



Accounting Department

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Ph.D. Seminar

Market-Based Research in International Accounting, Part I: Foundations & Basic Concepts

October 19-21, 2022, University of Zurich

Course Overview and Objectives:

Market-based research in international accounting uses cross-border comparisons and within-country analyses exploiting the unique features of the local institutional environment to study how public and private institutions affect the properties and uses of accounting information. More recent studies go beyond descriptive analyses and attempt to better understand how economic institutions affect the role of accounting information in capital markets, financing decisions, and corporate governance.

The course consists of two parts: in Part I, we cover the foundations and discuss some of the basic concepts of international accounting research. Specifically, the topics of Part I cover voluntary disclosure, the relation between disclosure and cost of capital, real effects of financial reporting, and CSR reporting. In Part II, we apply these concepts to specific areas (e.g., IFRS adoption, regulation and enforcement). Note that it is suggested but not required that students attend both parts of the course in sequence.

The objective of the course is to develop your ability to critically evaluate and conduct empirical research in an international context. In particular, you should get (1) an appreciation for the role of theory in applied work, (2) an understanding of research designs commonly used in international accounting research, and (3) the necessary skills to design and conduct empirical research in a cross-border setting. Overall, this course provides an overview of this fast-evolving area, and discusses economic hypotheses, research methods, data issues, and limitations to this type of research.

Conduct of Course:

We will be holding the course in person using a seminar format. Therefore, you are expected to take an active part in discussing and evaluating the readings assigned for each course session. In general, the class discussions will be centered around two to three papers per session, and we will dedicate about the same time to each paper. I expect you to be familiar with the required readings.

For each paper, I will assign one or more discussion leaders who will each prepare a two-page summary before the course starts. In addition, your task as a discussion leader consists of briefly summarizing the paper, highlighting the contribution, and pointing out/discussing some critical research design choices. This presentation should take no more than 25 minutes (if two people are assigned to the same paper, they can prepare the presentation jointly). I will of course help you with that task. The course language is English.

On top of the required readings, I have indicated additional reading material for each class. This is just a small selection of papers that I find important or closely related to the topic of the session. We will not have the time to cover those papers in detail, but I expect you to skim the content of the papers to get a basic sense for the results and the research approach. This will help you to put the main readings into a broader context, and also serves as a good starting point to probe further into any of the areas covered.

Moreover, I will offer students the opportunity to present their own work during one of the sessions. This allows you to improve your presentation skills and receive feedback on your work. Ideally, we would have two student presentations in a workshop-style format (45 minutes each) over the course of the three days. If interested, please, contact the course administrator in advance to discuss the details.

I will also dedicate special time to the discussion of the structure of Ph.D. programs, and the process and prospects of the academic job market in Europe and the U.S.

Course Logistics:

Time:	October 19 (beginning at 10:30 am) to October 21, 2022 (ending at 3:00 pm)
Location:	University of Zurich
Participants:	20 max.
Cost:	no charge (participants will have to cover their travel expenses)
Target audience:	Master students interested in academic research; PhD students in their first or second year of the program