



# Research Seminar in Finance

## Topic: “Sustainable Finance”

### Seminar Overview

Sustainable Finance is a novel field in business and economics that examines the intersection of finance and societal well-being. Central to this field are frameworks such as ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) or CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), which evaluate the ways in which corporations can influence social welfare, both positively and negatively. In this seminar, we will explore several aspects of sustainable finance, including theoretical foundations, practical applications, and broader societal implications, based on contemporary research studies.

### Organizational Matters

The seminar is intended for **all** students in the Bachelor's program, particularly in the following profile areas:

- **Finance:** Profilsteminar “Finance” (5105-311)
- **Rechnungswesen und Steuern:** Profilsteminar “Rechnungswesen” (5101-270)
- **Internes Management:** Profilsteminar “Internes Management” (5103-291)
- **Marktorientierte Unternehmensführung:** Freier Wahlbereich
- **Empirische Wirtschaftsforschung:** Freier Wahlbereich

Seminar participants discuss recent research and the corresponding introductory literature. Seminar participants will:

- write a **seminar thesis** (10-15 pages) based on one selected research paper
- hold a **group presentation** in a block seminar (2 days)

**The seminar language is German.** However, seminar thesis and presentation may be conducted in **German** or **English**. The seminar will take place in-person and via Microsoft Teams (details below and to be announced).

Students can select three preferred topics (see pages 2-3 for an overview of the seminar topics). The final assignment of seminar topics will be announced at the **Kick-Off Meeting**. Furthermore, all seminar participants will attend a **Scientific Writing Class** as outlined in the schedule on page 5.

The seminar is held by Prof. Dr. Daniel Hoang. If you have any organizational questions, please contact Dr. Andreas Benz ([andreas.benz@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:andreas.benz@uni-hohenheim.de)).

## **Seminar Topics**

### **Topic 1: What Drives the Green Transition? Insights from Green Revenues, Corporate Strategies, and Financial Outcomes**

- Klausmann, J., Krueger, P., Matos, P., 2024. The Green Transition: Evidence from Corporate Green Revenues. Working Paper

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Possible background readings: To be discussed with the advisor

### **Topic 2: Institutional Investors' Effects on Firm Behavior**

- Heath, D., Macciocchi, D., Michaely, R., Ringgenberg, M.C., 2023. Does Socially Responsible Investing Change Firm Behavior? *Review of Finance* 27, 2057–2083.

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Gillan, S.L., Koch, A., and Starks, L.T., 2021. Firms and Social Responsibility: A Review of ESG and CSR Research in Corporate Finance. *Journal of Corporate Finance* 66, 101889, **Chapter 4**.

*In your presentation, please present a brief overview of "ESG/CSR and ownership characteristics" to the audience (see Chapter 4 in Gillan et al., 2021) and highlight the contribution of the paper in this literature. Please also put the papers' findings into the context of other recent research findings on the "Investor's Effects on Firm Behavior".*

### **Topic 3: Sustainable Firm Behavior: Sustainability or Greenwashing?**

- Duchin, R., Gao, J., Xu, Q., 2024. Sustainability or Greenwashing: Evidence from the Asset Market for Industrial Pollution. *Journal of Finance*

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Possible background readings: To be discussed with the advisor

### **Topic 4: Quantifying Firm-Level Climate Risk and the Effects on Firm Outcomes**

- Li, Q., Shan, H., Tang, Y., Yao, V., 2024. Corporate Climate Risk: Measurements and Responses. *Review of Financial Studies* 37, 1778-1830.

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Giglio, S., Kelly, B., Stroebe, J., 2021. Climate Finance. *Annual Review of Economics* 13, 15-36.

### **Topic 5: Sustainable Finance and the Supply Chain**

- Darendeli, A., Fiechter, P., Hitz, J.-M., Lehmann, N., 2022. The Role of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Information in Supply-Chain Contracting: Evidence from the Expansion of CSR Rating Coverage. *Journal of Accounting and Economics* 74, 101525.

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Possible background readings: To be discussed with the advisor

*In the seminar thesis and the presentation, please explain the data sources used in the paper in detail*

### **Topic 6: Executive Compensation and Firms' ESG Performance**

- Cohen, S., Kadach, I., Ormazabal, G., Reichelstein, S., 2023. Executive Compensation Tied to ESG Performance: International Evidence. *Journal of Accounting Research* 61, 805-853

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Frydman, C., Jenter, D., 2010. CEO Compensation. *Annual Review of Economics*, 75-102.

