witwatersrand (WITS)
Dr Tracy Beck	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)
Ms Andrea Govender	Nelson Mandela University (NMU)
Mr Trust Chireka	Walter Sisulu University (WSU)
Prof Anculien Schoeman	University of Pretoria (UP)
Dr Veruschka Pelser-Carstens	North-West University (NWU)
Dr Wendy Terblanche	University of Fort Hare (UFH)
Dr Nokwanda Zulu	Durban University of Technology (DUT)
Prof Lourens Erasmus	University of South Africa (UNISA)
Dr Blanche Steyn	University of Pretoria (UP)
Mr Sapho Gwadiso	University of Cape Town (UP)
Ms Mareli Rossouw	Stellenbosch University (SU)
Mr Juan Ontong	Stellenbosch University (SU)
Mr Ronald Nhleko	North-West University (NWU)
Prof Reon Matemane	University of Pretoria (UP)
Prof Andries Swanepoel	University of South Africa (UNISA)
Prof Kato Plant	University of Pretoria (UP)

Section F: Abstract book

Track 1

[Overall best paper award winner] Developing a Cost Allocation System for a Potato Packing Facility: An Elaborated Action Design Research Approach

Merwe Oberholzer (North-West University), Reinhardt Johannes Hitge (North-West University) and Susanna Levina Middelberg (North-West University).

Purpose: Organisations with substantial amounts of overhead costs may benefit from using a more sophisticated activity-based costing (ABC) system, which refines cost allocation to improve cost management and decision making. The purpose of this study was to develop a customised ABC system to allocate costs to seed, table, and scrap potatoes for the case study entity, a potato packing facility in South Africa.

Design/Methodology: With systems theory as the conceptual framework, this paper applied an interpretive/pragmatic research philosophy. An elaborated action design research (eADR) approach guided the empirical study. Two distinct sequential iterative cycles for the diagnosis and the design stages were applied. Each cycle includes elaborated interventions of problem formulation, artefact creation, evaluation, reflection, and learning.

Findings: The researchers found that the current cost allocation system of the case study entity is insufficient. They developed a customised cost allocation system for the packing facility, which may improve the accuracy of allocating costs to the three distinct products of the case study entity: Seed, table, and scrap potatoes.

Originality/contribution: This study contributes to systems theory by firstly describing the nature of the physical potato packing process, and secondly, explaining the interaction of components in the physical system and the cost allocation system. Its value is embedded in the likelihood of the transferability of the findings. The process that was followed to develop a new customised cost allocation system could be replicated to solve similar business problems experienced by companies. This study serves as an example to future studies where researchers could make use of elements of this study and utilise them in their own research.

[1] A Board Game as a Learning Intervention to Enhance Communication Skills among Postgraduate Accountancy Students

Alta Koekemoer (University of the Free State), Elmarie Goodchild (University of the Free State), Cobus Rossouw (University of the Free State) and Kobus Swanepoel (University of the Free State).

Purpose: Universities and professional bodies that accredit their postgraduate programmes in the training of chartered accountants (CAs), demand specific skills, such as communication skills, from postgraduate accountancy students to ensure they are ready for the workplace. Current research indicates that communication is one of the top three skills required from accountants in the workplace, yet accountancy programmes sometimes fall short of addressing this skill. The main purpose of this paper was to develop a board game for postgraduate accountancy students that could be used as a learning intervention in accountancy education to develop students' communication skills.

Methodology: The concept of the popular board game, the 30 Seconds® game, was used to develop the Fast-Thinkers Game. At a gamification evening, 91 postgraduate accountancy students played the game. The perceptions of students in relation to the learning intervention were determined afterwards by means of questionnaires containing both open-ended and close-ended questions.

Findings: The feedback from the students was exceptionally positive. Students felt that the game not only improved their communication skills but also enhanced other pervasive skills, such as critical thinking and teamwork. But most importantly, the game afforded students the opportunity to enjoy the learning process while simultaneously improving essential skills.

Contribution: The positive outcome of this paper indicates that gamification as a learning intervention could be used to enhance communication skills in the accountancy subject areas. The practical contribution is that the Fast-Thinkers Game could be used as a tool to develop communication skills among postgraduate accountancy students.

[2] Designing a Model to Develop SMART #GOAL_diggers: Theory and Practice

Jana Lamprecht (University of the Free State), Charlotte Malan (University of the Free State) and Marianne Viljoen (University of the Free State).

Purpose: In 2021 The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) published a new competency framework to guide the development of the professional competence of future chartered accountants. Among the competencies, goal-setting was identified as a fundamental skill and attribute which develop the skills of lifelong learning, relational acumen, self-management and emotional intelligence. The paper aims to present the reader with a hybrid, computerised, goal-setting, targeted intervention, designed as a four-cycle repeating intervention for second-year accountancy students.

Design/Methodology: The design presents a targeted intervention based on the theoretical and philosophical underpinning of the qualitative research findings.

Findings (Intervention): The intervention employs the research underpinning to guide students to set SMART performance, personal and process goals. Furthermore, it guides students to review and reflect on their main assessment performance, as underpinned by goal-setting literature.

Contribution: Students will acquire goal-setting skills, which will improve metacognition and self-awareness. Metacognitive strategies that will be acquired consist of planning and goal-setting, reviewing and regulating. These strategies will aid students in controlling and executing their learning process. Attributes such as self-regulation, motivation and self-efficacy will illuminate the path to developing cognitive abilities. These skills will significantly improve academic success and mould students into well-rounded professionals with the attributes which are required by the profession of chartered accountants. At a metacognitive level, goal-setting will underpin life skills and time management, improve motivation and focus, relieve stress and foster hopefulness.

[3] South African NPO Financial Reporting Practices

Aadil Seedat (University of the Witwatersrand), Kayleigh Greenslade (University of the Witwatersrand) and Wayne van Zijl (University of the Witwatersrand).

Purpose: The purpose of this paper was to identify and discuss the current financial reporting practices of South African non-profit organisations (NPOs) and to determine whether there was a difference in the financial reporting practices of South African NPOs based on their size, objective, and qualifications of the preparers of the financial statements.

Design: To achieve the objective of the paper, information was collected from 50 South African NPO financial statements by way of content analysis. This information was scored by the researcher to develop numerical data to be analysed using descriptive statistics and non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis tests.

Findings: The findings of the paper reveal that the majority of NPO financial statements are prepared using accounting frameworks that were primarily designed to meet the reporting needs of profit-making companies, with larger companies favouring the use of more complex accounting standards. It was also found that many NPO financial statements receive qualified audit opinions. These factors speak to the general lack of resources that are available to NPOs and their financial reporting. A lack of consistent financial reporting was with differences noted in the length and detail of the financial statements produced.

Originality/Contribution: There is limited research on NPO financial reporting, specifically in a South African context. This paper contributes to the existing body of research and may provide context and understanding to standard-setters and regulators in considering accounting standards specific to the reporting needs of NPOs.

[4] Exploring Segmental Reporting in Integrated Reporting

Thato Mpete (University of the Witwatersrand), Thomas Gutmayer (University of the Witwatersrand), Dannielle Carbone (University of the Witwatersrand) and Warren Maroun (University of the Witwatersrand).

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to investigate whether segmental disclosures in integrated reports are indicative of integrated thinking. This is done by analysing the link between segmental disclosures in the integrated reports and IRQ.

Methodology: This research is exploratory in nature, whereby a longitudinal quantitative content analysis was used to investigate the trends between segmental disclosures in the integrated reports and the AFS for the JSE top-100 listed companies over a three-year period. An interpretive framework was used to analyse the data.

Findings: Integrated thinking can be evidenced by management's understanding of the entity, disclosure consistency between integrated reports and AFS, and integration of various segments within the business model and value creation process. Companies that integrate segmental disclosures throughout the integrated reports (as opposed to disclosing this information in isolation or in a manner that merely mimics the disclosures in the financial statements) are found to have a higher IRQ (as ranked by EY's Excellence in Integrated Reporting Awards). Therefore, these findings suggest that integrated segmental disclosures are indicative of integrated thinking.

Contribution: This research responds to calls for further investigation into what companies are reporting about their business models, as well as drivers of organisational change and sustainable performance.

[5] The relationship(s) between the internal control activities used, perceived stakeholder reputation and the economic sustainability of South African small, medium and micro enterprises

Juan-Pierré Bruwer (CPUT) and Ashwin Petersen (Independent).

Purpose: This study was conducted to determine the relationship(s) that exist between the internal control activities used, perceived stakeholder reputation, as well as the overall economic sustainability of South African Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study was empirical, exploratory, and quantitative. Survey research was used to collect data from 119 purposively and conveniently selected South African SMME owners/managers operating in the fast-moving consumer goods industry, based in the Cape Metropole.

Findings: From the research conducted, the internal control activities used by sampled South African SMMEs were found to mostly have a negative statistically significant relationship(s) with perceived stakeholder reputation and their respective economic sustainability.

Originality/Contribution: The research conducted provides insight as to the importance of internal control activities with regard to their perceived stakeholder reputation and economic sustainability. In addition, this study can also serve as a foundation for further empirical research related to the matter at hand.

[6] Critical review on identity and professional identity: guidance to accountants and auditors

Xiaoxing Huo (University of Pretoria), Blanche Steyn (University of Pretoria), Anne Crafford (University of Pretoria) and Kato Plant (University of Pretoria).

Purpose: This paper reviews studies from more mature disciplines, including psychology, sociology, medicine and teaching, to identify concepts and processes linked to identity and professional identity. Identity, especially professional identity, plays an important role in the development of professionalism in the accounting field, however, it is an under researched field in the broader accountancy discipline.

Methodology: This study used a critical review process to identify the key concepts linked to identity and professional identity. A critical review moves beyond describing a phenomenon, to analysing the literature to identify the key concepts needed to in-form the development of a conceptual framework and as a guide for further research.

Findings: Psychosocial shows the inner sense of being as a key individual identity differentiator, while social-relational links the internal identity to society. Thus, identity has several layers from ego to relational and social identity, enabling identification of sameness and uniqueness. Professional identity is internal, subjective, and unstable. Thus, it evolves over a professional career to abide by the criteria of the professional group.

