

Call for Papers

for the Scientific Conference of the
Erich-Gutenberg-Arbeitsgemeinschaft Köln e. V.
Düsseldorf, Germany, June 27, 2019
and the Special Issue of Journal of Business Economics (JBE) on

“Transparency and Sustainability in Business”

For an increasing number of businesses, **sustainability** has become a core constituent of their business model, and **multi-dimensional goal systems** have come to replace a uni-lateral focus on financial objectives. Managerial decisions increasingly require reconciliation of **multiple stakeholders' economic, ecological, and social concerns**. Suitable approaches and models for decision-making in this context **need to take into account a wide spectrum of data** of varying subject areas, origins, precision, and availability in order to **operationalize and measure the expanding set of objectives** and their role in the framework of sustainability. Therefore, **transparency**, based on **availability, truthful sharing, and meaningful processing of information**, is a prerequisite for sustainable business policies. **Advances in information and communication technology** can contribute to sustainability e. g. by facilitating sharing and processing of big amounts of heterogeneous data and by making transparent the effects of corporate decisions (e.g. Dubey et al. 2016; Hazen et al. 2016; Corbett 2018).

Beyond information sharing within and between business partners, transparency also implies the aspect of **disclosure of information and reporting to the public**. In the digital age, it is no longer only the consumer who is becoming more and more transparent, but also **products, processes, operations, and supply chains** which **gain visibility to internal and external stakeholders**. In this context, transparency can be seen as an aspect of sustainability in itself, implying fairness towards consumers and good corporate governance. Furthermore, transparency may also be seen as a **means to exert pressure for more sustainable business practices** such as ecological operations, fair treatment of employees or fair supplier relations. A clear understanding of the **effects of such pressure and of transparency itself on sustainability**, however, is still lacking (e.g. Gardner et al. 2018; Chen et al. 2018), and even the **concepts and measurement of transparency and of sustainability** still pose open questions (e.g. Marshall et al. 2015).

Against this background, we invite **contributions to theory and applications of transparency and sustainability in business and their connections, such as making sustainability transparent or leveraging transparency to enhance sustainability of businesses**. Suitable topics of interest within this general context include but are not limited to:

- Measurement of transparency, in particular with respect to sustainability issues
- Measurement of sustainability performance
- Sustainability effects of transparency
- Communication of sustainability performance towards stakeholders
- Supply chain transparency, visibility, information sharing, and disclosure
- Consumer information and perception of sustainability
- Corporate governance and sustainability
- Effects of public pressure for transparency and sustainability
- Regulation, auditing, and labeling for transparency and sustainability

Submission procedure

- All submissions must follow the editorial guidelines of the Journal of Business Economics, which can be obtained from the journal website (www.springer.com/11573).
- Submitted abstracts and papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under consideration for publication elsewhere.
- Extended abstracts (max. 600 words) as well as papers have to be submitted in English. The presentation at the Scientific Conference of the Erich-Gutenberg-Arbeitsgemeinschaft on June 27, 2019 may be held in German or English.
- All papers will be reviewed in an anonymous, double-blind process by distinguished referees with regard to relevance, originality, and research quality in order to guarantee the highest possible quality.
- Extended abstracts must be submitted to the chairperson of the Erich-Gutenberg-Arbeitsgemeinschaft (Lars Petersen, e-mail: conference@ega.koeln, using "JBE (Special Issue) Transparency and Sustainability in Business" as the subject heading). After the conference the full papers must be submitted online via the website www.springer.com/11573 choosing the corresponding article type.
- Accepted contributions are considered for publication in a special issue of the **Journal of Business Economics (JBE)**. Further information is available at www.springer.com/11573. For this, full papers must have been presented at the scientific conference in Düsseldorf.

Tentative schedule (check www.ega.koeln/conference for updates)

- Submissions of extended abstracts: May 29, 2019
- Initial decision and author notification: June 5, 2019
- Presentation at the scientific conference in Düsseldorf, Germany: June 27, 2019
- Submission of full papers: October 31, 2019
- Publication of the special issue of the journal: March 31, 2020 (estimated)

Editors of the special issue

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