“Sustainability in Our Times Conference”

Track: ***Sustainable Finance!***

Track description

Over the past two decades, sustainable finance has evolved from a niche investor concern into a mainstream pillar of global capital markets, driven by rapid growth in ESG-labelled assets, expanding regulatory frameworks, and heightened societal expectations about the role of finance in addressing environmental and social risks.

This rapid expansion has generated not only enthusiasm but also substantial challenges, including conceptual ambiguity, inconsistent metrics, fragmented regulatory standards, uncertainty about real-world impact, and a growing backlash against perceived overreach and greenwashing.

These tensions reflect a broader transition from voluntary, marketing-driven sustainability practices toward more rigorous, evidence-based, and accountability-oriented approaches. Against this backdrop, sustainable finance now stands at an inflection point where its legitimacy will increasingly depend on analytical robustness, credible disclosures, and demonstrable contributions to long-term economic and ecological resilience.

This track invites research that responds to the rapidly shifting expectations surrounding sustainable finance. We welcome studies focusing on both micro and macro levels as well as theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions.

Submissions may address a range of potential topics and research questions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- How do firms’ sustainability commitments, disclosures, and transition plans influence real investment decisions and long-term value creation?
- How should portfolios integrate sustainability objectives while balancing risk, return, data uncertainty, and real-world impact?
- How do investor beliefs, biases, and perceptions of ESG credibility affect capital allocation and market outcomes?
- How do sustainable finance policies and climate-transition dynamics affect financial stability, capital flows, and long-term growth?
- How can regulation, disclosure standards, and measurement frameworks be designed to enhance the credibility, comparability, and reliability of sustainable-finance practices?
- How could digitalization enable or hinder sustainable finance?
- How should markets price sustainability risks and ESG information?
- How does the integration of sustainability criteria shape banks’ lending decisions, risk management, and credit allocation?

Track chairs

Emma Li, emma.li@deakin.edu.au

Emma Li is a senior lecturer in the Department of Finance within the Deakin Business School. She is also a visiting scholar of Tsinghua PBC of China. Her main research interests include financial intermediaries, entrepreneurial financing, crowdfunding and Fintech. Her research has been published in Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Banking and Finance, Journal of Emprical Finance and has been presented in several international conferences, including EFA, SFS Cavalcade and FRA annual meeting.

Hélène Mathurin, helene.mathurin@neoma-bs.fr

Hélène is an Assistant professor of Finance at NEOMA Business School. She teaches financial markets and sustainable finance. Hélène's research focuses on three major research axes: i) sustainable finance, in particular the issue of greenwashing and climate risk premia, (ii) textual analysis on news and firms' communications, and (iii) consumption-based asset pricing models. She has presented her work at several international conferences, such as the European Finance Association (EFA).