

VIU Summer School Responsible Capitalism: Strategy, Governance and Finance

Detailed Program

Sunday, June 5

Welcome dinner

Monday, June 6

Morning: [Guido Palazzo](#), University of Lausanne

On the first day, we will set the scene with a discussion of some societal transformations that are currently changing the context of managerial decision-making. We move from a nation state world to a postnational constellation in which the roles of corporations and the conditions of their legitimacy get renegotiated. New strategic concepts from political Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to Creating Shared Value will be discussed.

Afternoon: workshop with Guido Palazzo

Tuesday, June 7

Morning: [Andreas Hoepner](#), Henley Business School

Day two will explore responsible investing from a finance perspective. The discipline of finance has only recently started to study this investment practices closely, but recently many authors have started to engage with this challenge from both a theoretical and empirical point of view. We will provide an introduction to this topic from a finance perspective, and lead discussions on the most interesting recent papers on the topic.

Afternoon: workshop with Andreas Hoepner

Wednesday, June 8

Morning: [Fabrizio Ferraro](#), ISE Business School and [Laura Berry](#), Former Executive Director, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR).

On day three, we will continue to discuss the emergence of responsible investing, but from a different disciplinary perspective: organization theory and economic sociology. Organization theorists and economic sociologists have been studying the financial sector for years, but in the last decade, perhaps due to the increasing centrality of financial markets and the 2008 financial crisis, the breadth and depth of our work in this area has grown exponentially. From this perspective, we will discuss the emergence and diffusion of novel forms of investing, practices, and organizational forms in the financial sector, and their consequences for organizations outside of the financial sector. Also we will focus on the practice of shareholder engagement, and its implications for social movement theory, corporate governance, and more broadly the role of corporations in society.

Afternoon: workshop with Fabrizio Ferraro

Thursday, June 9

Morning: [Josh Whitford](#), Columbia University and [Francesco Zirpoli](#), Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

On day four, we will discuss the evolution of decision-making in global companies. We will give particular attention to the implication of the fact that decision makers are often “multiply embedded” in organizations, in places, in informal social networks, in more formal associations, and so on. Interdependent decisions and actions of multiple agents acting in a distributed environment are profoundly altering both decision making and the strategy implementation processes in ways that demand some rethinking of the governance and management conceptual toolkit. Sociological and organization theories, including theories of organizational politics, social movements, relational embedding and cognitive framing will be presented, discussed and applied to understand the conditions under which global firms confront with environmental, social and governance decisions.

Afternoon: workshop with Josh Whitford and Francesco Zirpoli

Friday, June 10

Morning: [Josh Whitford](#), Columbia University

The workshop will close with a discussion of the interplay between managerial decision-making and state policymaking with an eye towards questions raised across discussions had during the week. Those discussions will have challenged participants to think critically about some of the limits to a reliance just on the state to “fix” the gap between rich and poor, or to regulate the social and environmental side effects of production, given the mobility of capital, tax competition, and so on. This last day will turn the question around in a discussion that aims to force participants to think critically also about the limits that inhere in efforts to “responsibilize” the corporate sector in the absence of efforts also to rethink and remake the regulatory strategies of state and/or supra-national governing bodies.

Afternoon: itinerant workshop with [Giovanni Favero](#), Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

We will visit the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, using it as an occasion to confront the debate on the peculiarities of economic governance in the Republic of Venice. Some scholars have interpreted it as a model case of socially responsible capitalism, whilst others have highlighted its structural inequalities and inefficiencies. Putting such experience and its interpretations in time into an historical perspective allows shedding light on the transformations and variations of concepts as fairness, reciprocity and responsibility.



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