



THE ATHENS INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

# Abstract Book

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on  
Business, Law & Economics  
6-9 May 2024, Athens, Greece**

**Edited by  
Michael Malloy and Olga Gkounta**

2024



Abstracts  
11<sup>th</sup> Annual International  
Conference on Business, Law &  
Economics  
6-9 May 2024, Athens, Greece

Edited by Michael Malloy and Olga  
Gkounta

First published in Athens, Greece by the Athens Institute for Education and  
Research.

ISBN: 978-960-598-604-9

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9 Chalkokondili Street

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## Preface

This book includes the abstracts of all the papers presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics (6-9 May 2024), organized by the Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER).

A full conference program can be found before the relevant abstracts. In accordance with ATINER's Publication Policy, the papers presented during this conference will be considered for inclusion in one of ATINER's many publications only after a blind peer review process.

The purpose of this abstract book is to provide members of ATINER and other academics around the world with a resource through which they can discover colleagues and additional research relevant to their own work. This purpose is in congruence with the overall mission of the association. ATINER was established in 1995 as an independent academic organization with the mission to become a forum where academics and researchers from all over the world can meet to exchange ideas on their research and consider the future developments of their fields of study.

To facilitate the communication, a new references section includes all the abstract books published as part of this conference (Table 1). I invite the readers to access these abstract books –these are available for free– and compare how the themes of the conference have evolved over the years. According to ATINER's mission, the presenters in these conferences are coming from many different countries, presenting various topics.

**Table 1.** *Publication of Books of Abstracts of Proceedings, 2014-2024*

Year	Papers	Countries	References
2024	30	20	Malloy and Gkounta (2024)
2023	35	18	<a href="#">Frenkel and Gkounta (2023)</a>
2022	30	17	<a href="#">Papanikos and Gkounta (2022)</a>
2021	23	12	<a href="#">Papanikos (2021)</a>
2020	20	10	<a href="#">Papanikos (2020)</a>
2019	34	23	<a href="#">Papanikos (2019)</a>
2018	29	18	<a href="#">Papanikos (2018)</a>
2017	33	17	<a href="#">Papanikos (2017)</a>
2016	31	17	<a href="#">Papanikos (2016)</a>
2015	28	17	<a href="#">Papanikos (2015)</a>
2014	28	25	<a href="#">Papanikos (2014)</a>

It is our hope that through ATINER's conferences and publications, Athens will become a place where academics and researchers from all over the world can regularly meet to discuss the developments of their disciplines and present their work. Since 1995, ATINER has organized more than 400 international conferences and has published over 200 books. Academically, the institute is organized into 6 divisions and 37 units. Each unit organizes at least one annual conference and undertakes various small and large research projects.

For each of these events, the involvement of multiple parties is crucial. I would like to thank all the participants, the members of the organizing and academic committees, and most importantly the administration staff of ATINER for putting this conference and its subsequent publications together. Specific individuals are listed on the following page.

**Gregory T. Papanikos**  
**President**

## **Editors' Note**

These abstracts provide a vital means to the dissemination of scholarly inquiry in the field of Business, Law & Economics. The breadth and depth of research approaches and topics represented in this book underscores the diversity of the conference.

ATINER's mission is to bring together academics from all corners of the world in order to engage with each other, brainstorm, exchange ideas, be inspired by one another, and once they are back in their institutions and countries to implement what they have acquired. The 11th Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics accomplished this goal by bringing together academics and scholars from 20 different countries (Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, UK, USA), which brought in the symposium the perspectives of many different country approaches and realities in the field.

Publishing this book can help that spirit of engaged scholarship continue into the future. With our joint efforts, the next editions of this conference will be even better. We hope that this abstract book as a whole will be both of interest and of value to the reading audience.

**Michael Malloy & Olga Gkounta**  
**Editors**

## **11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics, 6-9 May 2024, Athens, Greece**

### **Organizing & Scientific Committee**

All ATINER's conferences are organized by the Academic Council. This conference has been organized with the assistance of the following academic members of ATINER, who contributed by reviewing the submitted abstracts and papers.

1. Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER & Honorary Professor, University of Stirling, U.K.
2. Michael P. Malloy, Director, Business, Economics and Law Division, ATINER & Distinguished Professor & Scholar, University of the Pacific, USA.
3. David A. Frenkel, LL.D., Head, Law Unit, ATINER & Emeritus Professor, Law Area, Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel.
4. Srecko Devjak, Academic Member, ATINER & Professor, MLC Management & Law College of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

# FINAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics, 6-9  
May 2024, Athens, Greece

## PROGRAM

### Monday 6 May 2024

08.30-09.15

Registration

09:15-10:00

Opening and Welcoming Remarks:

- Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.

10:00-11:30 Session 1

Moderator: Gregory T. Papanikos, President, ATINER.

1. **Torben Hansen**, Professor, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.  
*Title: The Interplay between Consumer Financial Trust and Interpersonal Trust.*
2. **Massimo Bianchi**, Former Full Professor, University of Bologna, Italy.  
*Title: De-industrialization and Management Sciences in Italy. The Shadow of Velleitarismo.*
3. **Marian Carcary**, Assistant Professor, Mary Immaculate College, Ireland.  
*Title: Voluntary Organic Community Leadership – Development of a Holistic, Integrated Conceptual Framework.*
4. **Iustina Alina Boitan**, Professor, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania.  
**Wafaa Shabban**, PhD Student, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania.  
*Title: Sustainable, Values-Based Banking Model – Clustering Procedure for Assessing Its Convergence Pattern across European Banks.*

11:30-13:00 Session 2

Moderator: Emmanuel Nartey, Senior Lecturer, Bath Spa University, UK.

1. **Maryam Dilmaghani**, Full Professor, Saint Mary's University, Canada.  
*Title: Hope Is Never Silent: Outness, Optimism about Future Life, and Future Financial Resiliency Among Sexual and Gender Minorities of Canada.*
2. **Paul Lewis**, Professor & Director of the Center for International Law, University of Illinois Chicago, USA.  
*Title: Ethics and Economics in Litigation Funding: A Comparative Perspective.*
3. **Danijela Brecko**, Assistant Professor, MLC Management and Law College Ljubljana, Slovenia.  
*Title: Preventing Mobbing in the Workplace by Making a Risk Assessment Analysis – Case Study.*

13:00-14:30 Session 3

Moderator: Gene-George Earle, PhD Candidate, East China Normal University, China.

1. **Lucius Botes**, Professor, North-West University, South Africa.  
**Fortunate Ngomane**, PhD Student, University of South Africa, South Africa  
*Title: The Gold Chain Gang: Socio-Economic and Political Implications of Illegal Gold Mining in Barberton, South Africa.*
2. **Elitsa Dimitrova**, Associate Professor, Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria.  
**Gergana Nenova**, Assistant Professor, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria.  
**Tatyana Kotzeva**, Professor, Institute for Population and Human Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria.  
*Title: Ethnic Differences in the Attitudes of the Young People in Bulgaria toward Gender Roles, Intimacy and Family Relationships. Evidence from a Youth Survey.*
3. **Giorgi Mikeladze**, Lecturer, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia.