Practical implications: Understanding the underlying concepts required to develop a professional identity is a necessary guide in the purposeful development of a professional identity for aspiring and existing professionals. A strong professional identity can help strengthen the reputation of accounting and auditing professionals especially after the recent financial and state capture scandals.

[7] The role of the social and ethics committee

Blanche Steyn (University of Pretoria) and Brenda Pooe (Vaal University of Technology).

Purpose: The purpose of this study is the unpack the role of the S&EC, by considering the normative requirements of the legislation, regulation as well as from research articles.

Research design and methodology: The study used a systematic literature review to complement the legislative and regulatory guidance to unpack the role of the S&EC. In addition, areas of future research have been identified.

Findings: The study found limited research on the S&EC from the legal field. Areas of future research include assessing the impact of the S&EC on the non-financial capitals especially the social capital of companies as well as a need for more governance and business focused research on the S&EC. The current uncertainty on whether the S&EC is a board or statutory committee with different rights and responsibilities hampers a clear normative role description for the S&EC.

Practical implications: The study unpacks the role of the S&EC in a manner that can be valuable to members of S&ECs to reflect on and improve their current practices. It can also be used by S&EC members to develop a clear purpose and transparent terms or references for the committee for improved clarity and transparency.

[8] Remuneration Governance Practice Disclosure in South African Universities

Cosmas Ambe (University of the Free State), Frans Prinsloo (University of the Free State) and Nomanyano Mnyaka-Rulwa (Walter Sisulu University).

Purpose: The study examined the existence and extent of remuneration governance practice disclosure by universities in South Africa (SA) in response to a dearth of research on remuneration governance in the sector.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The 2014 Department of Higher Education (DHET) Regulation for Reporting (DRR) and King IV remuneration governance best practice guidelines were employed to develop a measurement checklist, a hybrid of dichotomous and polychotomous content analysis was used to extract data from the annual reports and related information disclosure for all 26 universities over three years. Descriptive and T-test statistics were utilised to summarise, present results, and compare the mean performance for universities.

Findings: The level of accountability on remuneration governance practice disclosure by universities are relatively low. The remuneration committee and disclosure have the highest score, with the content of the remuneration policy the lowest. Universities' remuneration governance practice disclosure mean score for the DRR is better and not equal to that of King IV.

Contribution: The results provide patterns of remuneration governance practice for benchmarking and the checklist to be employed as a self-assessment tool, with the use by the regulator to enforce stronger monitoring and evaluation. The King IV remuneration governance practice disclosure results may incite the reform of the 2014 DRR by the regulator. The findings also make empirical, policy, theoretical, and practical contributions to the body of knowledge.

[9] An Exploration of Human Capital Investment and Senior Student Academic Performance at a South African University

Haneke Van Zyl (University of the Free State) and Sivuyile Nzimeni (University of the Free State).

Purpose: The objective of this study is to explore the relationship between literature-informed demographic factors and senior undergraduate accountancy students' academic performance.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The sample comprises senior accounting students' data for the academic period between 2018 and 2022 at the University of the Free State (UFS). The analysis relies on the implementation of the Ordinary Least Squares regression, the Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA, and Dunn's Test for Multiple Comparisons to determine the relationship between selected demographic factors and students' academic performance.

Findings: Findings indicate that the relationship between the National Senior Certificate (NSC) accounting results and students' race, as well as academic performance, is insignificant. Similarly, National Benchmark Test (NBT) scores proved to be insignificant, apart from student cohorts' NBT scores for Academic Literacy and Quantitative Literacy respectfully in 2020 and 2021. Gender differences were initially found to be statistically insignificant; however, in the 2021 and 2022 cohorts, male students' academic performance was worse than that of their counterparts. The relationship between the NSC Mathematics results and academic performance remains statistically significant across all years, except for the 2020 and 2021 cohorts. Results indicate that students attempting the module for a second and/or third time outperform their counterparts.

Originality/Contribution: This study contributes to the limited literature on senior student performance in accounting modules at the tertiary level. The results may assist in the evaluation of accountancy programme admission criteria and the development of interventions to improve student academic performance.

[10] The use of the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting to solve complex accounting problems: a case applied to tertiary students

Karen Odendaal (University of Witwatersrand) and Nico van der Merwe (North-West University).

Purpose: It is widely perceived that teaching accounting on a conceptual level contributes to effective problem solving and ultimately life-long learning. This framework-based approach is rooted in educational psychologies such as constructivism and Ausubel's Subsumption Theory. An assignment containing complex accounting problems was administered to students at a particular South African university (as a case study) to (1) qualitatively assess whether students have the ability to solve such problems by using only the accounting Conceptual Framework; and (2) to which extent their ability is affected by factors identified in the literature.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study used an interpretative research design aimed at investigating the ability of students to solve complex accounting problems by using only concepts underlying the Conceptual Framework. Qualitative data was gathered through a content analysis of student answers, the researcher's field notes and a student reflective questionnaire.

Findings: The results indicated that the ability of students to effectively solve accounting problems using only the Conceptual Framework depended on the complexity of the scenario and the students' familiarity with the problem.

Originality/Contribution: The importance of the study indicated the necessity of accounting educators to enhance a conceptual understanding amongst students as a mechanism for problem solving of accounting issues. The study indubitably promotes considerable emphasis on the importance of the Conceptual Framework in accounting education.

[11] A Critical Analysis of South African Financial Literacy Education Programs for Small and Micro-Enterprise Owners

Lorraine Erica Derbyshire (North-West University), Jacobus Paulus Fouché (North-West University), Stuart McChlery (Glasgow Caledonian University) and Diana Da Silva (North-West University).

Purpose: Small and micro-enterprises play a pivotal role in the South African economy. A lack of owner financial literacy is one of the key contributors towards poor enterprise survival statistics. There are concerns that existing financial literacy education programs are not achieving the desired outcome. To perform a critical analysis of financial literacy education programs targeted at small and micro-enterprise owners in South Africa.

Methodology: A qualitative, inductive approach was followed, using a systematic literature review to gather the data. This was followed by a content analysis. Four key benchmarks were identified and utilised to perform the critical analysis, which included a financial literacy needs assessment.

Findings: The findings indicate that none of the programs addresses all the financial literacy needs of small and micro-enterprise owners. South African programs focus on enterprise management skills. The design of the programs compared to the set criteria is adequate. It was however found that the efficacy of the majority of the programs was not assessed. Conclusion: The flaws identified in the programs signal that the impact of the programs cannot be established and prospects for future improvement are limited. A framework that guides stakeholders on how to develop suitable financial literacy programs is required.

Contribution: This study provides valuable insight to parties who wish to critically analyse their financial literacy offerings as well as stakeholders who aim to develop financial literacy programs directed at small and micro-enterprise owners.

[12] Linking firm performance measures and key performance indicators of JSE listed firms: A systematic review

Cosmas Ambe (University of the Free State) and Nomanyano Mnyaka-Rulwa (Walter Sisulu University).

Purpose: The paper investigated whether firm performance measures (FPMs) used by researchers to examine pay-to-performance links are aligned to the key performance indicators (KPIs) utilised by firms listed in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) given the need for alignment between research and practice.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A systematic review and qualitative comparative analysis were employed as research methods. Excel spreadsheet was employed to identify, extract, capture, and analyse FPMs and KPIs, with results summarised in Tables and Figures.

Findings: The results indicate that about twenty-five percent of the FPMs are aligned to the firms' KPIs, which indicates a seventy-five percent disconnection between FPMs and KPIs. Further, none of the FPMs were non-financial in type and nature despite increasing calls for considering the triple context of performance and firms having adopted numerous non-financial KPIs. This could result in different and

misleading research conclusions because of a skewed understanding of realities between the corporate world and the field of research.

Contribution: The paper makes an empirical contribution to knowledge through the development of a conceptual framework linking financial and non-financial FPMs for use by researchers in measuring executives' performance. It calls for greater attention to non-financial FPMs and theoretical reviews to bridge the gap between researchers and practice.

[13] European Green Deal: Risks and opportunities for the South African citrus export market

Ikra Enslin (North-West University), Sanlie Middelberg (North-West University) and Helena Fourie (North-West University).

Purpose: The European Green Deal (EGD) is a set of policy initiatives by the European Union (EU) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This paper aims to review the risks and opportunities of the EGD to the South African citrus export from a management accounting perspective.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A review of the existing literature on the EGD was conducted to consider the implications of the EGD on the South African citrus export section.

Findings: The identified risks include non-compliance of citrus farmers to updated Maximum Residue Limits standards set by the EGD's "farm to fork" strategy and non-adherence to increased organic certification. Opportunities offered by this legislation include exporting critical raw materials (unrelated to agricultural produce) and organic products to the EU. However, the latter is only possible after organic certification policies are established to support farmers.

Contribution: This paper contributes to the scarce body of literature on the implications of the EGD on the citrus sector that contributes significantly to the South African economy and many households' livelihoods.

[14] Pecking order theory: Application to a period of high information asymmetry

Carlos De Jesus (University of Cape Town), Phillip De Jager (University of Cape Town) and Philip Stallkamp (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: The capital structure debate is ongoing, and this study contributes to the debate on capital structure in African and emerging markets. The period 2009 – 2013, is important as it provides a natural experiment, due to high information asymmetry, allowing for dynamic testing of pecking order theory.

Methodology: Multiple fixed effect regression models and white two-way cluster adjustments, were used to analyse 186 JSE listed firms.

Findings: Characteristics previously found to be significant were found not to be significant using the more robust testing, and pecking order theory was shown not to applied.

Originality: An alternative formula is used for testing capital structure choices. The use of robust testing, a larger sample, and dynamic modelling shed light on the debate, as well as indicate possible inadequacies in the financial system and theories around capital structure.

[15] An evaluation of the going concern principle on JSE-listed companies

Stéfani Coetzee (North-West University), Danie Schutte (North-West University) and Merwe Oberholzer (North-West University).

