Fully-funded PhD studentship opportunity at Sheffield University Management School

PhD Project: Supply Chain Accounting – Beyond the Numbers

Research Group: Centre for Research into Accounting and Finance in Context (CRAFiC)

CRAFiC aims to be at the heart of the debate about the role of accounting and finance in the development of inclusive and sustainable societies. Using a range of multidisciplinary research approaches, the Centre’s ambition is to contribute to the cutting edge of research in accounting and finance that have relevance for the wider economy and society at large.

Research undertaken by members of the Centre not only has implications for organisational stakeholders such as financial institutions, corporations and government but gives voice to all segments of the society who are affected by accounting and financial decisions. Our research is wide ranging, focusing on issues that are local and regional at the one end, and international and global at the other.

Project Description

The role of supply chain accounting (referred to in many different ways e.g. inter-organisational accounting) has become an important area for theoretical investigation given the increasing complexity of business relationships, and the opportunities and challenges of engaging accounting and accountants in this domain. Global supply chains and related supply networks mean that accounting cannot continue as an insular activity and must engage in an interdisciplinary way with other actors involved in these networks.

This is an area of research which, as well impacting on the study and practice of business organisations, also impacts on wider society. Scandals related to food supply chains and poor treatment of workers in supply organisations because of pressures on profit margins are matters of societal concern. Accounting has an important role to play here through appropriate monitoring and innovative ways of ensuring sustainable and ethical supply chains. Equally, environmental concerns around inefficient forwards and reverse transport movements (e.g. reverse logistics work) requires innovative engagement of accounting across organisational boundaries. In an even broader context, supply chains_supply networks impact on most aspects of peoples’ lives (what we eat, what we wear, what medications we take) and therefore exploring critically the role of accounting in this area offers great opportunities for theory and practice development.

Based in Sheffield University Management School’s Centre for Research into Accounting and Finance in Context, possible projects include:

a. Measuring the environmental impact of agriculture using carbon accounting and accounting for externalities
b. Interdisciplinary Supply Chain Accounting
Application Process:

Applicants should submit a 1000 word research proposal which directly addresses the theme and/or specific topic to which they are applying. The proposal should contain a brief background to the topic, which demonstrates knowledge of existing work in the field, and potential contributions to knowledge. It should also explain the proposed research methods and include a plan of the research, and a timeline. We are seeking applications from exceptional UK/EU/International students with an outstanding academic record (distinction/high merit or equivalent) as well as a proven record in research training. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis - applications are assessed on the basis of academic success and qualifications, experience, research background, a clear well-articulated research proposal, the potential impact of the research and a good match with supervisor/ departmental expertise.

Closing date for applications is 17.00 (UK time) on Friday 13 July. Interviews will be held week commencing 6 August 2018.

Proposed Supervision Team:

The supervisory team may include two of the following academics: Dr Julianna Meira, Dr Sanjay Lanka and Prof Ataur Belal. The selection of supervisors would depend on which project(s) is pursued and staff availability.

Funding Notes:

This scholarship is offered on a full-time basis for three years from September 2018 subject to satisfactory progress. It will provide a tax free bursary of £14,777 and cover the University tuition fees for UK/EU/international students.