

## ■ Editorial



2009 has been a turbulent year for many people. The financial crisis has continued to weigh upon many economies worldwide, and only in the last few months have we seen important signs of recovery. The economic downturn has also hit the world of academia, especially where schools' endowments were invested in stock markets. In many schools, this led to freezes in hiring, increases in student tuition, and sometimes even cuts in academic salaries.

2009 was also the year in which one of the most spectacular cases of fraud was decided upon in court, leading to the imprisonment of Bernard Madoff, and to serious questions regarding the quality of control mechanisms in the market – questions that are arguably relevant for accounting researchers too. Meanwhile, accounting scholars and regulators have been involved in debates on fair value accounting and on the role it played in aggravating the crisis (see Peter Walton's essay in Issue 3/2009 of the newsletter).

The "history of the many" is, to be sure, only part of what each of us has experienced in 2009. We all have our personal stories to tell and remember – and I sincerely hope that for most of you, the pleasant memories will outweigh the less pleasant ones.

In this last issue of 2009, Salvador Carmona shares with us some of his personal feelings regarding his job as editor of the *European Accounting Review*. The newsletter also contains a report on this year's EUFIN Workshop, an event closely linked to *Accounting in Europe*, the second journal of the Association. In addition to these "highlights", the newsletter informs you about various upcoming events that may be of interest to you.

I wish you all a good start into the New Year.

Season's greetings!

*Martin Messner*  
messner@hec.fr

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### Highlights

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## Letter from the president, Aileen Pierce

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that the calendar year 2009 is drawing to a close. Nonetheless, for many, this has been yet another very productive and hard-working year. The large number of submissions (approximately 1,100 papers) for the Istanbul Congress in 2010 bears testimony to substantial research output from the majority of our members. Moreover, an enormous amount of teaching, research, drafting, institutional and academic service has gone on over the past twelve months. So much so, that the upcoming break is a welcome intrusion into our busy schedules, whether the Christmas/New Year break is typically short or long in your part of the world.

The end of the year is a good time to reflect - not only on our own achievements, fulfilled and unfulfilled aspirations, and plans for the future, but on the contributions of many who facilitate our work and make positive contributions to the academic world we occupy. The academic environment relies heavily on the commitment and selfless sharing of talent, experience, and dedication of colleagues. In the

EAA context, there are many people who provide service to the Association. I will not attempt to identify all those who contribute to the wide range of activities that the Association facilitates and supports. Nonetheless, it is important to make time and space at the year-end to thank all who work so hard over a long period to ensure our annual congress runs smoothly, those who collaborate to deliver high quality EAA publications, those who run and participate in the annual Doctoral Colloquium, and those who serve on our committees. On your behalf, I would like to thank each and every member who contributed to the mission of the Association in any way, large or small, during 2009. I look forward to your continued involvement with EAA during the coming year and to including more willing volunteers in EAA activities throughout 2010 as we renew and expand our efforts to support the research and networking activities of our members throughout Europe and beyond.

There is one person who deserves to be singled out for her extraordinary service to EAA and its members. This person is Nicole Coopman, our Association's Executive Secretary. By working closely with Nicole over re-

cent years, I have witnessed and experienced the quality and professionalism of her work, her incredible dedication to the Association and its members and her excellent people skills, applied so genuinely in the wonderfully multinational and multicultural environment we have the privilege of sharing. As an Association, we are deeply indebted to Nicole for all her hard work, long hours and flexibility in pursuit of EAA goals.

Finally, I would like to wish each and every member of the European Accounting Association, and all your families, a very Happy Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. We have every reason to look to 2010 with optimism and hope as we continue to strive for excellence in research and teaching, and to promote collegiate effort in accounting scholarship and research through effective and enjoyable networking and support.