Purpose: The study attempts to uncover a single or group of financial ratios which may be able, across industries, to unambiguously distinguish between successful and failed (or failing) companies well in advance of any failure occurring, and will contemplate – based on the results of the financial ratio analysis and interpretation – whether the going concern assumption is still a valid underlying principle of financial accounting.

Methodology: Financial ratios applicable elsewhere may not be useful to South African companies as economic and political conditions, capital availability, and accounting standards differ. There is also limited research regarding the relevance of the going concern assumption. This study classified JSE-listed companies into three groups: successful, struggling, and failed. Ratio analysis was performed on the average results of ten companies from each designation for two six-year periods: 1998 to 2003 and 2013 to 2018. These dates avoid periods of accounting and economic upheavals.

Findings: Several ratios deliver reasonable results for predicting corporate failure, e.g. headline EPS, market-to-book ratios, and especially the Springate-model Z-score. The going concern assumption may no longer be an enforceable principle of accounting; rather, the management of a company should elucidate its applicability annually.

Contribution: Identifying the Springate model Z-score as an accurate and timely predictor of corporate failure in a South African context, and a more demanding legal obligation for a going concern explanation from the management of companies, may protect financial statements users from future financial losses.

[16] Revenue and other income: an undefined difference between IAS18 & IFRS15

Sapho Gwadiso (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: With revenue being accepted as an important line item in financial statements, this paper highlights gaps in revenue accounting guidance. In particular, this paper looks at the lack of guidance for interest income, dividend income and other income that may be seen as outside the core of an entity's business. This is done by reviewing key literature from the period before the release of IFRS15, and analysing it against the standard as released and currently effective.

Methodology: This paper is qualitative, doctrinal and conceptual in nature.

Findings: The main finding of the paper is that guidance that was in IAS18 was superseded by IFRS15, but not replaced, thus creating a gap, and a broad area for judgment.

Contribution: This paper adds to the current research on conceptual foundations for statement of performance reporting, and the post-implementation reviews of IFRS15. We also propose a new definition for revenue.

[17] The impact of corporate life cycle on dividend policy in listed South African non-financial firms

Trust Chireka (Walter Sisulu University).

Purpose: This study investigates whether the firm-specific factors, including the firms' life cycle stages, influence dividend decisions of the non-financial firms listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). Despite decades of extensive research, the real motivation behind corporate dividend payments remains unclear. This study seeks to extend the existing literature by seeking to understand how dividend decisions vary along the firms' life cycle stages.

Design: The study follows a quantitative research approach to test whether dividend policy can be explained by the life cycle theory. As such, non-financial firms listed on the JSE were studied using a panel data regression to establish the factors that determine corporate dividend policy. The financial data, post the global credit crisis of 2009 was obtained from the IRESS data base. The observations are for the period 2011 to 2020.

Findings: The findings reveal that non-financial firms listed on the JSE, which are in the decline stage, significantly reduce dividend payments and that return on equity, growth opportunities, and firm size all positively impact dividend payments.

Originality: The study is the first of its kind to consider the effects of firm life cycle on dividend policy in South African firms. The study improves previous studies by employing a dynamic measure of firm life cycle introduced by Dickinson et al. (2012). The study focuses only on quantitative data and thus misses insights that could have been picked up in a qualitative study. Future studies could make use of a mixed method approach.

[18] A critical analysis of the incongruities arising from the application of the Value-Added Tax relief regime granted to South African Property Developers

Herman Albertus Viviers (North-West University) and Herman Van Dyk (North-West University).

Purpose: The main purpose of this paper is to critically investigate the valued-added tax (VAT) implications triggered by the application of section 18D of the VAT Act and its related provisions. In addition, the paper aims to highlight and critically analyse incongruities arising from the application of the VAT relief regime for property developers and to determine if these VAT implications are aligned with the policy objectives set behind its introduction.

Methodology: The research conducted is positioned within the paradigm of interpretivism whereby a critical investigation is performed by means of legal research through a doctrinal analysis.

Findings: Two incongruities were identified, namely uncertainty regarding: (i) whether the cost of land on which property development takes place forms part of 'adjusted cost' under section 10(29); and (ii) the correct determination of the time of supply under section 18(1) where a developer's intention to lease out developed fixed property changes from temporary to permanent during the allowed "temporary applied" lease agreements period. Based on a literal, compared to a purposive approach of interpretation, misalignments were found between the VAT consequences arising and the policy objectives set to be achieved by this VAT relief regime.

Contribution: The paper contributes to the debate on the highlighted incongruities and makes recommendations that will assist in unifying the policy objectives set behind the introduction of the section 18D VAT relief measures with that of the actual VAT consequences triggered by the application of this VAT relief regime.

[19] Cryptocurrencies and VAT in South Africa: Recommendations based on a comparative study

Nomusa Mntambo (University of the Witwatersrand) and Asheer Jaywant Ram (University of the Witwatersrand).

Purpose: Cryptocurrencies (also referred to as crypto assets) are virtual assets that are not controlled by any central authority. Cryptocurrencies have various uses, including investment and spending, as users may use them to pay for goods and services. The South African Revenue Service (SARS) has introduced Value-Added Tax (VAT) legislation and cryptocurrencies have been classified as financial services. This means that cryptocurrencies are an exempt supply and no VAT is levied on their supply. The goal of this study is to find alternatives to this classification by SARS.

Design: A comparative investigation is carried out, in which the classification of cryptocurrencies for VAT purposes in Bahrain, Thailand, and Colombia is examined. This comparison is carried out using a doctrinal research approach, followed by analysis and synthesis of the literature.

Findings: The categorisation used by Thailand and Bahrain has resulted in actual VAT. This demonstrates that the notion that the South African Revenue Service categorises cryptocurrencies as financial services because it is difficult to ascertain the value added and, hence, how to charge VAT does not hold.

Originality/Contribution: The South African Revenue Service can investigate alternatives that might result in a broader VAT base.

[20] A literature review of commercial forensic investigations of white-collar crime

Mariska Wannenburg (Akademia).

Purpose: The purpose of this literature review is to outline the process of a commercial forensic investigation of white-collar crimes.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A structured literature review was conducted on the elements of a commercial forensic investigation. A need was identified to develop such a process since there is very limited literature available specifically on the process of commercial forensic investigations. Relevant international and national best practices were studied and used as a basis for developing the proposed process of conducting commercial forensic investigations.

Findings: Based on the literature a gap was identified and a process for forensic investigations was proposed. The study highlights the elements that should be present when instituting a commercial forensic investigation.

Originality/Contribution: The study has significant implications for the management of commercial forensic investigation practices. The improved quality of such investigations could also result in the successful prosecution of white-collar crimes.

[21] The impact of power outages on the firm value of manufacturing firms listed in JSE.

Nokwanda Zulu (Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: For the past 16 years, Eskom has been struggling to supply constant power to consumers, with frequent power disruptions in South Africa. Consumers, such as manufacturing firms, rely on a steady supply of energy in the form of electricity for their production processes, thus, they have been significantly affected by recurring power outages. Therefore, this study sought to determine the effect of power outages on the firm value of South African manufacturing firms, particularly those listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

Methodology: A secondary quantitative research approach was employed in the study, looking at financial data from 107 JSE-listed manufacturing firms for ten years (2012 to 2021). A random effect regression approach was used to analyse data. Tobin's Q was selected as the dependent variable. In contrast, total load shedding hours (TLH), size, risk, retention rate (RR), and sales were selected as the independent variables. TLH are external business factors, while the remaining four are internal business factors.

Findings: The findings suggest that contrary to the primary declarations of the RBV, the coefficient of (TLH) to Tobin's Q demonstrates that the external factor in the form of (TLH) has a substantial impact on the firm value of manufacturing enterprises in South Africa.

Contribution: This study is significant for two reasons: first, it will advance knowledge on the impact of energy scarcity on the manufacturing sector, and second, it will contribute to ongoing research on firm value. A stable supply of electricity is imperative for the growth of the value manufacturing industry.

Track 2

[Overall best paper award winner] The use of e-learning applications in accounting at residential universities in South Africa: A social justice perspective

Wendy Terblanche (University of Fort Hare), Elmarie Papageorgiou (University of Witwatersrand), Ilse Lubbe (University of Cape Town) and Nico van der Merwe (North-West University).

Purpose: In a post-COVID world, higher education institutions are searching for the optimal approach for embracing technology in learning. However, institutions (and their students), particularly in developing economies such as South Africa, face numerous social justice challenges. Social justice is about equal social, political and economic rights and opportunities. This study analyses and interprets how students' access, participation and engagement with technology influence their experiences of e-learning.

Methodology: Qualitative data was collected from accounting students registered at four South African residential universities in South Africa (n = 1864). Themes emerged from the analysis of the data which was performed using a qualitative research analysis tool. These themes are classified and discussed under four social justice principles.

Findings: The study's findings clearly link students' experiences of e-learning to social justice issues in South Africa, with some students finding successful participation in e-learning significantly more challenging than others. The nature of these challenges should be informative for institutions considering delivery modes and pedagogies that incorporate technology in learning.

Contribution: The experiences of students registered in Accounting programmes at residential universities in South Africa and their use of e-learning applications during the COVID-19 pandemic, and interpreting these through a social justice lens, is novel. Recommendations should be useful to higher education in adapting modes of delivery and pedagogies. Policymakers and universities should be cognizant of social-justice regarding access, equity, participation and diversity when moving to online learning to achieve a post-school education system that enriches lives, promotes social justice and overcomes historical inequities.

[22] A Systematic Literature Review: Assessment of Critical Thinking in Accounting and Auditing Education

Tammy Ntisana (University of Fort Hare) and Prof Kato Plant (University of Pretoria).

Purpose: Critical thinking is not a new term. Specifically, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) require SAICA-accredited programme providers to develop this skill to an advanced level in students. If educators need to foster the development of critical thinking in their students, they also need to have the means to assess this skill.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A systematic literature review was conducted utilizing the Web of Science database. The Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA 2020) statement was used as a model to guide the process of identifying, selecting and appraising current literature on the state of knowledge of critical thinking and assessment.