*Frydman & Jenter, 2010 provides a general introduction into executive compensation.*

*In your presentation, please include an example from a well-known firm that demonstrates how CEO compensation is linked to ESG goals.*

### **Topic 7: Executive Characteristics and their Effects on Firms' ESG/CSR Practices**

- Cronqvist, H., Yu, F., 2017. Shaped by Their Daughters: Executives, Female Socialization, and Corporate Social Responsibility. *Journal of Financial Economics* 126, 543-562.

*In your presentation, please also give a brief overview about ESG Ratings and their distinction relative to CSR Ratings.*

### **Topic 8: Sustainable/Green Debt Financing Instruments**

- Flammer, C., 2021. Corporate Green Bonds. *Journal of Financial Economics* 142, 499-516

#### **Supplementary Literature:**

- Baker, M., Bergstresser, D., Serafeim, G., Wurgler, J., 2022. The Pricing and Ownership of US Green Bonds. *Annual Review of Financial Economics* 14, 415-437.
- Gillan, S.L., Koch, A., and Starks, L.T., 2021. Firms and Social Responsibility: A Review of ESG and CSR Research in Corporate Finance. *Journal of Corporate Finance* 66, 101889, **Chapter 5**.

## **Introductory Literature**

- Baker, M., Bergstresser, D., Serafeim, G., Wurgler, J., 2022. The Pricing and Ownership of US Green Bonds. Annual Review of Financial Economics 14, 415-437.
- Frydman, C., Jenter, D., 2010. CEO Compensation. Annual Review of Economics 2, 75-102.
- Giglio, S., Kelly, B., Stroebe, J., 2021. Climate Finance. Annual Review of Economics 13, 15-36.
- Gillan, S.L., Koch, A., and Starks, L.T., 2021. Firms and Social Responsibility: A Review of ESG and CSR Research in Corporate Finance. Journal of Corporate Finance 66, 101889.
- Li, Q., Shan, H., Tang, Y, Yao, V., 2024. Corporate Climate Risk: Measurements and Responses. Review of Financial Studies 37, 1778-1830.

## **Grading**

The final grade will be a weighted average of

- Seminar thesis (60%)
- Group presentation (30%)
- Active participation (10%)

## **Application Process**

The seminar has limited capacity with a **maximum of 16 participants**. To submit your application for the seminar, please complete the application form under the following [link](#).

As part of your application, please merge the following documents into a single PDF file:

- 1) Up-to-date CV**
- 2) Bachelor's degree transcript of grades**

Only complete and timely applications can be considered.

### **Application schedule:**

- The application deadline is **March 16, 2025 (Sunday)**.
- Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or rejection by the seminar provider no later than **March 21, 2025 (Friday)**.

## Application form options:

- Seminar applicants can choose **three** seminar topics of their preference.
- The assignment of seminar topics will be announced during the kick-off.
- Please keep in mind that not all individual preferences can be guaranteed.

If you have questions about the application process or other organizational matters, please contact Dr. Andreas Benz ([andreas.benz@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:andreas.benz@uni-hohenheim.de)).

## Preliminary Schedule

**The schedule provided below is tentative and subject to change based on room availability. The final schedule will be announced in the Kick-Off Meeting.**

Date	Description
Apr 02, 2025 Wednesday 16:00 – 20:00 Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Kick-Off Meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to the Sustainable Finance literature</li><li>• Assignment of seminar topics, research papers, and advisors</li><li>• Seminar organization</li></ul>
Apr 03, 2025 Thursday 16:00 – 20:00 Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Scientific Writing Class:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to research and scientific writing</li><li>• Aims &amp; objectives of seminar thesis and presentation</li><li>• Practical guidance and recommendations</li></ul>
Apr 25, 2025 Friday 08:00 – 20:00 Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and Progress Discussion Session 1:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated and interactive feedback sessions for students</li><li>• Aim: Clarify seminar topics; address questions and concerns; share progress, ideas, and challenges</li></ul>
May 30, 2025 Friday 08:00 – 20:00 Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and Progress Discussion Session 2:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated and interactive feedback sessions for students</li><li>• Aim: Clarify seminar topics; address questions and concerns; share progress, ideas, and challenges</li></ul>
Jul 07, 2025 Monday 08:00 – 20:00 Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and Progress Discussion Session 3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dedicated and interactive feedback sessions for students</li><li>• Aim: Clarify seminar topics; address questions and concerns; share progress, ideas, and challenges</li></ul>
Jul 10, 2025 Thursday & Jul 11, 2025 Friday Location: <b>tba</b>	<b>Block Seminar (2 days):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submission of the seminar thesis and presentation slides</li><li>• Seminar (group) presentation</li><li>• Discussion</li></ul>