*Aileen Pierce*  
*EAA President*



## News on the *European Accounting Review*

### Forthcoming Articles in EAR

Hartmann F., Naranjo-Gil D. and Perego P., *The effects of leadership styles and use of performance measures on managerial work-related attitudes*

Cuellar Fernández B., Fuertes Callén Y. and Láinez Gadea J.A., *Stock price reaction to non-financial news in European technology companies*

Chen J.J. and Zhang H., *The Impact of Regulatory Enforcement and Audit upon IFRS Compliance - Evidence from China*

Schöndube-Pirchegger B. and Schöndube J.R., *On the appropriateness of performance based compensation for supervisory board members - an agency theoretic approach*

Florou A., *The Role of Taxes in Compensation: A Case of Shareholder Expropriation*

Sánchez-Ballesta J.P. and García-Meca E., *Ownership Structure and the Cost of Debt*

Østergren K. and Stensaker I., *Management control without budgets: A field study of "Beyond Budgeting" in practice*

Bona-Sánchez C., Pérez-Alemán J., Santana-Martín D.J., *Ultimate ownership and earnings conservatism*

## Upcoming EIASM events

Here are some of the upcoming EIASM events. For a full list, please visit [www.eiasm.org](http://www.eiasm.org).

- 33rd Annual Congress of the EAA, 19-21 May 2010, Istanbul (Turkey)
- EAA Doctoral Colloquium, 15-18 May 2010, Istanbul (Turkey)
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Analytical Accounting Research, 7-11 June 2010, Vienna (Austria)
- Workshop on Accounting and Economics, 10-11 June 2010, Vienna (Austria)
- EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Empirical Financial Accounting Research, 14-18 June 2010, Frankfurt (Germany)
- Manufacturing Accounting Research Conference, 20-23 June 2010, Ghent (Belgium)
- 6th International Conference on Accounting, Auditing and Management in Public Sector Reforms, 1-3 September 2010, Copenhagen (Denmark)
- 5th Workshop on Accounting and Regulation, 23-25 September 2010, Siena (Italy)
- 6th Workshop on Visualising, Measuring and Managing Intangibles, 30 Sep - 1 Oct, Catania (Italy)



## News on *Accounting in Europe*

The hard copy volume of the 2009 issues should have arrived in your mail by now. If it seems a bit heavier than usual, that is as a result of the strong flow of good papers, and Taylor and Francis's generous willingness to let us run over our print budget!

As from 1 January Prof Lisa Evans joins as co-editor for the transition year before she takes full control. She

will handle all new submissions from now on. They should be sent to [AinE@stirling.ac.uk](mailto:AinE@stirling.ac.uk).

Peter Walton

■ Looking back at the  
5th “Eufin Workshop on Accounting in Europe”  
Catania, 10-11 September 2009

The fifth annual conference of the European Financial Reporting Research Group (Eufin) in cooperation with the journal *Accounting in Europe* was held on September 11 and 12, 2009 at the University of Catania in Sicily (Italia). The objective of the workshop was to discuss contemporary issues related to the ongoing efforts to harmonise accounting in Europe, with a special focus on the application of International Financial Reporting Standards.

Not only the geographical background of the participants, but also the research presented and discussed was quite diversified: The wide range of topics included, amongst others, the introduction of IFRS for SMEs, the impact of IFRS adoption in various EU countries, goodwill accounting and impairment testing under IFRS 3, lobbying/participation in the IASB's due process, value relevance and quality of financial reporting, disclosure, IFRS and management control and auditing issues. In conformity with the position of the journal *Accounting in Europe* as being open to all kinds of research methods, the workshop papers covered theoretical, practice- and policy-oriented, descriptive-empirical as well as historical research. The limited size of the workshop allowed for extensive paper presentations and discussions as well as for getting into contact and exchanging ideas with researchers having similar interests.

In the opening plenary session, Angelo Casò, chairman of the Italian Standard Setter (Organismo Italiano di Contabilità), addressed the challenges that both the IASB and the EU with its member states have to face as a result of the IFRS adoption in the EU. He showed the limits of the EU accounting harmonisation by stating that – at least from an Italian perspective – IFRS would not be suitable for application in the individual accounts. Mr.