Findings: Firstly, it was evident that the prevalent research areas were predominantly in the domains of educational research, psychology and health sciences. Research on critical thinking and assessment in the discipline of accounting appears to be very limited. The exceptionally low research output in the accounting or auditing fields in relation to critical thinking and assessment reveals a gap in the literature.

Secondly, the articles identified were screened and analysed for common themes. These either did not correlate critical thinking with assessment or indicate that critical thinking is an indirect consequence of certain forms of assessment. However, none of the literature screened reflects on how to directly assess critical thinking.

Originality/Contribution: This study is the first attempt within the accounting and auditing landscape to conduct a systematic literature review on the assessment of critical thinking skills.

[23] The role of student background and other individual characteristics in perceptions of teaching excellence by accounting and business students

Nadia Gulko (University of Lincoln), Lies Bouten (IESEG School of Management), Natalie Churyk (Northern Illinois University), Patricia Everaert (Ghent University), Elizabeth Gordon (Temple University), Seyram Kawor (University of Cape Coast), Camillo Lento (Lakehead University), Nick McGuigan (Monash University), Sanlie Middelberg (North-West University), Saravanan Muthaiyah (Multimedia University), Suresh Sahoo (Sri Sri University), Olubukunola Uwuigbe (Covenant University) and Nadeeka Withanage (Greenwich University).

Purpose: In universities around the world, academics are encouraged to facilitate excellent education. Students have different perceptions of teaching quality and usually evaluate teachers on their unique teaching attributes. The study aims to broaden the existing literature on teaching excellence (TE) from students' perspectives across eleven countries. We consider these perspectives from different student backgrounds and individual characteristics measured by twelve independent variables, with the following three included in this paper: academic status, gender, and work experience.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Quantitative and qualitative empirical data are collected from all levels of undergraduate and postgraduate business and accounting students in eleven countries from a sampled thirteen institutions across five continents. Primary data is collected from students using an online survey questionnaire.

Findings (preliminary): The data collection is still in progress. The preliminary survey results for six of the eleven countries and a total of 788 responses to date are presented.

Contribution: We examine whether students' perceptions about TE vary between academic status, gender, and work experience, and what teachers' personal, classroom, and background qualities and attributes add to the definition of TE. Therefore, the emphasis is on exploring differences and similarities across multiple countries. Understanding what TE means for students would enhance teaching practices, thereby improving student engagement, enhancing the student learning experience, and developing employability skills. Further research is needed to explore how a teacher's background information may influence students' perception of TE in higher education and to what extent teachers put students' interests at the heart of teaching.

[24] A proposed model for evaluating the explanatory value of banks' public credit-risk disclosures under IFRS-9

Ronald Nhleko (North-West University) and Daniel P Schutte (North-West University).

Purpose: This paper posits a model that could be utilised to evaluate the explanatory value of banks' public credit-risk disclosures, and thereby the claims by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that credit-risk disclosures that comply with its latest International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS)-9 would be decision-useful to banks' stakeholders. The study was motivated by a lack of a comprehensive methodological framework that could enable one to empirically evaluate the value and objectives of IFRS-9 credit-risk reporting. The absence of such a framework constitutes a significant methodological drawback because it means that, until such time as one is established, the IASB's claims mentioned above remain largely unsubstantiated. Consequently, the empirical decision-usefulness of banks' credit-risk disclosures also remains largely unknown, albeit presumed.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study develops a logical basis for the specification of banks' accounting-based credit-risk determinants together with industry-specific, bank-specific and other macroeconomic variables within a theoretical model that facilitates the empirical observation of reported credit-risk.

Findings: It was established that when industry and bank-specific factors are controlled for, IFRS-9 credit-risk disclosures can be specified within an intrinsic valuation equation to observe the explanatory value of the bank-level credit-risk assumed by bank managers.

Originality/Contribution: The posited model makes it possible to empirically evaluate the explanatory value of banks' credit-risk disclosures, and thereby validate the IASB's claims about the value and objectives of IFRS-9 credit-risk reporting. Thus, it is hoped that this model will prove helpful to stakeholders interested in empirical evidence of the decision-usefulness of listed banks' public credit-risk disclosures.

[25] Is Tax Avoidance Really Tax Avoidance in the Context of State Failure

Pieter Van der Spuy (Stellenbosch University) and Phillip de Jager (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: This research gathers perspectives on corporate tax avoidance by interviewing corporate tax consultants. This is important because corporate effective tax rates have been in decline across the globe for the past two decades. The South African context of state failure makes it easier to rationalise a more aggressive posture in the grey area between legal tax avoidance and illegal tax evasion.

Design: We made use of semi-structured interviews with senior partners of eleven tax advisors of large JSE listed companies. The focus of the interviews was on the interaction between corporate culture, tax avoidance and CEO influences.

Findings: Interviewees argue that their clients are not aggressive tax avoiders. However, they acknowledge that clients are increasingly becoming frustrated with the lack of service delivery. Emergent was the argument that a level of tax avoidance, to fund direct spending on social goods, can be justified. It was acknowledged that some corporates are simply less aggressive tax avoiders than others, indicating a role for a stakeholder oriented corporate culture to influence and override a CEO effect.

Originality: Our contribution to knowledge is to improve understanding of why some corporates, all else (quantitatively) equal, are less aggressive tax avoiders. Second, we interview a uniquely informed group: corporate tax consultants. Speaking to the consultants about their client interactions in the abstract removes the pressure on the consultants to justify themselves or to protect their clients' confidentiality. This allows new insights to emerge from the engine room of corporate tax avoidance.

[26] Waiving a 40% subminimum class mark rule in accounting 1 – beneficial for students or not?

Lorelle De Villiers (Nelson Mandela University), Tarish Jagwanth (Nelson Mandela University) and Suzan Terblanche (Nelson Mandela University).

Purpose: The Department of Accounting Sciences at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) piloted waiving the subminimum 40% class mark requirement for students to gain entry into the final examination. This study aimed to determine whether the rule change was beneficial for Accounting 1 students.

Methodology: A quantitative research methodology was used to address the research objective. The population of the study were all 2021 and 2022 NMU Accounting 1 students with a class mark below 40%. The sample was narrowed to students who wrote final exams in Accounting 1 modules from the population. The module databases were used as secondary data for the analysis. The final results of these students were analysed to determine the impact of the rule change on the students' throughput rate.

Findings: The findings indicate that students scoring below 40% fall in the range of 12% to 41% of the total class across the semesters. From this group of students, 3% to 8% who wrote the final examination, ended up passing. Although this represents a low proportion of students who managed to pass, it resulted in an increase in the overall student throughput rate, thus providing a justifiable benefit for the rule change.

Contribution: This study contributes to limited prior published literature in this research area. The findings of the study will also assist in determining whether the rule change should be effected permanently. An optimally designed academic programme should provide the best opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to increasing student throughput rates.

[27] Integrating societal worldviews and ethics competencies in an accounting curriculum

Nico van der Merwe (North-West University), Stuart McChlery (Glasgow Caledonian University) and Herman Viviers (North-West University).

Purpose: The paper considers the integration of the 'ethics and social responsibility' aspects of the foundational competencies of Lawson et al.'s (2014) framework within an accounting curriculum. This is conducted through the lens of a first-year 'ethics and worldviews' module on an accounting programme which was introduced in a South African university. The research provides evidence of the students' perceptions regarding curriculum, teaching and assessment within the module.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The study employs an inductive, qualitative research design. Information was gathered through conducting semi-structured focus group interviews with students who completed the module. Interview recordings were transcribed and then analysed using the ATLAS.ti software.

Findings: Students generally had positive experiences of the module, including the integration of worldviews and the development of ethical and critical thinking. However, there needs to be a reconsideration of the balance between theory and practice and the worldview elements should be considered in regard to how they impact the accounting profession. Students advocated the module on the grounds of the strengthening of workplace skills and appreciated that the module is run by accounting lecturers, otherwise there would have been the danger of theorisation at the expense of

practical relevance. The assessments are varied but the number of assessments and their focus need to be reconsidered.

Originality/Value: The paper offers suggestions to expand Lawson et al.'s (2014) accounting education framework to incorporate moral and world ideologies as a foundational competency. It also makes practical recommendations to institutions wishing to integrate similar competencies in their curriculum.

[28] Developing and confirming illustrative examples on accounting for credit card reward programme transactions

Sophia Brink (Stellenbosch University) and Gretha Steenkamp (Stellenbosch University).

Purpose: IFRS 15 provides minimum guidance to credit card reward programmes (CCRPs), creating uncertainty and inconsistency in accounting practices, and illustrative examples could bridge the gap between theory and practice. The objective of the research was to develop and confirm illustrative examples for accounting for CCRP transactions after the effective date of IFRS 15.

Methodology: This non-empirical qualitative literature study used a document analysis approach to develop illustrative examples. The Delphi technique will be used to validate and confirm the examples. The experts that will be invited to participate in the study include the management of South African CCRPs and their audit partners. The data will be analysed using thematic analysis.

Findings: To provide more clarity and certainty to CCRPs, six illustrative examples for various types of CCRPs were developed. These illustrative examples must now be confirmed by experts in the field.

Contribution: This study contributes to theory by indicating that even though CCRP transactions can be perceived as similar that different types of CCRPs should be accounted for in a different manner. This study contributes to practice by providing CCRP management with illustrative examples of the accounting treatment of CCRP transactions ensuring faithful representation of the transaction.

[29] Enhancing domestic revenue mobilisation with a national tax lottery: Prospects for consumer acceptance and engagement

Anculien Schoeman (University of Pretoria).

Purpose: Tax non-compliance in many countries poses a threat to government to collect sufficient tax revenue. A prevalent way of businesses to avoid paying taxes on sales is to not issue receipts, especially when cash sales are made. To encourage tax compliance, tax lotteries have been implemented in over 20 countries. Since the implementation of a tax lottery system would not be viable if the shoppers would not give their cooperation, the purpose of the study is to determine: Would consumers in South Africa accept and engage in a tax lottery system?

Methodology: An online survey delivered 2 774 valid responses from a wide range of respondents in South Africa.