*Title: Estimation of Households' Income and Expenditure by Small Area Unit (Case of Georgia).*

**14:30-15:30 Lunch**

**15:30-17:00 Session 4 – Special Session on “Human Rights and Ethics”**

**Moderator: Bill Ikononopoulos**, Barrister, Ikononopoulos Legal, Australia.

1. **Gregory T. Papanikos**, President, ATINER.  
*Title: Are Human Rights a Luxury or a Normal Good?*
2. **Assaf Meydani**, Professor, The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel.  
*Title: Human Rights between Non-governability and Political Culture – A New Paradigm in Human Rights Analysis.*
3. **\*Emmanuel Nartey**, Senior Lecturer, Bath Spa University, UK.  
*Title: Corporate Human Rights Abuses and Environmental Damage: Towards a Comprehensive Remedy Framework.*
4. **Neville Rochow KC**, Barrister, Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide, Australia.  
*Title: The Constitutional Role of Human Dignity in Promoting Ethical Outcomes in The Law.*

**17:00-20:00 Session 5**

**Old and New-An Educational Urban Walk**

The urban walk ticket is not included as part of your registration fee. It includes transportation costs and the cost to enter the Parthenon and the other monuments on the Acropolis Hill. The urban walk tour includes the broader area of Athens. Among other sites, it includes: Zappion, Syntagma Square, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Roman Agora and on Acropolis Hill: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, and the Parthenon. The program of the tour may be adjusted, if there is a need beyond our control. This is a private event organized by ATINER exclusively for the conference participants.

**20:30-22:00**

**Dinner**

**Tuesday 7 May 2024**

**09:00-10:30 Session 6**

**Moderator: Makoto Usami**, Professor, Kyoto University, Japan.

1. **Ouidad Yousfi**, Associate Professor, University of Montpellier, France.  
*Title: The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility: Empirical Evidence from France.*
2. **\*Dipinder Randhawa**, Senior Fellow, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.  
*Title: The Contours of a Blue Economy Strategy in ASEAN.*
3. **Rama Seth**, Associate Professor, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.  
*Title: Wetland Coin: An Innovative Approach for Pricing Wetland Mitigation Credits.*
4. **Yongliang Yan**, Assistant Professor, Beijing Jiaotong University, China.  
**Jiaying Yu**, PhD Student, Hong Kong University, China.  
**Shuaizhen Cai**, Undergraduate Student, Beijing Jiaotong University, China.  
**Jiayi Wang**, Undergraduate Student, Beijing Jiaotong University, China.  
**Jingyan Liu**, Undergraduate Student, Beijing Jiaotong University, China.  
*Title: Regulation of National Space Resource Activities: China as a Case Study.*

**10:30-12:00 Session 7 – Special Session on “The Role of Ethics as a Driving Force in Rapid Digital and AI Development”**

**Moderator: Dipinder Randhawa**, Senior Fellow, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

1. **Marzia Coltri**, Lecturer, Arden University, UK.  
**Werner Uys**, Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, South Africa.

<p><b>Kobus Joubert</b>, Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, South Africa. <i>Title: Investing AI Ethics in Forensic Investigations: Development, Policies and Best Practices.</i></p> <p>2. <b>Makoto Usami</b>, Professor, Kyoto University, Japan. <i>Title: Robot Judges and the Rule of Law.</i></p>	
<p><b>12:00-13:30 Session 8</b> <b>Moderator: Massimo Bianchi</b>, Former Full Professor, University of Bologna, Italy.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Carolina Facioni</b>, Research Assistant, Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Italy. <i>Title: What Constitutes A “Good” Forecast? The Indispensable Link between Futures Studies and Social Science Methodology.</i></p> <p>2. <b>Helena Kubatova</b>, Associate Professor, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. <b>Jitka Zehnalova</b>, Assistant Professor, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic. <i>Title: Situation Analysis as a Method of Investigating the Production System of Literary Translation.</i></p> <p>3. <b>Luping Wang</b>, PhD Student, University of York, UK. <i>Title: Social Integration of China’s Internal Migrants into Urban Communities.</i></p>	
<p><b>13:30-15:00 Lunch</b> <b>Lunch</b></p>	<p><b>13:00-15:00</b> Student poster section is organized in parallel by ATINER &amp; <u>MLC College in Ljubljana</u>.</p>
<p><b>15:00-16:30 Session 9</b> <b>Moderator: Carolina Facioni</b>, Research Assistant, Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Italy.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Nicole Banton</b>, Assistant Professor, Stetson University, USA. <i>Title: The Birth Connection: An Examination of the Relationship Between Her Birth Event and Infant Feeding among African American Mothers.</i></p> <p>2. <b>Meridith Burles</b>, Lecturer &amp; Research Coordinator, University of Saskatchewan, Canada. <i>Title: Using a Sociological Lens to Enhance Cultural Safety in Pediatric Healthcare: A Qualitative Study of Indigenous Family Caregivers’ and Health Care Providers’ Experiences.</i></p> <p>3. <b>Mariia Vasiakina</b>, EU Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany. <b>Christian Dudel</b>, Researcher/Deputy Head, Research Group Labor Demography, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Germany. <i>Title: Health Outcomes of Risk of Automation at Work: Evidence from Germany.</i></p> <p>4. <b>E. Wairimu Mwangi</b>, Chair and Assistant Professor, Trinity Washington University, USA. <b>Daniel Sarpong</b>, Executive Director, Office of Health Equity Research; Senior Research Scientist, Yale School of Medicine, USA. <i>Title: Food Insecurity and Other Correlates of Individual Components of Metabolic Syndrome in Women Living with HIV (WLWH) in the United States.</i></p>	
<p><b>16:30-18:00 Session 10</b> <b>Moderator: Jason L. Cummings</b>, Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago, USA.</p>	
<p>1. <b>Stavroula Kyriakakis</b>, Associate Professor, Adelphi University, USA. <i>Title: Safe Qualitative Interviewing Techniques in Research with At-Risk, Oppressed and Historically Marginalized Communities: Applying Trauma Informed Social Work Practice Skills and Knowledge Working with Survivors of Gender-Based Violence to Research.</i></p> <p>2. <b>Ian Hyslop</b>, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand. <i>Title: Sociological Insight and Political Limitations: Pushing the Contemporary Boundaries of Anglophone Social Work.</i></p> <p>3. <b>Daniel Holman</b>, Lecturer, The University of Sheffield, UK. <b>Alan Walker</b>, Professor, The University of Sheffield, UK. <i>Title: Healthy Ageing Through the Prism of Intersectionality: Integrating Intersectionality and the Life Course Perspective to Illuminate Complex Inequalities.</i></p>	

11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics, 6-9 May 2024, Athens,  
Greece: Abstract Book

20:30-22:30

**Athenian Early Evening Symposium (includes in order of appearance: continuous academic  
discussions, dinner, wine/water, music)**

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**Wednesday 8 May 2024  
An Educational Visit to Selected Islands  
or Mycenae Visit**

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**Thursday 9 May 2024  
Visiting the Oracle of Delphi**

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**Friday 10 May 2024  
Visiting the Ancient Corinth and Cape Sounion**



**Nicole Banton**

Assistant Professor, Stetson University, USA

## **The Birth Connection: An Examination of the Relationship Between Her Birth Event and Infant Feeding among African American Mothers**