Casò then pointed out the conflict of a lack of implementation guidance within the system of principles-based IFRS and national standard setters not being allowed to issue interpretations. Finally, Mr. Casò put the IASB's independence into question by demonstrating the political interferences of the EU and its member states using the financial crisis as an example.

The second key-note speaker, Dott. Orazio Vagnozzi, Responsible IFRS Group at KPMG Italy, explained the challenges of IFRS becoming the world's most used accounting standards from the perspective of a global audit firm. He argued that audit professionals needed extensive training in order to be able to keep up with the constantly changing IFRS. Dott. Vagnozzi also referred to the lack of implementation guidance that KPMG deals with by developing internal reference material.

The third key-note speaker, Professor Stefano Zambon from the University of Ferrara, dealt with the dilemma of an increasing relevance of intangibles being major determinants of growth and value creation and the inability to depict many of them in the balance sheet due to their uncertainty. From the IASB's Exposure Draft on Management Commentary he concluded that the role of non-financial performance measures will become more important in the future. Professor Zambon showed that many companies already published voluntary Intellectual Capital (IC) Statements or Reports on Intangibles, but also argued that an international standard was needed in order to ensure consistency and comparability of IC Reports. According to Professor Zambon, the challenge for academia and practice is to learn how to manage and report on the “invisible” resources in order to better understand company financial performance and resilience.

In the concluding session on the future of the IASB and IFRS the first key-note speaker, Christopher Nobes, Professor of Accounting at the Royal Holloway, University of London, presented the measures that the IASB has undertaken so far to deal with the financial crisis and thereby criticised the political interferences in the standard-setting process. He then pictured the increasing influence of the U.S. on the IASB and concluded with the provocative prediction that Robert Herz, chairman of the FASB, would become the next IASB chairman. The second key-note speaker, David Alexander, Professor of International Accounting at the University of Birmingham, picked up the theme of major future difficulties for the IASB. His essential argument was that different contexts and in particular different purposes of financial reporting logically required different accounting information, implying a need for non-standardisation of accounting policies. He emphasised that many research opportunities would arise from this scenario. The third key-note speaker, Ann Jorissen, Professor of Accounting at the University of Antwerp, addressed recent developments relating to the IASB and its standard setting process. Professor Jorissen argued that the recent changes in the structure of the IASB, such as the establishment of a monitoring board and a Financial Crisis Advisory Group, put the IASB's independence into question. Moreover, she criticised the IASB's agenda being mainly driven by the financial crisis and country-specific interests and claimed that more emphasis should be put on the long-term goals, in particular the creation of a sound conceptual framework.

(continued on next page)

## Eufin Workshop (cont'd)

The conclusion of the workshop was drawn by Lisa Evans, Professor of Accounting at the University of Stirling, who will become co-editor of the journal *Accounting in Europe* from 1 January, 2010 and sole editor from 1 January, 2011. She announced that the 6th "Eufin workshop on Accounting in Europe" in 2010 will take place at her home university, the University of Stirling in Scotland.

The very good workshop atmosphere was due to the tremendous work done by the organizing committee – Giuseppe D. Caruso, Elisa F. Ferrari, both from the University of Catania, and Wolfgang Dick from ESSEC Business School. They ensured that, besides the scientific input, workshop participants also got an idea of the Sicilian culture, tradition and the excellent Sicilian food. The non-

scientific highlight certainly was the workshop dinner, which took place at the spectacular Palazzo Biscari, an imperial baroque residence founded on the fifteenth century city walls of the city of Catania.

Sonja Wüstemann

Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main

## Call for papers

### 6th Workshop on European Financial Reporting University of Stirling, 1-2 September 2010

**In Collaboration with *Accounting in Europe*.**

oriented research in financial reporting.