Findings: 76.6% of respondents are somewhat or extremely happy to participate in a well-managed tax lottery system. 74.1% of respondents indicated that they agree or strongly agree that they would be motivated to only purchase from suppliers who issue receipts. There are predictors of which type of consumer would accept the tax lottery system, namely gender, monthly spending and household size as demographic variables. A positive attitude towards the tax lottery system would also increase consumer acceptance of such a system.

Contribution: The study contributes to the limited empirical studies that have explored tax lottery systems, especially from an African perspective. Revenue authorities can use the results to determine whether the implementation of a tax lottery system would be viable. Predictors of which respondents are more prone to accept the system could assist revenue authorities in targeted advertising.

[30] Identifying and understanding the personal values of Accounting Educators of South African universities

Ilse Lubbe (University of Cape Town), Mandie Wentzel (BDO), Gail Fortuin (University of Stellenbosch) and Elmarie Papageorgiou (University of Witwatersrand).

Purpose: Personal values are stable beliefs that influence the individual's behaviour and ethical decisions. This study aims to identify and describe the personal values of accounting educators using the Giving Voice to Values framework. It focuses on obtaining insights into the personal values of accounting educators and forms part of a larger, longitudinal study that focuses on the personal values of accounting students and educators.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Responses were received from 23 accounting educators who attended the 2022 Virtual SAAA National Conference, representing eleven universities and institutions, which is relatively representative of the number of universities in South Africa. Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The researchers intend to repeat the data collection exercise at the 2023 SAAA National Conference, which will be in person.

Findings: The provisional findings indicate that the top-ranked personal value by accounting educator participants was 'Integrity' (being honest and having strong moral principles). This was followed by 'Family' and 'Spirituality', indicating the importance of family and personal care. 'Adventure' and 'Pleasure' ranked lowest personal values and were identified as less critical. Given that lived experiences influence personal values, these values reflect the participants' sentiments towards the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Originality/Contribution: This study provides valuable insights into positioning the personal values of accounting educators. Participation in this study presented accounting educators with the importance of values on ethical behaviour as it positions these against the personal values of accounting students.

[31] The moderating role of corporate governance on tax planning and firm value

Haruna Maama (Department of Financial Accounting. Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: Tax planning represents cost savings to firms and equally can accumulate both tax and non-tax costs, especially those associated with agency problems. As a result, the impact of tax planning on the value of firms has been a subject of academic interest. Beyond this interest, the role of corporate governance in moderating the relationship between tax planning and firm value has equally received attention among academics and corporate stakeholders. The study contributes to this debate by examining the relationship between tax planning and firm value and how corporate governance moderates such relationships among firms in East African Countries (EACs).

Methodology: The data for the study was collected from 99 listed firms in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda from 2008 to 2021. The data were analysed using the model specification developed by Ohlson (1995) and estimated using the GMM estimation model.

Findings: The results showed that tax planning has a negative and statistically insignificant effect on firm value. The results also reveal that board size negatively affects the relationship between tax planning and firm value, while board independence and gender diversity have positive effects. The study also found that ownership concentration positively influences the relationship between tax planning and firms' value.

Contribution: These findings suggest that corporate governance significantly influences the value relevance of tax planning. The findings also align with the agency theory of corporate tax planning, which asserts that managers could be involved in suboptimal decisions without adequate monitoring. The results have several implications for policymakers and stakeholders in East African Countries.

[32] What is in a word? The information value of Key Audit Matters included in the extended audit report.

Lise Botha (Cape Peninsula University of Technology), Phillip De Jager (University of Cape Town), Francois Toerien (University of Cape Town) and Ezelda Swanepoel (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: This study investigates whether Key Audit Matters (KAM), reported by auditors in South Africa, are linguistically homogenous and of information value. This is important because a common critique against audit reports of public companies, before the inclusion of KAM, was the lack of information value it provided, due to boilerplate-type audit reports.

Methodology: Tone analysis is paired with correspondence analysis to decide on the information value of KAM. Information value is the unexpected information gained during communication. Tone analysis was performed for companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) in six industry sub-sectors, for the periods 2017 to 2022.

Findings: Correspondence analysis allowed us to compare the expected KAM tone profile against observed profiles for specific companies and years. The relative variation in tone serves as an indicator of possible information value. The use of linguistic tone and correspondence analysis to test KAM's information value is unique. Furthermore, we consider whether the tone of the KAM section of the audit report reflects any company- or audit-related issues or events. In contrast to prior studies on KAM, industry and company-level analyses are performed. The KAM tone of the companies and industries analysed was not homogenous in cases where there were no known audit failures. During individual company-level analysis, the KAM tone of one company, with known audit failure, was found to be homogenous.

Contribution: We tentatively find that companies' KAM that deviate from the expected tone profile (not linguistically homogenous) have information value and that it reflects company events.

[33] Nexus between environmental reporting and financial performance of manufacturing firms listed on the JSE in S.A

Nolwando L Mgilane (Durban University Of Technology), Haruna Maama (Durban University of Technology) and Ferina Marimuthu (Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: The main purpose of this current paper is to investigate the connection between environmental reporting and financial performance of firms listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in South Africa.

Design/Methodology/Approach: A multiple regression analysis was adopted, where fixed effect and random effect estimation techniques were used to test the relationship between environmental reporting and financial performance. The current study covered 50 listed manufacturing firms. A content analysis was utilized to attain the environmental reporting information themes from the integrated annual reports of the firms. The data collection commenced as at the period of 2016 to 2020.

Findings: The findings of this paper are indicative of a negative association between environmental reporting responsibility and ROE when the components of environmental reporting are tested individually. However, when these components namely: environmental reporting, social reporting and Environmental degradation are combined the findings reveal a positive and statistically insignificant relationship. The implication of these results is that an increase in environmental reporting results in a decrease in a firm's financial performance. In this perspective, the current findings recognise that the adoption of environmental reporting by JSE listed firms results in the outflow of funds and resources which might be detrimental to the financial performance of firms.

Originality/Contribution: The findings of this study will significantly benefit various stakeholders, such as the management of manufacturing firms, the government and its institutions, and researchers interested in the field. The study will contribute to the foregoing debate on the association between environmental reporting and financial performance.

[34] The efficacy of the South African General Anti-Avoidance Rule: Using lessons from New Zealand

Michelle Kirsten (CA(SA); SAIT).

Purpose: The general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) has been adopted by South Africa to combat tax avoidance schemes. However, since the most recent amendment to the South African GAAR in 2006, its efficacy remains unknown because it has not been tested by the courts in its entirety. This study aims to address this concern by determining the effectiveness of the South African GAAR when compared to its New Zealand counterpart.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study employed a 'structured pre-emptive analysis' research methodology, combining a doctrinal and reform-oriented approach. The doctrinal approach allowed an understanding of the interpretation and application of the two GAARs to be obtained, and for the identification of weaknesses in the South African GAAR with suggestions for improvement. The reform-oriented approach consisted of an application of the South African GAAR to the facts of a case from New Zealand.

Findings: The findings highlighted various weaknesses that exist in the South African GAAR which indicate that additional guidance should be provided to address the existing uncertainties to prevent inconsistencies that may limit its efficacy.

Originality/Contribution: This study aims to determine what amendments can be made to the current South African GAAR to address its weaknesses and improve its efficacy, through the lessons learnt from the New Zealand GAAR. While studies of a similar nature have been conducted prior to this study, the originality of this study is due to the selection of the case - Commissioner of Inland Revenue v Frucor Suntory New Zealand Limited (2020) NZCA 383 ("Frucor case").

[35] Evaluation of the use of a supplemental online teaching tool during COVID-19: A WhatsApp tax chatbot

Lizelle Bruwer (University of the Free State).

Purpose: As part of the transition to an emergency online learning environment during COVID, a supplemental learning tool in the form of a tax chatbot, hosted on WhatsApp, was developed. The aim of the chatbot was to provide 24/7 access and feedback to undergraduate students at a residential South African university on specific tax-related content without having the lecturer physically or digitally available. The content within the chatbot was supplementary to the learning material available on the institution's learning management system. This study aims to evaluate the implementation of the chatbot and its subsequent access and use by students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methodology: A descriptive, multi-method approach evaluated the implementation and subsequent access and use of the chatbot by students. Quantitative data through the chatbot software system were collected to determine how many students accessed the chatbot during the 2021 academic year. This was followed by two nominal group interviews, collecting quantitative data (in the form of ranking) and qualitative data (in the form of verbal discussions) in the 2022 academic year with students registered for the specific module in 2021.

Findings: Only 3% of the total registered students accessed or used the chatbot. Barriers identified by participants for accessing and utilising the chatbot include knowledge of and about the chatbot, challenges with the platform used to host the chatbot and limited access to devices, data and connectivity.

Contribution: The results could inform the design and use of supplemental digital learning tools in a post-COVID, technology-driven accounting education environment.

[36] Good corporate governance in central government: A decision tree classification and prediction analyses

Lourens J Erasmus (University of South Africa) and Philna Coetzee (Tshwane University of Technology).

Purpose: Good public sector corporate governance leads to good management, stewardship of public wealth, public engagement and, ultimately, better outcomes for citizens. As South Africa has one of the worst Gini coefficients in the world, its public sector should effectively address the challenges of inequality, poverty and unemployment. Good corporate governance is non-negotiable, yet less than 30 per cent of government departments obtain clean audit outcomes.

Methodology: Supporting the drive for clean audit outcomes that equate to good corporate governance, the research objective was to determine the predictors of central government departments' corporate governance success. The study used CHAID (chi-squared automatic interaction detection) analysis, a decision-tree technique, based on information reported over a 13-year period.

Findings: The CHAID analyses indicated that central government departments' corporate governance success is primarily explained by three factors; namely, a quality internal audit function (main predictor), the number of fraud incidences, and the number of internal control weaknesses.

Originality/contribution: The result is noteworthy, as other prominent good corporate governance drivers, such as external auditing, risk management and audit committees, were surpassed by the internal audit function. This study broadens the body of knowledge, confirming that audit outcome can be used as a proxy for good corporate governance, and confirms the primary significance of a sound internal audit function as a predictor of good corporate governance for central government departments, in a developing country.