There is an epidemic of maternal and infant death rising in plain sight in the United States. The maternal and infant mortality rate of Black/African-American mothers is three times that of White/ European Americans in the US. Current research indicates that breastfeeding lowers both. While African-American mothers had the highest breastfeeding rates through the start of the twentieth century, by its close of the century, their rates precipitously declined. Presently, they have the lowest rates of breastfeeding in the United States. In this paper, I examine how the ideas that Black/African American mothers had about breastfeeding before, during, and after pregnancy (postpartum) affected initiation and duration of breastfeeding. Also, I investigate how mothers' healthcare providers affect their decision making, as well as how the type of birth that a mother has, e.g. preterm, vaginal, c-section, full term, affects her actual versus idealized infant feeding practice. I present a discussion of how doctors, nurses, breast pumps, etc., affect breastfeeding practice and how the practice impacts mothers' beliefs about themselves as "good" mothers. In order to understand the interplay of the decision-making process and these constructs, I conducted a qualitative study in which I participated in face-to-face interviews with a diverse group of thirty African-American mothers. They ranged in age from 18 years-old to 50-years-old. At the time of her interview, each mother had at least one child who was three years old or younger. Through our discussions, we explored how pre-pregnancy perceptions, lived experiences as a mother, familial influences, and the discourses surrounding motherhood within an African-American context affected the perceptions and experiences that the mothers in the study had with their infant feeding practice(s). Findings suggest that pregnancy and birth experiences of the mothers in the study influenced whether or not they breastfed exclusively, combined breastfeeding and infant formula use or used infant formula exclusively. Specifically, the interplay of invocation of agency (the ability to control their bodies before, during, and after birth), birth outcomes and the interaction that the mothers in this study had with resources, human and material, had the highest on the initiation, duration, and attitude toward breastfeeding.

**Massimo Bianchi**

Former Full Professor, University of Bologna, Italy

## **De-industrialization and Management Sciences in Italy: The Shadow of Velleitarismo**

In last times some scholars pointed up on the parallel progress of de-industrialization process and of the crisis of managerial sciences in Italy. From one side, as authoritatively stated, the structure of strategic and advanced sectors of Italian Industry was disjointed and /or badly sold to companies of other countries moving to the international economy the control and the initiative of the national development.

At the other side it seems that the Sciences of Management developed in Italy, mainly represented by the Business Management (*Organizzazione Aziendale*), are struggling to keep up with the changes induced by the technological and soci-economic revolution. Furthermore, Management researchers must face the uncertainties resulting from the multiplication of inter, trans and poly disciplinary proposals to which the multi-disciplinarity, originally claimed by Business Management doctrine, no longer offer an adequate answer.

In this perspective, the eclecticism that emerges from the evolution of studies didn't reach an adequate and shared level of maturity to represent a stimulating and reliable paradigm of reference.

This leads to consider the actuality of researches conducted by Federico Caffè on eclecticism and *velleitarismo* (wishful or unrealistic thinking) in Economics referring to the second post war Italian period. Last studies suppose a similar behavior as it concerns the evolution of managerial studies facing the challenges of the fast-changing world in last decades.

In the paper we will use the term *velleitarismo* as linked to its first applying to the political analysis by Antonio Gramsci and to the next in-depth of Federico Caffè in the political economic field.

From this reasoning, the attempt is to apply this concept to the contemporary crisis of the industrialization and to the difficulties of managerial studies, a perspective that can be extended to the diminishing role of industry in Europe and in Western Countries.

**Iustina Alina Boitan**

Professor, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

&

**Wafaa Shabban**

PhD Student, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania

### **Sustainable, Values-Based Banking Model - Clustering Procedure for Assessing its Convergence Pattern across European Banks**

The paper subscribes to the strand of literature dedicated to sustainable banking, which represents a major shift from the conventional banking business model. At the core of the business mission and strategy lies the strong commitment of not only achieving profit but also long lasting, sustainable social and environmental impacts. The aim of the paper is to uncover whether financial institutions that have consolidated their mission, vision, environmental and societal involvement, as well as regular activity as a sustainable bank (and hence share the same active commitment on sustainable finance) follow a similar business model and strategy, and respectively display a resembling pattern of financial performance and exposure to risks. The classification of sustainable banks into homogenous groups is made by performing an unsupervised learning clustering algorithm called cluster analysis. The clustering is conducted for the most recent year with available data, by applying an agglomerative hierarchical method and defining a distance (proximity) measure and a linkage rule. The sample of banks included in the study consists of those European banks that have voluntarily joined the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV). To achieve this goal, we take into account several key financial indicators collected from their 2022 annual reports. In particular, financial performance is proxy by the ROE and ROA, operational efficiency is computed as cost to income ratio, the exposure to the liquidity risk is represented by the loan/deposit ratio, capital adequacy is represented by tier 1 ratio, while the balance sheet composition is reflected by the share of bank loans to total assets, the share of financial assets to total assets, the share of deposits to total assets. Findings will shed light on whether the business model adopted by GABV sustainable banks, rooted in the strong commitment for a values-based banking model with positive impact on local communities and environment, displays highly homogenous features or on the contrary there is dissimilarity in terms of the key indicators considered.

**Lucius Botes**

Professor, North-West University, South Africa

&

**Fortunate Ngomane**

PhD Student, University of South Africa, South Africa

## **The Gold Chain Gang: Socio-Economic and Political Implications of Illegal Gold Mining in Barberton, South Africa**

The primary objective of this research was to investigate the negative and positive impacts of illegal mining in Barberton, South Africa focusing on the three aspects: social, economic, and political.

The illegal mining sector has massive support in Barberton, with a series of associated social ills. In February 2016, the community of Lowscreen witnessed a heart-breaking collapse of Lily Mine, which trapped 3 mine employees (from then to date), leading to the closure of the operation and thousands losing their jobs. After the closure of the mine, poverty and unemployment levels increased. During the first three months of the Lily Mine closure, there was an increase in operational illegal shebeens and taverns, especially in Lowscreen and Louville, and an escalation in illegal mining activities.

Qualitative research methods were used, with one-on-one and focus-group interviews. Through snowball sampling, the researcher was able to interview several illegal mine operators and other mining-related stakeholders.

The research findings mostly revealed the negative socio-economic impacts of illegal mining. The findings also revealed how well-structured illegal mining businesses are currently managed on the ground, and how they recruit labour, security personnel and other top officials from both the private and public sector. Through interactions with the illegal miners, the research findings further reveal that not all illegal miners in mining communities are unskilled or semi-skilled. The illegal mining business is managed and controlled mostly by educated and unemployed mining graduates, mostly Zimbabweans, who have the technical know-how regarding gold processing, management accounting and shipping to black markets.

The research findings further show that illegal mining has the potential to change people's lives, and therefore discussions on the South African government's position to reshape the sector (illegal mining) through artisanal small-scale mining should be supported by the industry players, including mining communities. One

recommendation is that the government should find a way to get inputs from the illegal miners themselves. They have a solution to the nationwide unemployment challenges; however, if the government is serious about reducing illegal mining, it should reconsider and take a new at the stringent/bureaucratic, costly requirements and lengthy exercises required for small-scale mining permits or licences.