The workshop offers an opportunity and venue for the meeting of academics and practitioners.

It is likely to be of value to those who are interested in recent developments in accounting in Europe, in the harmonisation of accounting in Europe, the regulation of financial accounting and the process of change in accounting and accounting regulation, as well as the internationalisation of accounting generally.

Papers are invited on any aspect of European accounting, but with particular emphasis on practice- and policy-

#### Submission and Review of Papers:

Papers written in the English language should be submitted electronically no later than 16 April 2010 to [EUFin2010@stir.ac.uk](mailto:EUFin2010@stir.ac.uk). Papers will be subject to a double-blind review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by 1 June 2010.

#### Information

- Information about the workshop - email Lisa Evans: [eufin2010@stir.ac.uk](mailto:eufin2010@stir.ac.uk)

- How to get to the University of Stirling: [http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/visitor\\_info/about/getting\\_here/index.php](http://www.external.stir.ac.uk/visitor_info/about/getting_here/index.php)
- Information about EUFin: <http://www.essec-kpmg.net/us/eufin/index.html>
- Information about Stirling Management School, Accounting and Finance Division: <http://www.accountingandfinance.stir.ac.uk/>

## ■ Call for papers

# Global Management Accounting Research Symposium (GMARS), Michigan State University, 10-11 June 2010



**Plenary speakers:** Ramji Balakrishnan (University of Iowa), Joan Luft (Michigan State University), and Keith Robson (Cardiff University)

The seventh annual GMARS will be at Michigan State University on 10-11 June 2010, with an early bird reception on 9 June. GMARS is a research sym-

posium that rotates annually around the world:

- Copenhagen Business School
- Michigan State University
- University of New South Wales

GMARS aims to promote a "global village" of management accounting research by bringing together a diverse set of the highest-quality research papers, plenary speakers, and researchers from around the world. GMARS will provide a broader appreciation and understanding of the many theoretical perspectives and research methods that are used to study management accounting practices.

Papers submitted will be considered for presentation at concurrent sessions. There will be a discussant for each accepted paper. Papers addressing any management accounting topic with any theoretical perspective and research method will be considered. **Papers are due by January 31, 2010** and should be submitted to [www.gmars.org](http://www.gmars.org). Acceptances will be notified by March 15, 2010.

Additional information about GMARS is at [www.gmars.org](http://www.gmars.org) and from Mike Shields ([shields@msu.edu](mailto:shields@msu.edu)).

The financial support of KPMG, CIMA, and Elsevier is gratefully acknowledged.

## ■ Call for contributors

# Global Accounting History

Professors Gary Previts (Case Western Reserve University, USA), Peter Wolnizer (University of Sydney, Australia) and Peter Walton (ESSEC Business School, France) are proposing to put together a three volume collection of essays, each of which deals with the evolution of financial reporting in a particular jurisdiction.

The basic concept is to establish a benchmark reference source that covers the evolution of accounting, financial reporting and related institutions for all major economies in the world in a comparable way. An objective is to provide an understanding of key economies and how accounting has evolved within them.

We should like to hearing from anyone interested in possibly contributing a country essay in respect of one of the following jurisdictions:

*Americas:* Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina

*Europe:* Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Spain.

*Asia/Oceania:* Japan, India, Korea, Indonesia

*Africa/Middle East:* South Africa, Israel, Saudi Arabia

The three volume set will be published by Emerald in the US, with the first volume appearing in 2011. Thanks to

the generosity of the Accounting Foundation at the University of Sydney, each chapter will attract an honorarium of US\$ 1,000 on publication.

Anybody interested in joining the team should send an e-mail to Ms Elizabeth Gozdik at ESSEC Business School ([gozdik@essec.fr](mailto:gozdik@essec.fr)) who will refer messages to the editors and will also provide a more detailed brief and a sample chapter.