[37] The use of Generalised Audit Software for tests of controls by internal audit functions in the Federal Government of Canada: A comparative analysis of maturity level assessments

Leandi Steenkamp (Central University of Technology, Free State), Louis Smidt (Tshwane University of Technology), Sezer Bozkuş Kahyaoğlu (Kyrgyz Turkish Manas University) and David Coderre (Computer Assisted Analysis Techniques and Solutions (CAATS)).

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to measure existing IA GAS functions against a benchmark developed from recognized data analytics maturity models in the use of this software for tests of controls.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study followed a deductive mono-method quantitative approach, with a survey research strategy used to collect data. The research instrument used was informed by an existing structured research questionnaire developed as part of a prior study in 2017.

Findings: The assessment of the maturity of GAS use was based on three aspects (people, processes, and technology), which contributed equally to the comprehensive evaluation of the use of GAS by the IA functions of the Federal Government. Only a small percentage of respondents achieved a high overall maturity rating, indicating that the maturity of GAS use by the IA functions of the Federal Government has not yet been optimized. Except for one respondent displaying a level 5 (and that on technology only), no respondent reached a level in any aspect where there was no longer any room for improvement (even if an overall maturity rating of 5 was achieved).

Originality/Contribution: The comparison drawn from the empirical findings indicates no significant progress in any area or overall maturity levels since the initial study in 2017. A comprehensive discussion of the results leads to policy recommendations for shaping the maturity level assessment of future GAS use, and a lessons-learned experience from an organizational learning perspective for other countries and organizations.

[38] Determinants of Listed Property Capital Structure: Evidence from an Emerging Market

Francois Toerien (University of Cape Town), Alessandro Calvosa (University of Cape Town) and Phillip de Jager (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: Specific features of listed property, such as regulatory debt:equity ceilings, earnings payout requirements and tax exemptions, may affect capital ratio decisions. South Africa's listed property industry has some unique features. Our study uses this context to better understand what drives capital structure decisions, based on the trade-off, pecking-order and market timing theories.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Both 'between' (pooled regression) and 'within' (fixed effects regression) models were run on a sample of 39 property companies listed on the JSE for at least two years between 2005 and 2019, representing an unbalanced panel of 314 company-year observations across three different company structures. Long-term debt-to-gross assets were regressed against proxies for asset tangibility, growth opportunities, profitability, company size, company age, share volatility, interest cover and inflation, as well as dummy variables for property fund structure and investment strategy.

Findings: In combination, the study evidence supports pecking order theory (first) and market timing theory (second), with the strongest evidence against trade-off theory. The former two overlap as both rely on information asymmetry. It is likely that for the regulated listed property industry, the lack of tax shield benefits resulting from REITs' non-taxable status and, less so, the regulatory leverage constraints, eliminate trade-off as a major capital structure consideration.

Originality/Value: The study adds descriptive knowledge to the limited body of research on the determinants of listed property capital structure within emerging markets, specifically in a country with recent regulatory changes relevant to this issue.

[39] Enhancing the monitoring and enforcement of tax compliance through improved beneficial ownership transparency

Herman van Dyk (North-West University, South Africa) and Herman Viviers (North-West University, South Africa).

Purpose: South Africa was recently added to the FATF "grey list" because of (AML/CFT deficiencies. One of the strategic deficiencies is insufficient beneficial ownership (BO) transparency. In response to the grey-listing, legislation has been enacted to require that BO information is retained and made publicly on a BO register. South African tax legislation contains several provisions where the identity or presence of certain beneficial owners could affect the tax outcome of a transaction or position. Examples include the SBC tax concession, connected persons provisions and the exemption from dividends tax. A revenue authority's ability to promptly obtain information from taxpayers and third parties is vital to the proper functioning of the tax system. This paper evaluates if and how the proposed implementation of a BO register could enhance the ability of SARS to monitor and enforce tax compliance, particularly in relation to the BO requirements of the SBC tax incentive. It also considers the risk of the proposed BO transparency being subject to a constitutional challenge on the grounds of an infringement of the right to privacy.

Methodology: Doctrinal research is applied in this study.

Findings: The preliminary findings of this study indicate that the proposed BO register, in isolation, is not entirely fit for purpose to efficiently monitor and enforce compliance of the BO requirements of the SBC tax incentive. A requirement by SARS to disclose current BO information of SBCs on company tax returns would be more functional.

Contribution: This paper considers constitutional aspects.

[40] The use of learner analytics to combat student achievement gap: low-income-household students studying accounting at the University of the Free State

Olihile Walton Mosiako (University of The Free State).

Purpose: The achievement gap between students from low-income households and high-income households has been a persistent issue in Higher Education Institutions. The study specifically investigates this issue within the University of the Free State, particularly in a field of study that relies heavily on verbal communication and written language skills, such as accounting. The study, therefore, evaluates the effectiveness of the Learner Analytics in identifying academic challenges faced by low-income students, such as inadequate educational resources, limited access to technology, limited opportunities for social and emotional support and inadequate financial resources. The study aims to identify efficient academic support interventions by analysing the insights derived from Learner Analytics data.

Methodology: The study will employ a multi-method research approach. Qualitative data will be gathered through student surveys, while quantitative data will be collected from students' academic activities, including attendance to lectures, tutorials, study groups, consultations, and performance in formative and summative assessments.

Findings: Preliminary findings show a positive indication that Learner Analytics offers data-driven insights into challenges faced by low-income students, such as language barriers, coursework demands, and financial difficulties. These insights inform targeted academic support interventions, improving outcomes and assisting students from low-income households.

Contributions: This study will contribute to our understanding of the academic challenges and difficulties that students that come from low-income households face in Higher Education institutions and the most effective targeted academic support interventions that can assist in addressing these challenges.

[41] The moderating role of 'tone at the top' on the relationship between audit committee effectiveness and financial statement manipulation

Alastair Marais (University of KwaZulu-Natal), Patricia Shewell (University of KwaZulu-Natal) and Claire Vermaak (University of KwaZulu-Natal).

Purpose: Academic research has investigated various aspects of the audit committee's effectiveness, including expertise, independence, activity, and diversity. However, the evidence regarding the committee's ability to mitigate financial statement manipulation is mixed. Due to top management's influence, the audit committee may merely fulfil a ceremonial role. Consequently, greater appreciation of 'tone at the top' is needed. This paper investigates how 'tone at the top' moderates the audit committee's relationship with financial statement manipulation.

Methodology: We used logit and panel regression to analyse 1 080 non-financial, Johannesburg Stock Exchange firm-year observations from 2011 until 2018. We measured financial statement manipulation using fraud and discretionary accruals. Using Principal Component Analysis (PCA), we developed five audit committee characteristics and two management tones.

Findings: We found that an active audit committee decreased the extent of financial statement manipulation, while governance expertise and independence increased it. Although tone did not have any direct relationship with financial statement manipulation, we found that a certain, pessimistic tone subdued the audit committee's diversity and activity but empowered its financial expertise and independence. In contrast, a realistic, diverse tone empowered the committee's activity and diversity but subdued its financial expertise.

Contribution: Our study is the first to show how audit committee characteristics are either empowered or inhibited by 'tone at the top' in South Africa. Our results support the hypothesis that tone at the top moderates the audit committee's effectiveness. We further contribute to the literature by revealing how individual audit committee characteristics complement each other.

[42] How can new fraud combination theory help forensic auditors and external auditors in fraud risk assessments?

Jean Damascene Mvunabandi (Durban University of Technology) and Ferina Marimuthu (Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: This article critically examined the fraud influencing factors justified by the existing theories that contribute to fraud risk assessments (FRAs).

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study Adopted Preferred Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses to concomitantly track data that exists on fraud risk assessments used by auditors and forensic auditors from 2019 to 2023. A total of 486 publications were identified through database searches.

Findings: This article considers a theoretical review of other relevant fraud theories, literature was reviewed and the researchers recommend that the robust new fraud combination theory should greatly assist forensic auditors and external auditors to identify and assess fraud and perform effective fraud risk assessments. This study fills an important gap by surveying the studies conducted on fraud risk assessments strategies that can be used by auditors and forensic auditors in the last five years, implying that introducing the New Fraud Combined Theory, which is a consolidation of all the fraud models and contributory fraud risk factors for fraudulent activities enable external auditors and forensic practitioners to effectively perform fraud risks assessments (FRAs) robustly.

Originality/Contribution: The understanding of factors influencing fraudsters is crucial for academics, practitioners and policy makers on how to prevent, identify, detect and investigate fraud risks could be enhanced when making use of auditing services. This research will guide researchers to further research on the subject matter.

[43] The influence of strategic management initiatives on the financial sustainability of South African small medium and micro enterprises: an online desktop review

Aletta Neethling (CPUT) and Jp Bruwer (CPUT).

Purpose: This study was conducted to ascertain the influence of strategic management initiatives, as deployed by South African Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) on their financial sustainability, in theory.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Non-empirical and qualitative research was conducted which took on the form of an online desktop review. The study was exploratory, constituted inductive research and was deemed nascent.

Findings: From the research conducted, it appears that South African SMMEs make limited use of strategic management initiatives. Where these business entities made use of strategic management initiatives, it is highly probable that other business entities' visions, missions and objectives were executed due to their tendency of copying and pasting financial practices and/or financial operations of more successful business entities. The latter may also be a reason why these entities have weak financial sustainability.

Originality/Contribution: The findings of this study provide a foundation for future empirical (and/or non-empirical) research studies to ascertain how strategic management initiatives of South African SMMEs can contribute positively to their financial sustainability. Moreover, this study also fortifies the multi-disciplinary connection between accounting sciences and business strategy.

[44] Preventing Endemic Fraud and Corruption Through Auditors and Legally Enshrined Disciplinary Boards – Empirical Evidence from South Africa and a Doctrinal Review

Bafo Khanyeza (SAICA).

