

ESG Ratings: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly

Frankfurt, 9th 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 12/7/2021)

10:00	Welcome Address Prof. Dr. Nils Stieglitz, President of Frankfurt School
10:15	Introduction: ESG Ratings in the Investment Process Prof. Dr. Zacharias Sautner, Frankfurt School and Director CGI
10:30	Aggregate Confusion: The Divergence of ESG Ratings Dr. Florian Berg, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
11:00	Coffee Break
11:15	Panel Discussion: Rating Disagreement: Sources and Consequences 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
12:15	Award Ceremony: CGI Award for the Best Master Thesis on “ESG Investing” Prof. Dr. Julia Redenius-Hövermann and Prof. Christian Strenger, Frankfurt School and Directors CGI
12:30	Lunch Break

13:30	Rewriting History II: The (Un)Predictable Past of ESG Ratings Prof. Dr. Kornelia Fabisik, Frankfurt School
14:00	Open discussion: Beyond ESG Ratings: Alternative Approaches to Assess ESG Quality Dr. Hans-Christoph Hirt, Executive Director and Board Member, EOS at Federated Hermes International Georg Kell, Chairman of Arabesque Group APG-representative
14:45	ESG Ratings and Credit Risk Matthias Hellstern, Managing Director, Moody's Deutschland Prof. Zacharias Sautner, Frankfurt School Eugenia Unanyants-Jackson, Head of ESG Research, PGIM Fixed Income
15:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
15:45	Panel Discussion: ESG Data Quality: Benefits, Challenges, Solutions 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
16:30	Closing Remarks

Venue: Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Audimax
Adickesallee 32-34, 60322 Frankfurt am Main

Cost (incl. catering and conference documents): 450 € (professionals), 225 € (academics)

Registration: As the conference capacity is limited, please register as soon as possible, but not later than September 2, 2021 via the [conference's website](#) or with a mail to p.bernhardt@fs.de

Inquiries: Paul Bernhardt (research assistant at CGI)
p.bernhardt@fs.de

Peter Siemens (research assistant at CGI)
p.siemens@fs.de

Tom Krieger (student assistant at CGI)
t.krieger@fs.de