**Danijela Brecko**

Assistant Professor, MLC Management and Law College Ljubljana,  
Slovenia

**Preventing Mobbing in the Workplace by Making a Risk  
Assessment Analysis - Case Study**

European research shows that work-related mental health problems are becoming more common. Among the key factors of psychosocial risks that affect mental health and cause stress, we include in particular bullying, harassment and mistreatment at the workplace, physical and verbal violence, including threats of violence, as well as various forms of discrimination. All of the above factors are better known under the name of mobbing. The organization must therefore effectively manage psychosocial risks and prevent this type of behavior, as the negative consequences are not only reflected in the well-being and productivity of the affected worker, but also in the wider work environment and the efficiency of the organization.

The legislation also obliges the employer to provide a working environment that prohibits psychological and emotional violence or mistreatment in the workplace. Thus, Labor Relations Act (LRA) defines and prohibits mobbing in the workplace and provides measures to protect workers against dismissal due to actions aimed at enforcing the prohibition of mobbing. Also, the Act on Safety and Health at Work stipulates that the employer must take measures to prevent, eliminate and manage cases of violence, mobbing, harassment, as well as other forms of psychosocial risk at workplaces that may endanger the health of workers. In addition to LRA, civil servants are also specially protected by the Public Servants Act (PSA), which prohibits mobbing, and also by the special Regulation on measures to protect the dignity of employees in state administration bodies.

In this paper, we will present the case study where we measured the risk of mobbing in organization X. We found that the risk of mobbing is medium, and the causes of it are to be found in the dysfunctional organizational culture, poor organization of work, and low-quality management. Based on the implementation of the case study, we also created a sustainable model proposal for identifying and preventing mobbing in organizations.

We also analyzed the legal options for dealing with mobbing and examined recent cases of judicial practice in Slovenia in the field of mobbing in such a way that we highlighted more important cases from

2020 onwards and summarizes the main findings and direction of judicial practice.

**Meridith Burles**

Lecturer & Research Coordinator, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

**Using a Sociological Lens to Enhance Cultural Safety in Pediatric Healthcare: A Qualitative Study of Indigenous Family Caregivers' and Health Care Providers' Experiences**

While sociologists recognize various social determinants that shape health and well-being, access to healthcare remains a critical challenge in everyday life for some communities and populations. Persistent social inequities in many societies prevent adequate health management which can adversely impact infants, children, and youth, as well as their families. In particular, Indigenous peoples in Canada face ongoing social and health disparities resulting from the legacy of colonialism, creating a high level of health needs. However, despite the universal healthcare system in Canada, there are numerous barriers to healthcare that can impact access to appropriate and timely health services for Indigenous peoples and their families. Through a qualitative approach that drew upon sociological theory, and interpretive and Indigenous methodological principles, we explored the experiences of Indigenous families who required healthcare and support for a child with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness. As well, we examined the perspectives of healthcare providers involved in delivering health services to such families. The overall purpose of the research was to better understand participants' subjective experiences and identify strategies for enhancing cultural safety in pediatric healthcare and support services in one Canadian province.

In this presentation, themes arising from qualitative interviews and an arts-based project with Indigenous family caregivers of ill children, and focus groups and individual interviews with pediatric healthcare providers will be discussed. Additionally, strategies for facilitating improved communication, mutual understanding, and increased respect within pediatric healthcare and support will be outlined, as well as directions for broader institutional change. As such, the findings of this research reflect the value of a sociological lens for identifying macro-, meso-, and micro-level factors that problematize access to healthcare for populations facing marginalization, and contributing to inequity-responsive healthcare and support. We will also discuss future directions for research including opportunities for community engagement and interprovincial collaboration.



**Marian Carcary**

Assistant Professor, Mary Immaculate College, Ireland

## **Voluntary Organic Community Leadership - Development of a Holistic, Integrated Conceptual Framework**

Community represents one of the fundamental bases upon which modern society is built. The corner stone of community is not just the physical space the community occupies but the psychological bonds that bind people together. Individuals within communities often voluntarily self-organise and lead in an organic manner in response to adverse events or challenges. Such voluntary organic community leadership is a favoured leadership style in dynamic environments that call for innovative leadership responses and quick resolution to problems. It helps articulate common interests and promotes a sense of autonomy and agency in community decision-making; decision-making that is underpinned by collaborative endeavours, collective responsibility, networked reciprocity, and trust among people.

Community leadership is a distinct leadership style that involves a far greater focus on stimulating, enabling and empowering community members, as opposed to directing and controlling. It faces additional challenges to leadership in traditional organisational settings that have clearly defined boundaries and structures of positional power. Community leaders must grapple with understanding the boundaries of the domain which "*cuts across social fields*" and with fostering linkages among different groups. As opposed to formal authority, they must rely on networks, influence, and the development of relationships with individuals holding often multiple diverse points of view. Unequal power distribution and divergent political agendas are a reality of people with diverse interests working together. This calls for a type of leadership that is able to embrace challenges associated with independent ideologies, collaboration, interdependence, shared responsibility, diversity, inclusivity, and so on.

While the leadership literature reflects a wealth of 'general' leadership theories, models, and frameworks, it is acknowledged that many are agnostic of context. Some leadership research in more recent years has specifically focused on developing a greater understanding of community leadership. While previous research has improved understanding of various aspects of this domain, a more integrated, holistic view of voluntary, organic community leadership is needed. Through undertaking a systematic literature review and development of a concept matrix, this paper proposes a holistic, integrated

conceptual framework that draws together the various strands of previous community leadership research. In a society where community is likely to become more and more important, such a framework is important as context specific models of leadership are noted to result in more effective leadership outcomes.

**Marzia Coltri**

Lecturer, Arden University, UK

**Werner Uys**

Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, South Africa

&

**Kobus Joubert**

Senior Lecturer, University of South Africa, South Africa

### **Investing AI Ethics in Forensic Investigations: Development, Policies and Best Practices**

A dominant technological feature of today's world is the use of artificial intelligence (AI). It also affects the ethical use of technology by forensic accountants during forensic investigations. To ensure ethical integration of AI, a Code of Ethics policy will help in dealing with risks such as presenting AI-generated digital information as evidence in court. Ethical and human-centric arguments, including normative and informative considerations, will examine how a new global ethical policy and strategy should be formulated in this digital age. Forensic accountants must increasingly rely on ethical principles and conundrums to direct their use of AI because they are subject to the ethical standards set by their professional bodies. It is crucial to recognise the philosophical principles that guide ethical policymaking. As part of the Code of Ethics policy, forensic accountants are provided with effective strategies to deal with the ethical side of forensic investigations. Ultimately, it is important to assess the risks of using AI in forensic investigations and to determine whether this evidence will be admissible in a civil court. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a policy framework for the ethical use of AI. This framework should infuse compliance with the Code of Ethics for the use of AI by forensic accountants. A mechanism is added to the Code of Ethics policy to revise the framework as and when new technologies become available. In summary, an effective code of ethics policy answers the question if, how and to what extent AI use is ethically acceptable in forensic investigations. Finally, we may argue for introducing AI into forensic investigations and highlight the significance of using AI responsibly and ethically. Teaching and providing students with the tools to establish and implement ethical frameworks and regulations, as well as exploring the possible ethical implications and risks linked with AI in forensic investigations, may all contribute to this aim.