Purpose: The purpose of this research was to unravel the fraud and corruption phenomenon in the public sector, through the description of the non-implementation of audit recommendations and its relationship to negative audit outcomes. Furthermore, to conduct a doctrinal review of administrative and quasi-judicial accountability mechanisms.

Methodology: The research methodology applied was a document analysis of the yearly audit outcomes as well as a thematic analysis of the non-implementation of auditor's recommendations phenomenon and its qualitative causal relationship to negative audit outcomes. Furthermore, conduct a comparative research analysis of other various countries' accountability models.

Findings: The public accounts committee (PAC) accountability model; together with the new Auditor General's powers to issue a certificate of debt; was found to be ineffective in curbing the non-implementation of audit recommendations. Furthermore, a worldwide comparative research analysis between two public sector accountability extremes found the de-facto PAC model, to be very poor in curbing the non-implementation of auditor's recommendations. While it found the court of accounts model to be adversarial yet effective.

Originality: Furthermore, this research has identified a de-jure novel South African administrative model of accountability, which is supposed to utilise the never been implemented, public sector auditor's reporting mechanism together with the legally enshrined disciplinary boards. To curb public sector rampant irregularities. Furthermore, to bridge the gap between the two extreme models of accountability. The understanding and implementation of this new accountability model could have fundamental theoretical and radical contributions towards curbing fraud and corruption in South Africa, Africa and Worldwide.

[45] Discussion Forums as an Active Learning Teaching Tool in Auditing

Rolien Kunz (University of Pretoria), Corlia Steyn (University of Pretoria) and Gerrit Penning (University of Pretoria).

Purpose: This paper reports on an active learning initiative in which discussion forums were introduced as an alternative to traditional tutorial classes in a post-graduate auditing course at a South-African university. The purpose of this paper is to provide students' perspectives on the value of discussion forums as an active learning teaching tool in auditing.

Methodology: A focus group discussion was conducted using the interactive qualitative analysis (IQA) technique, which is an inductive approach to data collection and analysis, to determine the students' perceptions of discussion forums as an active learning teaching tool.

Findings: Two overarching themes emerged during the IQA focus group discussions. The first category dealt with the advantages students gained from attending and participating in the discussion forums, whilst the second category related to the way in which the discussion forums were conducted.

Contribution: The paper adds to the active learning literature by providing insight into the use of discussion forums as an active learning teaching tool in auditing. It confirms the value and advantages of active learning to students, enhancing their overall understanding, and embedding and extending their theoretical knowledge. The comments raised by students dealing with the format of the discussion forums could be used by lecturers to improve active learning when using discussion forums as a teaching tool.

[46] Accountability and transparency mechanisms in continuous assurance to achieve good governance in the South African public sector

Ilse Morgan (University of South Africa), Louis Smidt (Tshwane University of Technology) and Lourens Erasmus (University of South Africa).

Purpose: Continuous monitoring of government spending is critical, as is evident from entrenched malfeasance in the South African public sector. The Fourth Industrial Revolution offers emerging digital technologies and effective transparency and accountability mechanisms within continuous assurance processes to achieve good governance. This paper examines the possible mechanisms to provide reliable and transparent information for decision-making involving oversight responsibilities.

Methodology: The paper presents a critical literature review supported by a thematic analysis of accountability and transparency mechanisms in the public sector, including requirements, processes, frameworks, guidelines, and legislation that contribute to good governance. The study draws on the theory of change, adopting a holistic approach focused on enhancing governance processes by going beyond traditional research that concentrates on internal governance mechanisms of transparency and corporate accountability to shareholders only.

Findings: Advanced technologies such as machine learning, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) can be effectively adopted within continuous assurance processes to achieve transparency and accountability and to enhance oversight in risk management, control and governance processes. Improved assurance processes can be achieved through enforceable consequence management, improved stakeholder participation, outcomes-based measurement systems and accountability mechanisms and the effective coordination of processes and decision-making pathways.

Contribution/Policy implication: The study provided new insight into the field of governance and continuous assurance in the South African public sector by recommending new mechanisms to improve accountability and transparency.

[47] Investigating the critical success factors for adopting blockchain technology in Gauteng Government departments.

Beatah Sibanda (North-west University), Benon Basheka (Kabale University) and Jan Van Romburgh (North-west)

Purpose: The study aimed to investigate critical success factors for adopting blockchain technology, and to propose a framework for the adoption of blockchain technology within Gauteng government departments.

Design: A quantitative research approach and a random sampling technique were adopted. A descriptive-exploratory design was used. Data were collected using close-ended questionnaires from four Gauteng provincial departments and analysed using descriptive statistics and Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA).

Findings: Six factors were identified as critical factors: legislative requirements, governance factors, technical and compatibility factors, cost versus benefit, management attitude, and availability of specialised skills. The results revealed that government departments would adopt blockchain if they perceived it useful. The usefulness was manifested in that respondents believed blockchain would improve the overall financial reporting of government departments. Furthermore, it could be instrumental in improving record keeping, a challenge most departments have battled. In this digital age era, aligning business processes with prevailing technologies is vital, hence the relevance of blockchain technology, as suggested by this study.

Originality/Contribution: This study is relevant in this digital era, where technology is changing the functioning of societies and businesses. Government departments need to align with these changes to serve the community better. Blockchain can improve transparency and accountability, a challenge that government departments have dealt with for a long time. The study proposes a framework for adopting blockchain technology in government departments as there currently needs to be a framework. The critical success factors for adopting blockchain were determined, which contribute to the body of knowledge.

[48] Effect of internal audit effectiveness on organisational process performance indicators

Mvelo Siyaya (CPUT).

Purpose: The investment in the internal audit function is extensively dependent on the value that this function adds to the processes of the organisation. Prior internal auditing studies have reviewed internal audit effectiveness with little attention paid to non-financial performance and considering the views of internal audit service recipients. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to examine the effect of internal auditing effectiveness in relation to non-financial internal process performance indicators.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Multiple departments of the public higher education institution were used to collect data via a questionnaire that was developed based on the existing literature. The sample consisted of senior managers, managers, section managers, and employees of the selected departments which added up to 102 participants. Data were analysed using multiple regression analysis.

Findings: Internal audit effectiveness contributes significantly to the non-financial performance indicators that were tested, with compliance with laws and internal procedures performance indicator being the most significant. Moreover, this study indicated that internal auditing effectiveness is greatly influenced by factors such as the independence of the internal audit function, the competence of internal auditors, management support, the coordination between internal and external auditors, and internal audit quality.

Originality/Contribution: This study seeks to understand internal audit effectiveness on organisational performance indicators from the perspective of internal audit clients rather than service providers.

Practical Implications: Understanding how internal audit effectiveness can be measured by linking it to the auditee's performance indicators can be very crucial to examine the value addition of internal auditing on organisational processes.

[49] Reasons for committing economic crimes in South Africa

Andries Swanepoel (UNISA).

Purpose: The occurrence of economic crimes is a serious challenge to business leaders, government officials and private individuals in South Africa. The objective of this research was to determine the main reasons for committing economic crimes in South Africa.

Design/Methodology/Approach: Primary data from web-based questionnaires (addressed to role-players in the field of the prevention, detection and prosecution of economic crimes) and manual questionnaires (completed by economic crime offenders) that were set in a statement format were used to empirically analyse the perceptions of sentenced economic crime offenders and role-players to determine the reasons for committing economic crimes in South Africa. The final realised sample included 345 respondents from the various populations of key role-players and 82 economic crime offenders from Gauteng-based correctional institutions. Mann-Whitney U tests were employed to test for significant differences between the views of role-players and economic crime offenders.

Findings: Both groups of respondents cited definite reasons for the commission of economic crimes in South Africa, although statistically significant differences existed in the degree of agreement. The main reasons identified for economic crimes were greed, needs/wants, facilitation of payments and tax evasion.

Contribution: This study was the first of its kind in South Africa to involve both role-players and economic crime offenders in the same study to identify reasons for committing economic crimes. The real challenge identified in this study is to address the occurrence of economic crimes in South Africa appropriately.

[50] Effects of e-learning on accounting throughput: A case study of first year accounting students at two HEIs in SA

Andrea Govender (Nelson Mandela University) and Mvemve Mdingi (CPUT).

Purpose: The study analyses and describe trends in the throughput rate prior to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and during the pandemic for first year accounting students across two Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by focusing on blended and e-learning. First years are chosen due to a clearer comparison as the majority of first years have their first HEI experience in their 1st year of study provided, they did not do a bridging course. This ensures first years across two HEIs can be compared fairly.

Methodology: The study will employ a mixed methodology approach using secondary data in the form of year-end final scores of first year accounting students as well as literature. The year-end final scores to be collected and analysed will be for period between the 2017 and 2022 academic years. A purposive sample of first year accounting students will be selected.

Findings: The findings of the study will reveal any differences or similarities in accounting throughput rates between the period prior to the covid-19 outbreak and during it. These findings could either be consistent or inconsistent with those of other studies pertaining to the blended and e-learning phenomenon. The study will investigate the unforeseen changeover to blended and e-learning.

Contributions: This study will contribute to an existing body of literature by revealing several factors that need to be contextualised for blended and e-learning to thrive. This study will suggest additional control measures that could be used to protect the integrity of assessments as well as problems surrounding technology and data.

[51] Auditing and assurance challenges in South African private retirement facilities

Leandi Steenkamp (Central University of Technology, Free State), Anna Coetzee (Central University of Technology, Free State) and Desere Kokt (Central University of Technology, Free State).

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is firstly to identify challenges and problems experienced by South African auditors in performing statuary assurance engagements on retirement facilities, and secondly to identify and describe problems experienced by those charged with governance of private retirement facilities relating to audit and assurance services.

Design: This study is rooted in the research philosophy of interpretivism and follows a qualitative research approach. A descriptive case study research design was used, and the population for this study was private retirement facilities within the Mangaung area, specifically sectional title ownership and life rights retirement facilities.

