

Course title: **European CSR Policies and the Developing World**

Instructor: Hans Christensen

Course description: This PhD seminar explores the intersection of European corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies and their potential impacts on the developing world, with a particular emphasis on regulation related to disclosure, supply-chain due diligence, and taxation—areas where accounting researchers are in a strong position to contribute. The course is rooted in empirical research, drawing on accounting, economics, and finance literatures to critically assess how European regulatory frameworks could shape corporate behavior and influence outcomes in the Global South.

The first day we will discuss how to come up with research ideas in the morning and the European regulatory landscape for CSR, highlighting opportunities for accounting scholars to contribute to broader academic and policy conversations in the afternoon.

The next two days focus on empirical papers that assess the impact of specific CSR policies in the areas of corruption, conflict, divestments, and optimal taxation from the standpoint of people in the developing world. Each session begins with a faculty-led discussion of selected academic papers—students are expected to prepare in advance for informed, critical debate—that will last for two hours. The last hour, students will have the opportunity to present their own ideas.

All the papers listed below and available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wUOy6hODIXJINjdEmy1uyd8prg_OjyVV?usp=sharing

Student presentations: details on student research presentations:

In each session on days two and three, three students will present their own research ideas during the last hour. This could be a research idea or an early stage working paper. The sessions are interactive, i.e., comments and questions are included in the time slot of approximately 20 minutes per student. Please submit a research summary by 16 August 2026, which will be distributed to the other participants before the course starts, enabling them to be well prepared for the sessions and to provide comments and suggestions on your research. The research summary should be no longer than 2 pages (Times New Roman, 12 font, 1.5 line space) and include the same parts as the presentation. Please send the summary to kira.facchinetti@unine.ch

The presentation should include the following (approximately) five slides:

Slide 1: Motivation/research question with a question mark in the end

Slide 2: Research design including the main regression

Slide 3: Sample and data

Slide 4: Main findings (if already available)

Slide 5: Implications and limitations.

Papers covered (please read in advance)

<i>Day 1:</i>	
<i>Morning (09:00-12:00): What is accounting research?</i>	• Christensen et al., 2017. The Real Effects of Mandated Information on Social Responsibility in Financial Reports, Evidence from Mine-Safety Records. Journal of Accounting and Economics vol. 64, pages 284-304. • Gleaser et al. 2017. Identification and generalizability in accounting research: A discussion of Christensen, Floyd, Liu, and Maffett (2017). Journal of Accounting and Economics 64, pages 305-312.
<i>Afternoon (13:30-16:00): European regulatory landscape for CSR</i>	• No papers
<i>Day 2:</i>	
<i>Morning: (09:00-12:00) Corruption</i>	• Christensen et al. 2022. Policeman for the World: The Impact of Extraterritorial FCPA Enforcement on Foreign Investment and Internal Controls. Accounting Review 97: 189-219. • Christensen et al. 2024. Reversing the Resource Curse: Foreign Corruption Regulation and the Local Economic Benefits of Resource Extraction. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics 2024, 16(1): 90–120.
<i>Afternoon (13:30-16:00): Conflict</i>	• Sánchez de la Sierra, R. 2020. On the Origins of the State: Stationary Bandits and Taxation in Eastern Congo. Journal of Political Economy. • Chang and Christensen 2026. Can Audits Shift the Battleground? Supply Chain Certifications and Conflict Dynamics in the Congo. Working paper.
<i>Day 3:</i>	
<i>Morning (09:00-12:00): Divestment of Real Asset</i>	• Duchin et al. 2024. Sustainability or Greenwashing: Evidence from the Asset Market for Industrial Pollution. Journal of Finance, forthcoming. • Chang et al. 2026. Beyond Greenwashing: Environmental Commitments and Gas Flaring in the African Oil Sector, working papers.
<i>Afternoon (13:30-16:00): Taxation for the People</i>	• Rauter, T., 2020. The Effect of Mandatory Extraction Payment Disclosures on Corporate Payment and Investment Policies Abroad. Journal of Accounting Research 58: 1075-1116. • Chang 2026. Taxation by Regulation: Economic Impacts of Local Content Regulation in the African Mining Sector. Working paper.