**Maryam Dilmaghani**

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**Hope Is Never Silent:  
Outness, Optimism about Future Life, and Future Financial  
Resiliency among Sexual and Gender Minorities of Canada**

There is ample evidence that individual expectations about the future life and finances, rather than being rationally formed, are refined through the emotional lenses of hope and optimism. As psychological traits, hope and optimism are subject to substantial individual variations. The role of identifying as a sexual or gender minority in explaining individual differences in hope and optimism traits has thus far been largely overlooked. However, as hope and optimism are shaped by past experiences, and sexual/gender minorities generally have less favorable past experiences, an association is very likely. Using a recently collected original dataset (N=+20,000) in Canada, the present study examines how sexual and gender identity associates with hopeful feelings, as well as optimism about future life and finances. At constant levels of current socioeconomic attainment, sexual and gender minorities are found markedly less hopeful than heterosexuals. Large gaps are also found by sexual/gender identity regarding optimism about future life and financial resiliency. Among sexual/gender minorities, lesbians have the largest gap in hopeful feelings and the lowest level of optimism about future financial resiliency, when compared with heterosexuals. The implications are discussed.

**Elitsa Dimitrova**

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**Gergana Nenova**

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&

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**Ethnic Differences in the Attitudes of the Young People in  
Bulgaria toward Gender Roles, Intimacy and Family  
Relationships: Evidence from a Youth Survey**

**Background:** The aim of the paper is to explore the differences in the attitudes of the young people from different ethnic communities in Bulgaria that reproduce or challenge the traditional gender-scripted role models in the intimate relationships and in the family and to outline the influence of the sociodemographic, social status differences and the effect of family background on these perceptions. Young people's perceptions about the gender roles are shaped by different "socializing agents" such as family, school, peers, social community and mass-media. The Turkish and Roma are the biggest minorities in Bulgaria, with a lower social-economic and educational status compared to the ethnic Bulgarians. Our preliminary hypothesis is that young people from Turkish and Roma minorities will approve of more traditional gender role models compared to the attitudes of the ethnic Bulgarian youth. Drawing on the theoretical framework of doing gender as phenomenon, emerging in the social interactions, we explore the variations of gender-scripted roles, measured by the statements related to the initiation of a romantic date by a woman, having multiple intimate partners and the importance of sex for a man or a woman, male/female infidelity and the acceptance of male/female homosexuality, the tolerance to violence and conflictual relationships between the intimate partners, the domestic division of tasks and gendered aspects of care for children and the household.

**Methods:** The analysis is based on data from a mixed-methods study, conducted in 2023/2024 in Bulgaria. It includes an online survey with young people at age 18-24 (N= 2 461, 49.6% women). In the present analysis we apply logistic regressions in order to study the association between various gender-scripted role models and gender, age, partnership status, education and economic status of the

respondents from the Bulgarian, Turkish and Roma community. We explore also the effect of characteristics related to the family background, measured by the place of residence the respondent lived in by the age of 14 and the structure of the family of origin (living with cohabiting or married parents and living in a single parent family).

**Results:** The results from the present analysis reveal that the young people in Bulgaria from the major ethnic groups experience important changes in their attitudes toward the gender roles in the sphere of the family and the intimate relationships. The absence of more pronounced significant gender differences shows a convergence and increasing gender neutrality in the attitudes of the young men and women.

The uncovered differences related to education, economic activity and marital status show that highly educated young people have more equal gender role attitudes. The effect of education and economic activity shows also that Roma youth with higher education and those involved in paid work change their attitudes toward gender roles, family relationships and intimacy in a less traditional and more egalitarian direction.

The family background related to the type of family the respondent grew up and the place of residence the respondents lived in before age of 14 reveals a significant differentiation in the attitudes about the gender roles, family relationships and intimacy. The traditional attitudes related with stronger gender stereotypes prevail among the young people from small residential areas (villages) and those belonging to ethnic minorities (Roma in particular). More gender neutral and egalitarian views are expressed by young people, originating from families of cohabiting parents. The young people from single parent families have more ambivalent attitudes toward the gender roles in the sphere of intimacy and in the family. The ethnic differences in the attitudes of the young people from the major ethnic groups in the country are less pronounced but still are present with respect to male/female infidelity and the gender role models in the care for children and the household.

**Conclusion:** The general conclusion is that young people in Bulgaria become more egalitarian in their attitudes about the gender roles in the family and in the sphere of intimacy and family relationships, which makes their view less differentiated in terms of gender, social status and family background. However, the accumulated social experience in terms of higher education and economic activity differentiates and reshapes the attitudes in a more gender neutral and gender egalitarian direction, esp. with respect to the role models of men and women in the family and the care for children.

In light of the paradigm of doing gender, these results highlight the interactional nature of the attitudes, related to the gender role models, which are (re)shaped by the social positioning and the accumulated personal experience of individuals.

**Carolina Facioni**

Research Assistant, Italian Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Italy

**What Constitutes a "Good" Forecast?  
The Indispensable Link between Futures Studies and  
Social Science Methodology**

The theoretical background of this work is an old controversy from the last century: the debate on scientific explanation. The debate began soon after the publication of the well-known 1948 article by Hempel and Oppenheim. Indeed, the debate never had a real conclusion. Nevertheless, a maybe still interesting topic directly involving the Future Studies discipline arose directly in the context of the debate on scientific explanation. That is, if a foresight could be considered an explanation in turn and vice versa. Starting from this, the aim of this work is to start a reflection on what makes a forecast something scientific - and what (probably) not. In particular, the work underlines the need for a strong link between Futures Studies and the methodology of social sciences.



**Torben Hansen**

Professor, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

## **The Interplay between Consumer Financial Trust and Interpersonal Trust**

Trust is widely recognized as a significant factor in establishing and sustaining effective financial customer-seller relationships. Trust goes beyond the confidence consumers place in individual financial companies; it also extends to the broader business context. This type of trust is most often referred to as general financial trust (GFT). Prior research has examined GFT in consumer markets through general or specific contextual approaches. This study contributes to business and consumer research by asserting that the role of GFT in customer-seller relationships varies based on national levels of interpersonal trust (IPT). Specifically, we argue that both the direct impact of GFT on relationship variables and its moderating effect on relations between customer relationship variables differ according to national IPT levels.

Rooted in relationship marketing and trust theories, our findings unveil that in national markets with low IPT (compared to high IPT), consumers are more inclined to view GFT as a direct influencer on anticipated outcomes (i.e., expectations) and perceived outcomes (i.e., quality, satisfaction). Conversely, consumers in low IPT markets are less likely to consider GFT as a contextual moderator affecting the relationships between expectations, quality, and satisfaction. Our study draws on surveys conducted with bank customers in Sweden (n=6,049) and Spain (n=1,450). Sweden, characterized by relatively high IPT (68.8% agreement with the statement 'most people can be trusted'), and Spain, marked by low IPT (19.0% agreement with the statement), serve as divergent national IPT markets in the study.

The findings of our study carry significant implications for both international financial service managers and financial authorities. Managers overseeing operations in countries with low IPT should be particularly attentive, as a declining level of GFT could exert a pronounced and direct negative impact on expectations and satisfaction. Conversely, in markets with higher IPT levels, managers may experience enhanced relationships between GFT, expectations and satisfaction, potentially benefiting from improved dynamics.