Findings: The findings of the study highlighted various legislative ambiguities, as well as unique audit risks attached to the auditing of sectional title retirement facilities. The participants in the study also indicated differences between risks in small and larger schemes. The auditors and those charged with governance of life rights retirement facility schemes did not identify as many problems as the sectional title role players with the audit or assurance work of the financial statements of the retirement facility. It was also found that legislation that relates to life rights retirement facilities creates no problems with the auditing of the financial statements.

Originality: This research contributes to the body of knowledge by providing perceptions on auditing aspects in the sectional title and life rights retirement facility industry. This information may be useful to many stakeholders such as the board of trustees, managers, managing agents, accounting, and auditing practitioners as well as people considering retirement.

[52] Detecting Earnings Management on Financial Reporting of Nigerian Banks: The Distribution of the Financial Ratios Approach

Adedeji Gbadebo (Walter Sisulu University), Joseph Akande (Walter Sisulu University) and Ahmed Adekunle (Walter Sisulu University).

Purpose: The use of earnings management has raised concerns amongst several stakeholders. This study offers evidence to detect earnings management on the financial reporting of banks in an emerging country, Nigeria. We address two main issues. (a) We intend to detect whether the annual financial reports of Deposit Money Banks [DMBs] in Nigeria reflect the existence of earnings management. (b) We attempt to establish whether the Banks engaged in manipulations in periods 'After' the 2012 mandatory IFRS adoption relative to the Prior adoption years.

Methodology: We provide evidence from a newly proposed approach – the distributions of the empirical ratios method. We use two earning management design metrics and compute the distributions of ratios for 14 bank-specific 'earnings' ratios of 17 DMBs, in the periods 2001–2020. We present outcomes for the Base statistics, Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics, Asymptotic and Monte Carlo significance.

Findings: The main result confirms that earnings management exists in the financial reports. Generally, the evidence supposes that earnings manipulation is not a yearly phenomenon practice for the DMBs and that Nigerian banks use discretion to manage earnings information even more after the adoption of the IFRS.

Originality/Contribution: Confirmed whether the annual financial report of the banks reflects significant earnings management and compared the relative magnitude of the managed earnings in banks 'Prior to' and 'After' the IFRS adoption in the country in 2012.

[53] Investigating accounting post-graduate student experiences: project-based learning methods at a UOT

Stephanie Caroline Samuel (Durban University of Technology) and Brian Ngiba (Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: The world has shifted at an accelerated pace since December 2019. The way of being and doing has evolved rapidly as humanity adapted to our newfound circumstances. It is in our nature to continuously thrive for the betterment of our species. In the age of the fourth industrial revolution, the accountant role will evolve from a reporting function to a consulting function. Considering this, it is of utmost importance that accountants have the necessary skills to identify issues faced by organisations and find the best alternative to solve the problem. The purpose of this paper is to reflect on students' experiences during the PBL assessment.

Approach: The introduction of Project-Based Learning (PBL), strays from traditional methods of Teaching, Learning and Assessing (TLA). Traditional methods of TLA are driven by pre-determined outcomes. Whereas PBL allows students to investigate and discover possible problems without being confined to pre-determined outcomes. PBL introduces a dynamic approach to TLA that allows students to explore real-world issues and in turn sharpen their cognitive abilities and critical thinking skills. Students are encouraged to develop a learn-to-learn mindset.

Findings: The assessment was introduced to post-graduate accounting students at the University of Technology in Durban South Africa. Using these strategies, students needed to develop a "learn to learn"

mindset. The PBL assessment involves the conceptualisation, design and realisation of a current real-world problem. The project was over 3 months and was undertaken by advanced diploma students in the accounting cluster at a UoT.

[54] Accounting Curriculum and Employability of Accounting Graduates: A case study of South African Universities of Technology (UoTs).

Smangele Nzama (Durban University of Technology) and Adele Alice Robinson (Durban University of Technology).

Purpose: Unemployment is one of the biggest issues faced in South Africa. Thus, intense competition constantly exists in the employment market, particularly, in the accounting field. The accounting profession is gradually changing. However, as the accounting world progresses, most Universities of Technology (UoTs) in South Africa fall behind. The purpose of this study is to determine whether the accounting curricula offered at UoT prepare students for employability by adhering to The SAICA competency framework.

Design: Traditional universities in South Africa offer SAICA accredited accounting undergraduate qualifications. It is important for UoT to ensure the accounting undergraduates they produce are adequately skilled to compete in the job market. Thus, the accounting curriculum offered at UoT were compared against the SAICA competency framework to determine if the skills taught in these accounting programs are in line with the SAICA competency framework. All six UoTs in South Africa were studied. Using the qualitative technique, the study used document analysis to analyse the accounting curriculum offered at the different UoTs.

Findings: Findings of the study indicate that all UoTs meet the digital acumen on The SAICA 2025CF. only two out of the six UoTs met all the SAICA acumens, suggesting that most of the UoTs in South Africa fall behind in equipping students with the skills necessary to compete in the job market.

Contribution: This study contributes significantly to the continuous enhancement of accounting education, ensuring UoT accounting graduates are equipped with the competencies and capabilities required to compete in the accounting job market.

[55] Are We Still Ticking the Boxes: Optimising External Auditing for Higher Education: A Case Study

Karel Fouché (University of Pretoria), Carla Coetzee (University of Pretoria) and Riana Steyn (University of Pretoria).

Purpose: Auditing is a practical subject taught in a theoretical environment. It has traditionally led to challenges when conveying certain concepts to students with no or limited practical experience. The new generation of students has contributed to a gradual increase in the challenges experienced by Auditing lecturers. This paper investigates how Auditing, as a subject, could be presented at an urban university to address the needs of the new generation of students in an everchanging environment.

Design: This study applied semi-structured interviews with lecturers and academic trainees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in an Auditing department at this urban university, presented as a case study.

Findings: The majority of the participants agreed on the relevance of the module content, but acknowledged that some concepts will become more understandable when students enter a practical environment. A more practical approach to teaching and assessment activities, such as blended learning techniques, practical discussions and real-life case studies, could improve students' practical understanding of the subject. Consistency among modules and lecturers to create a visible link between new concepts and embedded knowledge could enhance students' understanding when introduced to consecutive modules.

Contribution: Although students and lecturers face many challenges in an everchanging world, the findings in this study shed light on how such challenges could be bridged by means of the resources available. It is also brought to the attention of lecturers, that they are accountable for investigating and utilising the available resources which they are comfortable with and from which students could benefit.

[56] Third year diploma in accountancy students' perception of ethics

Bradley van der Ross (Nelson Mandela University) and Tracy Beck (Nelson Mandela University).

Purpose: The objective of this study is to investigate third year Diploma in Accountancy students' perception of ethical behaviour and their understanding of the importance thereof.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The respondents of this study were third year Diploma in Accountancy students studying at an Eastern Cape university in South Africa. The study adopted a positivistic research paradigm and used a structured questionnaire where response options were predetermined. An independent individual emailed the link to the online questionnaire to 100 registered third year Diploma in Accountancy students of which 61 responses were received and were deemed sufficient.

Findings: The majority of the respondents indicated that ethics is important to them and that they hold themselves and others to the same ethical standards with regard to, copying in tests, homework and signing an attendance register on behalf of a fellow student. Furthermore, findings indicate that the lecturers' must demonstrate ethical standards through their actions, must emphasise the importance of ethical values and incorporate ethics education into the accountancy lecture as often as possible. By including an ethics component in the accountancy syllabi throughout the accountancy programme, students were eager and more willing to learn about the realistic consequences of their actions.

Originality/Contribution: This study contributes towards research on ethics in the accounting education in developing countries such as South Africa. Furthermore, it provides insight on how third year Diploma in Accountancy students perceive ethical behaviour and the importance thereof.

[57] A comparative study of the tax benefits available to non-profit organisations and their donors in South Africa, India and Australia

Carla Bendeman (Independent), Tracy Johnson (University of Cape Town) and Riley Carpenter (University of Cape Town).

Purpose: Non-profit Organisations (NPOs) are of great importance in the provision of social and development needs in South Africa. They take on activities that help lift the burden placed on Government in the provision of these needs. It is thus imperative for NPOs to have a supportive environment to carry out their public beneficial mission. Consequently, tax benefits are available to these organisations as well as donors. Preferential tax treatment requires adherence to tax legislation. Current tax legislation in South Africa covers a comprehensive scope of tax benefits available to NPOs and their donors. However, due to the high levels of poverty, inequality, and unemployment in the country, refinement might still be needed in our legislation.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The tax legislation in Australia, as one of the most developed economies in the world, and India, another developing country with high levels of social and economic problems are compared to South Africa. NPO definitions, tax benefits available to NPOs and deductions available to donors donating to these organisations in the three countries were identified, critically evaluated, and compared to one another.

Findings: A conclusion was drawn that the tax benefits available to NPOs and donors in South Africa are relatively comprehensive and sophisticated.

Originality/Contribution: Several tax benefits highlighted in this study, which are available to NPOs and donors in the tax legislation of India and Australia but not South Africa, should be considered by the South African Government, incentivizing and broadening the scope of the formation and development of NPOs in South Africa.

[58] Accounting academics' experiences with the teaching-research nexus

Anchal Ramsarghey (Durban University of Technology) and Kevin Ramsarghey (Mangosuthu University of Technology).

Purpose: The Department of Higher Education (DHET) has encouraged academics to engage in the pursuit of academic scholarship. The research-teaching nexus is a topic of contention that will remain a perennial debate across all disciplines. The aim of this paper is to establish the reasons for low research output among accounting academics. The study is also intended to provide insights into the contextual relevance of research as expected of accounting academics in the pursuit of new knowledge.

Methodology: Purposive sampling was used to elicit responses for a qualitative methodology of analysis. Academic staff of accounting departments were interviewed, using purposive sampling to elicit responses which were coded using thematic analysis. The qualitative methodology used enabled the design of a framework for accounting academics to utilize to maximize their research productivity.

Findings: By identifying the factors that inhibit research, a strategy was developed to mitigate the inhibiting factors using soft system methodology's (SSM) learning cycle.

Conclusion The researchers concluded by suggesting possible research areas that fall outside the realm of "technical knowledge" to address complexities brought about by additional legislated practices to the profession.