

Paris, December 16, 2020

Climate risks, seafood sustainability, public health & antibiotic resistance, corporate governance: these are the themes rewarded by the 15th edition of FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability” in 2020

European FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability” reward since 2005 excellence in academic research in the field of finance and sustainability. This year, the Jury, composed of academic researchers and responsible investment professionals, was chaired by Catherine Casamatta, Professor of Finance at the Toulouse Capitole University and researcher at the Toulouse School of Economics. The Jury decided not to award a prize in the category Best Pedagogical Innovation.

Catherine Casamatta says: *“It has been an honor to chair the 15th edition of the FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability”. The very high quality of applications from diverse fields and research centers across Europe, reflects both the intensity of academic research in Europe on these issues as well as the reputation of the FIR-PRI awards.”*



A call to applications had been launched in five categories: Best Published Article, Best Master Thesis, Best PhD Thesis, Best Pedagogical Innovation and PhD Research Grant.

The Award of the **Best Master Thesis** goes to **Abigail Herron** - University of Cambridge (United Kingdom), Global Head of ESG and Strategic Partnerships at Aviva Investors with

“Superbugs and Super risks: A critical assessment of antibiotic resistance as a frontier topic in responsible and sustainable investment”

The work of Abigail Rhea Herron distinguished itself by the originality and the timeliness of trying to assess how responsible investment could play a role in mitigating a major global health threat.

Abigail Herron says: *“Antibiotic resistance is an underdiscussed responsible investment topic and the award will help raise awareness and action amongst the investor and academic community.”*



The Award of the **Best PhD Thesis** goes to **Nora Pankratz** – Maastricht University (The Netherlands), Winner of FIR-PRI Awards PhD Research Grant in 2017 and Postdoctoral Research Fellow at UCLA (USA) with

“Finance in the Face of Global Challenges - Essays on the Financial Economics of Climate Change & the Agency Cost of Debt”

Nora Pankratz develops a series of very interesting studies to assess to what extent investors and firms assess and react to climate risk.

Nora Pankratz says: *“Since 2017, I have been studying the potential effects of climate change on firms and financial markets, and the FIR-PRI award has been particularly encouraging when research in this area was still very scarce.”*



The Award of the **Best Published Article** goes to **Jean-Baptiste Jouffray** – Postdoctoral researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University (Sweden) with

“Leverage points in the financial sector for seafood sustainability”, published in Science Advances, Vol 5, n°10, October 2, 2019. Co-authors: Beatrice Crona, Emmy Wassénus, Jan Bebbington, Bert Scholtens.

Jean-Baptiste Jouffray says: *“This award is a testimony to the value of interdisciplinary science. The paper resulted from ecology, accounting and finance scholars coming together to take on the challenge of seafood sustainability.”*



The **PhD Research Grant for an ongoing PhD Thesis** has been awarded to **Etienne Develay**, PhD student at Nottingham Business School (United Kingdom) with

“Managerial Incentives and the Ethics of Corporate Governance”

The jury praised the idea of combining ethical and financial issues through the study of the pay gap between CEOs and employees at lower levels of the hierarchy.

Etienne Develay says: *“Thanks to the FIR-PRI research grant, I have now the means to dedicate myself to my doctoral thesis and to focus on a field of study that is valuable for our common future: The Ethics of Corporate Governance.”*



At the end of these discussions, the jury was particularly pleased to notice that the winners of the 15th FIR-PRI awards address a broad range of topics (from social justice to climate risk) as well as a variety of industries (from health to seafood). While diversity was not an assessment criterion, it came as a welcome outcome. This diversity demonstrates the vitality of research in the field of finance and sustainability

The award-winning works are available on the Awards website: www.fir-pri-awards.org

SPONSORS 2020

We warmly thank our sponsors without whom the Awards would not exist and who, through their support, help to encourage and foster academic research.



Contact

Thiên-Minh Polodna

thien-minh.polodna@frenchsif.org

FIR - Forum pour l'Investissement Responsable
47 rue Berger – 75001 Paris – France
Tél: + 33 (0)1 40 36 61 58

FIR-PRI Awards were created in 2005 by French SIF. We partnered in 2011 with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) in 2011.

The **FIR** (French SIF) is a multi-stakeholder association whose mission is to promote Responsible Investment and its best practices. The FIR brings together investors, management companies, extra-financial rating agencies, consultants, NGOs, trade unions as well as academics, lawyers, journalists... The FIR organizes the Responsible Finance Week, the European Academic Research Award in Finance and Sustainable Development with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), the Award for the best due diligence plan, in partnership with A2 Consulting. In 2010, the FIR launched CorDial (Corporate Dialogue), a dialogue platform with listed companies on sustainable development issues. FIR is a founding member of Eurosif. www.frenchsif.org

The **PRI** works with its international network of signatories to put the six Principles for Responsible Investment into practice. Its goals are to understand the investment implications of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and to support signatories in integrating these issues into investment and ownership decisions. The PRI acts in the long-term interests of its signatories, of the financial markets and economies in which they operate and ultimately of the environment and society as a whole. The six Principles for Responsible Investment are a voluntary and aspirational set of investment principles that offer a menu of possible actions for incorporating ESG issues into investment practice. The Principles were developed by investors, for investors. In implementing them, signatories contribute to developing a more sustainable global financial system. www.unpri.org