**Daniel Holman**

Lecturer, The University of Sheffield, UK

&

**Alan Walker**

Professor, The University of Sheffield, UK

## **Healthy Ageing through the Prism of Intersectionality: Integrating Intersectionality and the Life Course Perspective to Illuminate Complex Inequalities**

In recent years, the concept of intersectionality has gained prominence in the exploration of health inequalities, emphasising the complexity of social positions and identities, and the multifaceted discrimination individuals may face. This approach challenges the traditional analysis of social axes of inequality—such as age, gender, ethnicity, and socio-economic status—in isolation, advocating instead for a recognition of the interconnected nature of these characteristics. Despite its rising importance, the intersectionality discourse has largely overlooked the dynamics of ageing and the intricate patterns of life experienced over time. Similarly, studies of ageing have been slow to integrate the rich insights offered by intersectionality.

This paper proposes a synthesis of intersectionality with a life course perspective to shed light on the nuances of ageing inequities, particularly in health contexts. We begin with an examination of intersectionality's utility in researching inequality, exploring the roles of intersectional subgroups, discrimination mechanisms, categorisation processes, and the diversity inherent in individual experiences. We examine different analytical strategies, including the application of interaction terms in standard models and the deployment of multilevel models that have set a new 'gold standard' in identifying complex differences among different subgroups. By initiating a conceptual dialogue with the life course perspective, we explore several key notions: social roles, life stages, transitions, age and cohort effects, the accumulation of advantages or disadvantages, and the trajectories individuals follow throughout their lives. We argue that merging intersectionality with life course analysis opens up innovative avenues for understanding the complexities of ageing and the associated health inequalities. This synthesis not only enriches our theoretical frameworks but also promises to enhance the practical approaches to addressing health inequalities across the life course.

Building upon these theoretical foundations, this paper will also demonstrate the practical application of the proposed framework

through empirical examples drawn from recent research projects. These projects, both empirical and methodological in nature, serve as illustrative case studies for how intersectionality, when combined with a life course perspective, can be operationalised to uncover deeper insights into health inequalities experienced in ageing populations.

Ultimately, this paper emphasises the transformative potential of combining intersectionality with the life course perspective, not just in conceptual terms, but as a powerful empirical tool for dissecting and addressing the multifaceted nature of health inequalities in ageing societies.

**Ian Hyslop**

Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, New Zealand

**Sociological Insight and Political Limitations:  
Pushing the Contemporary Boundaries of Anglophone  
Social Work**

Social work is, perhaps inevitably, enmeshed with the power relations that structure liberal capitalist states. These relations shape both the function of social work and the boundaries of legitimate dissent. Despite the political ideology of economic and social opportunity associated with liberal societies, capitalist states inevitably generate inequality due to the exploitative relationship between capital and labour. Although professional social work associations routinely claim a commitment to human rights and social justice, historical and contemporary practice is far less benign. Arguably social work has done as much, perhaps more, harm than it has done good over time. The role of social work is generally focused on resocialising failing individuals rather than changing the structural conditions which reproduce poor social outcomes. More than this social work can be connected with classed and raced practices of state care, supported by overt and covert eugenic ideology. Abolitionist scholarship, particularly in the U.S, and particularly in the child protection arena, links social work with the carceral state. In Aotearoa / New Zealand we have our own punitive history in relation to coloniality, assimilation and state care. Much of this discriminatory practice was performed under the umbrella of supposedly enlightened Welfare State. This presentation explores the implications of this analysis for the future of social work as a form of applied sociology. Given its location within the liberal political state, can social work ever be a significant force in the development of a more socially just society. What conditions are necessary for social work to become a more significant force for social justice? This issue is explored with specific reference to the question of decolonising practices in Aotearoa / New Zealand. Social work is not a free-floating activity. It is mired in relations of power. However, to understand this is not that the same as accepting the inevitability of exploitative capitalist social relations and of the institutions which uphold the status quo. Is there, for example, potential to form genuine partnerships with resistance communities – such as Indigenous Collectives. Against a backdrop of troubled times and right wing populism globally, what are the limits and possibilities for a social work focussed on socially just processes and outcomes.

**Helena Kubatova**

Associate Professor, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic  
&

**Jitka Zehnalova**

Assistant Professor, Palacký University Olomouc, Czech Republic

## **Situation Analysis as a Method of Investigating the Production System of Literary Translation**

The paper is based on our long-term research on literary translation from English into Czech in terms of its historical conditions, translation norms, translator's subjectivity, book market conditions and interdisciplinarity (Zehnalová and Kubátová 2019; 2022a; 2022b). As we are concerned with including a wide range of actors involved in the production of translations, the production system of literary translation is the focus of our research.

Our contribution will concern the qualitative methodology of analysing the Czech production system of literary translation. The aim is to show how we apply situational analysis. Situational analysis was developed by Adele Clarke, who states that in situational analysis, the researcher's primary focus is on the situation under study, with the situation encompassing all elements of the situation and especially the diverse relationships between these elements. Thus, the key unit of analysis is the broadly conceived empirically constructed research situation. The method consists of (1) creating four kinds of maps and (2) writing notes on the analyses. Each map analyses the research situation from a different perspective (Clarke 2022).

We use semi-structured interviews to collect data from key actors in the production system (publishers, editors, distributors, translators, literary agents, booksellers, etc.). To construct a sample of actors for interviews, we constructed a Messy Situational Map. This is a map of the expected elements that enter the research situation. By constructing this map, we verbalized our research pre-conceptions (which we obtained by studying different materials, literature, from previous research on translation norms, etc.). Using the Messy Situational Map, we thus created a range of possible elements of the situation.

Our paper is mainly focused on constructing a sample of actors and creating interview guide. The sample of actors was constructed gradually during the process of data collection, analysis and interpretation as we selected the actors we interviewed from the Messy Situational Map. Very soon, the interviews led us to actors and links that were not part of the original Messy Situational Map. Thus, as data

collection progressed, we added more elements to the map. Relationships between elements began to emerge, and thus the Messy Situational Map became ordered. The Ordered Situational Map and Relational Maps concretize the object of research (define the research situation), help in formulating themes for semi-structured interviews, and prepare the background for the creation of a Social Worlds/Arenas Maps, which are used to delve into the social world of the actors in a given situation.

**Stavroula Kyriakakis**

Associate Professor, Adelphi University, USA

**Safe Qualitative Interviewing Techniques in Research with At-Risk, Oppressed and Historically Marginalized Communities: Applying Trauma Informed Social Work Practice Skills and Knowledge Working with Survivors of Gender-Based Violence to Research**

Motivated by the profession's central commitment to promoting social justice, social work research elucidates the experiences, as well as the policy and social service needs of oppressed and historically marginalized communities. This includes migrant communities fleeing impoverished conditions, political persecution and discrimination. Nevertheless, sociologists, psychologists and other social science researchers are conducting research with many of these same communities who, due to conditions of oppression and limited access to power and resources, are at increased exposure to violence and exploitation. Consequently, social science researchers must be prepared to encounter participants that have survived trauma and may be experiencing post-traumatic stress responses, depression, suicidality and psychosis. Social workers possess skills developed in their practice with these same communities which can be applied to conducting in-depth research interviews in a manner that is safe, trauma informed, and honors the autonomy, expertise and dignity of the participants. The presenter has extensive social work practice experience in New York assisting immigrant and refugee survivors of domestic violence, and successfully lead feminist, decolonized research with immigrant and multiply marginalized communities in the United States and in the Caribbean. This research methods presentation on qualitative interviewing introduces trauma informed practice principles used in providing treatment and services to survivors of trauma, and applies them to conducting in-depth research interviews with historically oppressed and marginalized communities.