## ■ Call for papers

### 6th Accounting History International Conference

Wellington (New Zealand), 18-20 August 2010

#### Theme: "Accounting and the State"

Sponsored by:

*School of Accounting and Commercial Law, Victoria University of Wellington and*

*Accounting History Special Interest Group of the Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand*

Papers will be accepted across the full range of accounting history topics and methodological and theoretical perspectives. As the conference is taking place in a national capital city, authors are encouraged to think about the relationships between the State and accounting, such as:

- Accounting in the public sector at the national, sub-national and local levels;
- New public financial management;
- Taxation and public finance;
- Regulation of the profession and standard setting process;

- The State and accounting in social institutions;
- Accounting education and the State;
- Regulation of the not-for-profit sector;
- Regulation of corporate governance, fraud and collapse;
- Comparisons between the public and private sectors;
- Accounting, politics and public policy.
- Accounting reforms and their implications for inter-generational equity;
- The roles, influence and impacts of transnational State-like organisations, such as the EU.

#### Submission and Review of Papers:

Papers written in the English language should be submitted electronically no later than **19 March 2010** to [6A-HIC@ballarat.edu.au](mailto:6A-HIC@ballarat.edu.au).

All papers will be subject to a double-blind refereeing process and will be published on the conference web site, as refereed conference proceedings, unless otherwise advised. Papers

should be written in accordance with the Accounting History manuscript submission guidelines, which are available at: <http://ach.sagepub.com>. A special issue of the journal on the conference theme will be published following the event.

**Notification of Acceptance:** Notification of papers accepted for inclusion in the conference program will be made by **10 May 2010**.

An Accounting History Doctoral Colloquium will be held as part of the event.

Inquiries may be directed to the Conference Convenor, Philip Colquhoun, Victoria University of Wellington, at the following e-mail address: [philip.colquhoun@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:philip.colquhoun@vuw.ac.nz).

Information about visiting Wellington can be found at <http://www.wellingtonnz.com/> and for visiting New Zealand see <http://www.newzealand.com/>

## ■ Job market

Institution: **EM Lyon Business School**, Position: Various positions in Management Accounting, Application Deadline: Jul 15, 2010.

Institution: **University of Lausanne**, Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, Department: Department of Accounting and Control, Position: Full Professor or Assistant Professor (tenure track) in Financial Accounting and Analysis, Application Deadline: Jan 2, 2010.

## ■ Call for contributors

# Accounting Education: An international journal

## Themed issue on “Academic Dishonesty”

*Accounting Education: an international journal* invites submissions for a themed issue on the topic of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating behaviour and other forms of inappropriate conduct). The public expects accountants to exhibit complete honesty, reliability and ethical behaviour, and generally exercise fiduciary responsibility to protect clients’ assets. However, events and widespread accounting scandals over the past decade have shaken the public trust in accounting professionals. Moreover, questionable workplace behaviour may be a consequence of students’ attitudes to cheating. The potential ramifications of this cycle of unethical behaviour are enormous and deserving of additional inquiry.

**Submissions** should be original work which investigates some aspect of academic dishonesty among undergraduate and/or graduate accounting students, or the link between unethical student and workplace behaviour. The guest editors are amenable to quality research in any paradigm including, for example, field or experimental investigations, archival or survey research, interpretive or critical studies and case study research. Curbing academic

dishonesty is a global challenge, so we also encourage international studies. The following list is indicative of topics of interest but is not intended to be exhaustive:

- Psychological antecedents of cheating
- Prevalence of specific cheating behaviours
- The influence of honour codes
- Cheating rationalizations
- Cheating behaviour models
- The role of the Internet in unethical behaviour
- The association between student and workplace cheating
- Effective mitigation strategies
- Plagiarism
- Academic Integrity Issues Among Faculty and/or Administrators

The deadline for submissions is **30 November 2010**, with publication currently scheduled for 2011. Early submissions are welcome, and potential contributors are encouraged to notify us of their interest. Submissions should be made electronically in accor-

dance with AE’s policies and style and sent to either guest editor:

