

**13th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting Conference
and
Emerging Scholars Colloquium**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 13th Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting Conference 2021 and the accompanying Emerging Scholars Colloquium were held virtually, organized by the accounting research group of the University of Innsbruck.

Overall, a bit more than 300 people joined the IPA Conference though due to the time zone differences, not all could be there at the same time. 125 papers were presented by a discussant with a reply from the authors. The plenary speakers included Katherine Gibson, Western Sydney University, Emily Barman, Loyola University Chicago, and David Cooper, University of Alberta. Recordings of the keynotes are available below.



Katherine Gibson (Western Sydney University)

What is the role of accounting in making other worlds possible?



Emily Barman (Loyola University Chicago)

Of concepts and calculations: Theorizing social impact



David Cooper (University of Alberta)

Observations on accounting and power

The IPA Conference was preceded by the Emerging Scholars Colloquium (ESC) with 23 emerging scholars and 12 senior faculty. The faculty included: Bino Catasús; David Cooper; Claire Dambrin; Lisa Evans; Lukas Goretzki; Andrea Mennicken; Jan Mouritsen; Brendan O’Dwyer; John Roberts; Keith Robson; Rita Samiolo; Anna Samsonova-Taddei.

The ESC provided an opportunity for emerging scholars to meet and receive feedback from peers as well as senior faculty. Not least, the ESC also helps emerging scholars from around the world to enhance their academic networks. Below are three testimonials from participants:

Leonid Sokolovkyy, University of Manchester

My experience at the IPA ESC 2021 has been overwhelmingly positive and invigorating! The colloquium is conducted in a relatively informal and highly supportive atmosphere. This year it was online due to the pandemic. The feedback that I got from the faculty and fellow students was very developmental and encouraging. It helped me to make sense of some of the issues that I have been wrestling with or just started to touch on in my own research. It also opened up new avenues and angles for my investigation that I have not thought of previously.

The work of other students (i.e., the new generation of accounting academics who will drive the research into the future) was also really interesting and inspiring. For me, a special highlight of the colloquium was reading the paper and listening to the presentation of one of the PhD students which I thought was particularly well-done, lucid, and well-written; afterwards, I felt that I have the capabilities to achieve that level of clarity and contribution in my work as well. Overall, I was impressed by the ideas that the presenters and the commentators expressed. And I learned so much from all the people involved! The colloquium exposes you to different styles of thinking, different ideas, and different perspectives which expand your intellectual horizons.

In addition to developing my own research project, I was also introduced into the inter-disciplinary accounting research community. I met lots of new people, made a number of friends and had plenty of very insightful conversations and discussions. I met my personal “accounting heroes” – people whose personality, work, and insight continuously inspire me to do qualitative research in accounting. Most importantly, I got a better idea in what spirit inter-disciplinary accounting research is being done and what drives people as researchers: the excitement and emotion of research.

In summary, it has been a very good event for me to attend to build my knowledge and network. And above all a real opportunity to have fun and enjoy your life as an

emerging academic (albeit in a remote setting). It enabled me to rediscover the meaning of what I do as a qualitative researcher in accounting and why it is important. It has been a truly formative experience for me as a scholar that I'm sure to remember for years to come.

I can offer doctoral students and early career researchers no better advice than to join the next IPA ESC and play a full part in the colloquium activities.

Leonie Daum, University of Innsbruck

I had the chance to present a working paper of my PhD in a stream at the Emerging Scholars Colloquium of the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting Conference 2021. Despite the limitations of an online format, I experienced it as a very helpful and inspiring event. It provided the opportunity to get to know other PhD students that have a similar research interest. The organizers very well designed the stream in this regard, as the papers featured common interests in method, theory and empirical setting that allowed for a good discussion in the sessions. Everyone deeply engaged with the other papers, which resulted in very constructive peer feedback including suggestions of relevant publications or ideas about additional aspects.

In addition, the faculty members provided very extensive feedback that will help me to continue the work on my paper. Their comments aimed at bringing the paper to a higher level and, as they called it, "thinking big". Getting such honest, critical but still constructive feedback is probably the highest benefit of this setting. It triggered a lot of thoughts that I cannot wait to work on.

Natalie Repenning, WHU, Vallendar

I enjoyed the Emerging Scholars Colloquium of the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting, held online in the first week of July 2021. I expected it to be valuable and enjoyable based on the professional background and experience of the faculty, the research projects of the fellow participants, and finally, the overall reputation the colloquium enjoys.

The experience itself did not fall behind these expectations but indeed confirmed them. I perceived the ESC as well organized, shown by the smooth technological set-up and the allocation of faculty to the projects discussed. To give a personal example, I had the pleasure to discuss and present my paper in a session where one of the faculty members was the first author of a paper that functioned as an anchor for the methodological part in a working paper. Additionally, the division into small groups enabled close and more direct interaction during the sessions. The time schedule and

limited number of participants together enabled a forum where points and thoughts did not need to be skipped due to time reasons.

Overall, the ESC provided me an excellent opportunity to learn where and how I can improve doing and presenting research while not being finalized. The feedback given was valuable as it enabled me to get a fresh perspective on my empirical case.

Deconstructing my familiarity with the case broadened my perspective to realize that my findings were a surprise, what I perceived as well-established knowledge.

Relatedly, the fact that others could comment on my work and comment on their work, despite us being interested in different topics, showed me how we all already had the potential to conduct research that can travel and nurture existing accounting debates.