The introduction of the presentation specifies the similarities and differences between clinical assessments typically conducted in a social work practice setting and in-depth qualitative research interviews. The principles of trauma informed practice are then described, a main tenet of which is an attention of the role of power and agency embedded within the socio-cultural and economic context. Methodological guidelines for recruitment and in-depth interviewing are then detailed. Starting from the design phase of the study, the researcher must

become thoroughly familiar with the socio-political context of the study location and life conditions of the participants, including a deep understanding of likely study participants' needs and risks for exposure to violence. With attention the experience of trauma and associated symptoms, and an awareness of the risk for exploitation inherent to research interviews, specific qualitative interviewing techniques that provide study participants with control over the interview conditions and information they share are presented alongside case examples.

The distinction provided between clinical and research interviewing, description of a trauma informed framework, and interviewing techniques contained in this presentation are useful to social workers and psychologists tasked with conducting qualitative research interviews. Moreover, the presentation content provides critical interviewing guidance for sociology researchers to safely conduct research with historically marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities that are at increased risk for exposure to violence and exploitation.



**Paul Lewis**

Professor & Director of the Center for International Law, University of  
Illinois Chicago, USA

## **Ethics and Economics in Litigation Funding: A Comparative Perspective**

This paper examines an interesting pattern in global investment, namely the ever-growing global investment in high-revenue litigation. While this third-party funding of commercial litigation as an investment vehicle has been well-established in certain jurisdictions, its use is reaching new areas both globally and in terms of substantive areas of litigation.

The particular focus of the paper is on the rapidly growing use of global investment in the context of insolvency. The use of investment in this context first took hold in Australia roughly a decade ago. It subsequently expanded to the United Kingdom and is now in the process of growing exponentially in a number of other parts of the world, including South Africa, Canada, much of Western Europe, and perhaps most notably, in the United States. The paper examines investment in insolvency litigation with a comparative lens, looking at the distinct issues of such investment globally. While there is little doubt that its use provides benefits in allowing for increase assets available for creditor distribution by funding otherwise unavailable litigation, employing third party investment as a means of funding insolvency litigation also comes with a host of legal, ethical, and financial concerns.

The emphasis of the paper is on the process of judicial decision-making upon requests for authorization of third-party funding in the insolvency context. In particular, the paper will examine the incentives of all of the parties, the potential significant externalization of costs, and the imbalance between the incentives of the decision-makers and those who are likely to suffer the costs in the event of adverse consequences.

Judges have begun to routinely authorize such requests for funding. This paper will contend that in doing so, judges are routinely overlooking serious economic concerns and are not fully considering the interests of all relevant parties. These issues will be examined through a comparative framework, with an examination of the development and growth of this form of investment primarily in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**Assaf Meydani**

Professor, The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel

## **Human Rights between Non-governability and Political Culture – A New Paradigm in Human Rights Analysis**

This article calls for a new paradigm in human rights analysis focusing on a new definition of human rights as a collection of practices in the policy areas of the right by analyzing the politics and strategies of defending human rights within social and political context. To do so, it integrates the tools of social choice theory with a unique institutionalist perspective that looks at both formal and informal, and local and international factors. The analysis is novel in two important aspects. based on institutional theory and social choice we develop a theory that explains the political as well cultural aspects of human rights policies in general as well as the functions of several players in the political arena, particularly politicians, bureaucrats, interest groups and the public. These political players operate amid three structural variables. The first is *non-governability*, the inability of the political system to formulate and implement systematic policy plans. Non-governability arises in an environment with a sectarian electoral system that is restricted to a particular group and a traditional public management system that is not oriented towards outcomes and efficiency. The second characteristic is a *political culture* that serves long term calculation over the short term. In its extreme form, this culture gives rise to alternative politics, a semi-legal pattern of do-it-yourself behavior that favors outcomes over process. The third characteristic is the *judicialization of politics*, the situation in which the legal system partially replaces the other authorities in a state. Our analysis also explains the processes through which Israel is struggling to promote human rights within a specific institutional environment in general, thus determining the scope of human rights in particular. From this twofold analysis we draw conclusions about the future of Israeli democracy and its attitude towards human rights.

**Giorgi Mikeladze**

Lecturer, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia

## **Estimation Households' Income and Expenditure by Small Area Unit (Case of Georgia)**

The aim of the paper was to estimate models of living conditions statistics (such as households' incomes and expenditures) at a granular level, specifically focusing on Small Area estimations using Georgia as a case study. The importance of this research stems from the limitations posed by small sample sizes in statistical surveys, restricting the representativeness of data to either the national level or, occasionally, at the regional level.

The research aimed to assess Georgia's living condition indicators (incomes and expenditures) at the municipal or district level. This involved utilizing data from statistical surveys such as the 2014 General Population Census and Households Incomes and Expenditures Survey. Employing econometric methods like the Small Area Estimation approach, the goal was to empirically evaluate economic indicators at the municipal or district level and visually represent the findings on a map of Georgia. This mapping exercise was crucial for conducting economic-geographical analyses.

Within the research framework, regression analysis and established Small Area Estimation (SAE) methods were employed. The research necessitated restructuring statistical databases, establishing a unified classification system, and conducting methodological grouping based on specific factor values/categories. To construct empirical models, various statistical techniques were utilized including data aggregation, calculation of statistical weights, derivation of weighted values, and imputation of missing data. In the empirical research phase, there were actions like collapsing strata within the statistical databases which included merging two municipalities. Evaluation of empirical models involved using the least squares method and limited maximum likelihood method. Additionally, the stepwise method of adding variables was applied to select statistically significant and uncorrelated variables from numerous factor variables. Adjustments were made to the values of estimated outliers derived from empirical realization, along with their associated statistical weights. Furthermore, a comparison was carried out between estimated household-level incomes and expenditures, aiming to eliminate significant differences (exceeding 500 GEL).

Within the research's scope, average monthly estimates for Georgian households' incomes and expenditures have been computed using three distinct methods. The research outcomes not only furnish insights into household finances but also offer avenues for further quantitative and qualitative investigations. They facilitate a deeper exploration of economic policies and leverage interactive geo-information maps developed as part of the project. This comprehensive dataset provides a foundation for additional research and nuanced policy analysis.

**E. Wairimu Mwangi**

Chair and Assistant Professor, Trinity Washington University, USA

&

**Daniel Sarpong**

Executive Director, Office of Health Equity Research; Senior Research  
Scientist, Yale School of Medicine, USA

## **Food Insecurity and Other Correlates of Individual Components of Metabolic Syndrome in Women Living with HIV (WLWH) in the United States**

**Background:** Access to effective antiretroviral therapy in the United States has resulted in a rise in longevity in people living with HIV (PLHIV). Despite the progress, women living with HIV (WLWH) experience increasing rates of cardiometabolic disorders compared with their HIV-negative counterparts. Studies focusing on the predictors of metabolic disorders in this population have primarily focused on the composite measure of metabolic syndrome (METs). This study seeks to identify the predictors of composite and individual METs factors in a nationally representative sample of WLWH. In particular, the study also examines the role of food security in predicting METs.