**Professor Malcolm Smith**, School of Accounting, Finance & Economics, Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, malcolm.smith@ecu.edu.au

**Professor Kenneth J. Smith**, Department of Accounting & Legal Studies, Salisbury University, USA, kjsmith@salisbury.edu





## Interview with Salvador Carmona, Editor of *European Accounting Review*

**Salvador, you took over editorship of EAR in January 2006, that was four years ago. What is your personal résumé of these four years?**

Serving as EAR editor is an opportunity and an honour. To me, the editorship represents a high responsibility before authors, reviewers and the EAA community at large and I am most grateful for the support of this community during the past years. Many well regarded scholars are highly committed to EAR and this is highly rewarding to me; it eases editorial work and results in high-quality submissions, timely and constructive reviews and willingness of many colleagues to share with me ideas about potential areas for improvement. In particular, the journal has a first-tier editorial team and associate editors take a leadership over the review process in their areas of expertise, which ultimately enhances the quality of the editorial feedback. Furthermore, the role of the editorial board can hardly be neglected; editorial board members are leaders of the profession and they are very much committed to EAR. Having a chance to count on the scholarship of this community has added a plus of visibility and quality to the journal. Overall, I feel privileged for participating in this project and grateful to the EAA leadership for trusting me on this job. At a more personal level, the editorial work strains time and energy from other academic activities. However, I have to thank my academic institution for lifting up some of my teaching and service obligations, which ultimately let me being active in research.

**How would you describe the development that EAR has taken over the last years?**

My predecessors made a wonderful

job to improve the quality of EAR and these efforts are paying off. Drawing on this goodwill, I endeavoured to give a step forward in the direction of enhancing the academic excellence of the journal. During the past four years, the number of submissions has increased from 127 regular submissions in 2005 to 204 manuscripts in 2008, and this provides room to uplift the standards upheld by the journal. Furthermore, I perceive that this quantitative trend also reflects on the quality of submissions, which has improved considerably during the past years.

**If you look at the pattern of submissions, in terms of topics and methodologies, what are the current trends that you can observe? And how do you feel about these trends?**

Although the pattern of topics and methodologies has remained relatively stable during the past years, I perceive a divergent trend between topics and methodologies. On the one hand, EAR is widening the diversity of the topics addressed in submitted papers; in 2005, manuscripts addressing financial reporting and capital markets represented 60% of total submissions whilst management accounting reported 11% of this figure. In 2008, and as consequence of this slight increase in diversity, these figures were 57% and 16%, respectively. On the other hand, there is slight trend towards methodological concentration; papers using quantitative methods accounted for 57% of total submissions in 2005 and this increased to 63% in 2008. Interestingly, this increase contrasts with the decrease in submissions drawing on case-study research, which went down from 12% in 2005 to 3% in 2008.

From a personal point of view, I like handling papers illustrating different topics and methodologies, which is very much in the spirit of EAR. In pursuance of this goal, the most active action that an editor can do is arrang-

ing a portfolio of diverse special theme issues, or special sections. During my tenure, EAR has covered topics ranging from examination of the sociology of accounting academics (e.g., *Accounting and the Academia*, co-guest edited by Rihab Khalifa and Paolo Quattrone) to the implications of the increasingly widespread debate on measurement issues derived from the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (*Measurement Issues in Financial Reporting*, co-guest edited by Katherine Schipper and Marco Trombetta). Other special theme issues refer to the intertwinement of accounting systems and organizational processes of innovation and entrepreneurship (*Accounting, Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, co-guest edited by Antonio Dávila and Daniel Oyon). Additionally, EAR has launched a debate on *Accounting and the Market of Emissions* (co-guest edited by Jan Bebbington and Carlos Larrinaga) as well as on the *Accrual Principle in Public Sector Accounting* (co-guest edited by Irvine Lapsley, Riccardo Mussari and Gert Paulsson). Finally, the deadline for submitting papers to the Special Theme Issue on *Accounting in Emerging and Transitional Economies* (co-guest edited by Mahmoud Ezzamel and Jason Xiao), was November 30, 2009. In this respect, I am happy to advance that this Special Section has attracted the interest of an outstanding number of scholars from around the world. Taken together, I think that these special theme issues map a variety of topics that are at the cutting edge of accounting research. Furthermore, the Call for Papers of each of these special sections stress that the guest editors will welcome submissions drawing on any research methodology. This flexibility and openness towards any research methodology will be kept in the future.

