

# ESG Ratings: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Frankfurt, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

ESG ratings have become increasingly important in line with the growth in sustainable or ESG investing. While ESG ratings can improve the quality of investment decisions and incentivize firms to improve their ESG profiles, there are also concerns about their influence and quality. The conference is organized by the Corporate Governance Institute of the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management and aims to provide new insights into ESG ratings by combining evidence from recent research with the perspectives of executives working with ESG ratings.

## Conference Program (as of 27/8/2021)

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Welcome Address</b> Prof. Dr. Nils Stieglitz, President of Frankfurt School
<b>10:15</b>	<b>Introduction: ESG Ratings in the Investment Process</b> Prof. Dr. Zacharias Sautner, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Aggregate Confusion: The Divergence of ESG Ratings</b> Dr. Florian Berg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
<b>11:00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Panel Discussion: Rating Disagreement: Sources and Consequences</b> Dr. Florian Berg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Matthias Berninger, Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability, Bayer AG Kristina Rüter, Managing Director, Global Head of ESG Methodology, ISS ESG Ingo Speich, Head of Sustainability and Corporate Governance, Deka Investment Moderator: Prof. Dr. Zacharias Sautner, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
<b>12:15</b>	<b>Award Ceremony: CGI Award for the Best Master Thesis on “ESG Investing”</b> Prof. Dr. Julia Redenius-Hövermann and Prof. Christian Strenger, Frankfurt School and Directors CGI
<b>12:30</b>	<i>Lunch Break</i>

<b>13:30</b>	<b>Rewriting History II: The (Un)Predictable Past of ESG Ratings</b> Prof. Dr. Kornelia Fabisik, Frankfurt School Discussant: Prof. Dr. Marco Becht, ECARES/ Solvay Brussels School
<b>14:00</b>	<b>Open discussion: Beyond ESG Ratings: Alternative Approaches to Assess ESG Quality</b> Dr. Hans-Christoph Hirt, Executive Director and Board Member, EOS at Federated Hermes International Georg Kell, Chairman of Arabesque Group Gerben de Zwart, Managing Director Quantitative Strategies, APG Asset Management Moderator: Prof. Christian Strenger, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
<b>14:45</b>	<b>ESG Ratings and Credit Risk</b> Matthias Hellstern, Managing Director, Moody's Deutschland Eugenia Unanyants-Jackson, Head of ESG Research, PGIM Fixed Income Moderator: Prof. Dr. Zacharias Sautner, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
<b>15:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>15:45</b>	<b>Panel Discussion: ESG Data Quality: Benefits, Challenges, Solutions</b> Nicolette Behncke, Partner Sustainability Services, PwC Dr. Robin Braun, Senior Business Manager, Responsible Investments, DWS Investment GmbH George Dallas, Policy Director, ICGN Prof. Dr. Philipp Krüger, Universite de Geneve and Swiss Finance Institute Moderator: Prof. Christian Strenger, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

<b>Venue:</b>	Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Audimax Adickesallee 32-34, 60322 Frankfurt am Main
<b>Cost (incl. catering and conference documents):</b>	450 € (professionals), 225 € (academics)
<b>Registration:</b>	As the conference capacity is limited, please register as soon as possible, but not later than September 2, 2021 with a mail to <a href="mailto:p.bernhardt@fs.de">p.bernhardt@fs.de</a>
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