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 Interview with Salvador Carmona (cont'd)
 

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**What is “European” about EAR?**

In the “market” of accounting academic journals there exists a segment of national-based journals (e.g., Australia, Canada, U.K., U.S.). Even though the territories covered by the reference countries of these journals are quite vast, they feature common characteristics such as language, identity and culture. Conversely, the reference settings of EAR are remarkably different to those of “national” based journals in terms of languages, national identities, cultures, and ways of understanding accounting research. In my view, this diversity constitutes a competitive advantage of the EAA community and should be a distinctive characteristic of EAR. Consequently, and as noted in its Aims and Scope, EAR should be open to the substantive issues of accounting research as well as to diversity in paradigms, methodologies and styles of conducting research. In addition to diversity, “European” means quality. And quality matters most at the time of making editorial decisions.

**When it comes to publishing in a journal, many researchers probably think of the low acceptance ratios and the difficulties they face in getting their papers published. Can you, as an editor, sit back and wait for the papers to come in, and then publish the best ones among them? Or do you actively try and attract good papers?**

In addition to the program of special theme issues, or special sections mentioned above, we are very active in tapping high quality papers presented at research conferences and international workshops. In this respect, we may ask authors of papers presented at these venues to submit their manuscripts to EAR. This invitation is driven by our understanding of the potential interest of the study for the journal but, of course, these papers should go through the usual, double-blind refereed process.

**EAR is now included in the SSCI (Social Science Citation Index) and has an impact factor of around 0.6. Is this something that you pay attention to?**

Research assessments are increasingly relying on ‘objective’ measures of quality such as impact factors and half-cited life. The influence of these ‘objective’ measures of performance cannot be underestimated: there is evidence about an extensive repertoire of scholarly journals changing their editorial policies to enhance these measures of performance. As noted by some studies, the progression of this editorial shift has been from the natural sciences to the social sciences. The impact factor has become such a decisive criterion in shaping the editorial policy of some international academic journals that Monastersky ended up labeling it as the “number that is devouring science.” At EAR, we cannot

neglect the importance of impact factors for both the prestige of the journal and the legitimate interests of authors. However, *EAR* editorial policy is not and will not be driven by citation rates. We endeavor to publish high quality papers producing advancement to accounting knowledge. Pursuance of this goal is the best service that we can pay to the journal and we are persuaded that this will result in high impact factors in the long-term.

**What is your agenda for the coming years?**

During the next couple of years, I do not expect substantial increases in the number of submissions but self-selection of papers that do not reach the standards upheld by EAR. This will enable the editorial team to provide authors with even better feedback and keep or even improve our turnaround time, which is currently 11-12 weeks. Before finishing my tenure as journal editor, I would like to launch one or maybe two new special sections, which will require extensive search of timely areas and high profile guest editors. At the end of my term, I would have wished giving a step forward in the goal of making EAR a “first-choice” journal.

**Thank you for the interview!**

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Further details about the European Accounting Association, including membership details, can be found on

its website at <http://www.eaa-online.org>. All queries related to membership of the Association should be directed to the Secretariat at [aaa@eiasm.be](mailto:aaa@eiasm.be).

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[www.freeimages.co.uk](http://www.freeimages.co.uk) (p. 1), Aileen Pierce (p. 2), Salvador Carmona (p. 9)