**Methods:** The study comprised 1800 women, a subset of participants from the Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS). The primary exposure variable, food security, was measured using the U.S. 10-item Household Food Security Survey Module. The outcome measures are the five metabolic syndrome indicators (elevated blood pressure [systolic BP > 130 mmHg and diastolic BP ≥ 85 mmHg], elevated fasting glucose [≥ 110 mg/dL], elevated fasting triglyceride [≥ 150 mg/dL], reduced HDL cholesterol [< 50 mg/dL], and waist circumference > 88 cm) and the composite measure - Metabolic Syndrome (METs) Status. Each metabolic syndrome indicator was coded one if yes and 0 otherwise. The values of the five indicators were summed, and participants with a total score of 3 or greater were classified as having metabolic syndrome. Participants classified as having metabolic syndrome were assigned a code of 1 and 0 otherwise for analysis. The covariates accounted for in this study fell into sociodemographic factors and behavioral and health characteristics.

**Results:** The participants' mean (SD) age was 47.1 (9.1) years, with 71.4% Blacks and 10.9% Whites. About a third (33.1%) had less than a high school (HS) diploma, 60.4% were married, 32.8% were employed, and 53.7% were low-income. The prevalence of worst dietary diversity, low, moderate, and high food security were 24.1%, 26.6%, 17.0%, and

56.4%, respectively. The correlate profile of the five individual METs factors plus the composite measure of METs differ significantly, with METs based on HDL having the most correlates (Age, Education, Drinking Status, Low Income, Body Mass Index, and Health Perception). Additionally, metabolic syndrome based on waist circumference was the only metabolic factor where food security was significantly correlated (Food Security, Age, and Body Mass Index). Age was a significant predictor of all five individual METs factors plus the composite METs measure. Except for METs based on Fasting Triglycerides, body mass index (BMI) was a significant correlate of the various measures of metabolic syndrome.

**Conclusion:** HDL cholesterol was significantly correlated with most predictors, while BMI was a significant predictor of all METs factors except fasting triglycerides. Food insecurity, the primary predictor, was only significantly associated with waist circumference. These findings provide insights into identifying predictors of individual metabolic syndrome factors in WLWH and addressing food security in managing metabolic syndrome in this population.

**Emmanuel Nartey**  
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## **Corporate Human Rights Abuses and Environmental Damage: Towards a Comprehensive Remedy Framework**

In contemporary legal discourse, addressing remedies for corporate human rights abuses and environmental damage has become increasingly paramount. This study delves deeply into the foundational principles of tort law to explore the concept of remedy, with a particular focus on the application of the "Eggshell Skull Rule" in cases involving human rights violations and environmental harm perpetrated by corporations. By drawing upon established legal precedents and scholarly analyses, the study proposes a systematic three-step approach for determining liability in such cases, with a central emphasis on restoring victims to their pre-violation state. Furthermore, the study meticulously examines the nuances of judicial remedies, underscoring the pivotal role of aggravated and exemplary damages in cases of corporate wrongdoing. It asserts that these forms of damages serve not only compensatory but also punitive and deterrent functions, essential for addressing the deliberate or negligent actions of corporations that result in harm to individuals and the environment. Through a thorough analysis of case law and legal principles, the study advocates for the application of exemplary damages as a potent means of punishing corporate misconduct and deterring future transgressions. Moreover, the study navigates the complexities inherent in applying the "*Rookes v Barnard Categories*" to corporate wrongdoing, stressing the need for a nuanced approach that accounts for the defendant's conduct's oppressive, arbitrary, or profit-driven nature. Additionally, it engages with the challenges and controversies surrounding the use of exemplary damages, evaluating arguments both for and against their application in civil proceedings. This study contributes significantly to the ongoing discourse on remedies for corporate human rights abuses and environmental damage, offering valuable insights into the legal principles and considerations guiding the determination of liability and the awarding of damages in such cases. By advocating for a comprehensive remedy framework encompassing both compensatory and punitive elements, the study endeavours to uphold accountability and justice in the face of corporate misconduct.

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## **Are Human Rights a Luxury or a Normal Good?**

One of the most controversial and thorny issues in international politics is the issue of human rights violations. Governments are criticized for consistently and willingly violating human rights. This approach assumes that governments have the option to violate or respect human rights. However, many governments may face a different dilemma, namely the eradication of poverty or a war that threatens their existence as a nation. Thus, governments should not be judged solely on their human rights record but also on their performance in reducing the number of their citizens who live below the poverty threshold. As rightly pointed out by the UNDP (2023), "poverty is a denial of human rights". All other indicators may be considered as luxury goods that will be pursued only when a country reaches a certain level of economic development (income per capita). The aim of this paper is to investigate the association between human rights indicators and per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to examine whether human rights, deemed a commodity, can be considered a luxury good, a normal good, or a necessity. It is found in this paper that the income elasticity of human rights is positive but less than one and at very high levels of income, close to zero, indicating that the commodity human rights is a necessity. Based on this evidence, countries are classified according to whether, given their per capita income, their human rights record aligns with expectations. The evidence identifies overperforming and underperforming countries.



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**The Contours of a Blue Economy Strategy in ASEAN**

Oceans cover over 70% of the earth's surface, they are a major and growing source of food security, energy generation, biotechnology, and provide the largest carbon sink on the planet, with a potential that is expected to grow rapidly in the decades ahead. The Blue Economy calls for carrying out all economic activity relating to oceans, seas and coasts, ranging from traditional activities such as fishing, coastal tourism, to ports and coastal development, to new and emerging sectors such as offshore wind energy, aquaculture, marine biotechnology and deep-sea mining, in a sustainable manner that would allow future generations to draw upon these vast resources. It can be envisaged as a state in which oceans will be part of a net-zero ecosystem.

Southeast Asia is home to vast tracts of marine resources. Within the ten ASEAN member states, about 200 million people depend on the ocean for their livelihoods. The territorial waters of ASEAN cover three times the size of its constituent members' aggregate landmass. They are home to the two largest archipelagic regions of the world – Indonesia and the Philippines. Collectively southeast Asian states derive a huge portion of their GDP from fishing (local and high seas) and tourism. Tourism, the fastest growing industry in many ASEAN countries, is dependent on clean air, clean water, and healthy coasts. The region hosts over 2,000 species of fish, six of the seven species of sea turtles, accounts for 15% of the world's fish production, 33% of seagrass beds, 34% of coral reef cover, and 35% of mangrove acreage. Of the global population working in fisheries, aquaculture, or seafood processing, 84% reside in Asia.

Unfortunately, the health of the marine economy risks going into secular decline. Just 2.3% of the region's vast maritime territory is managed as protected areas – which makes it challenging to prevent further decline in the health of critical ocean resources. Oceans have been among the most neglected and abused parts of the planet, with mass dumping of organic and inorganic waste, overfishing to the point where fishing stocks are rapidly depleted to the point of extinction for many species. This paper addresses the distinct challenges faced by ASEAN as it endeavours to tap marine resources sustainably. The health of the blue economy needs to be viewed as a public good that can be addressed only with cross-border collaboration. What are the soft infrastructure demands and governance challenges that such an

approach would entail. It suggests an approach that aligns regional and national approaches with measurable outcomes offering the most viable option towards achieving a Blue Economy. Governance of the oceans has been ad hoc, beyond the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) and some sectoral and national strategies, little attention paid regulation and norms governing use of the seas. Any attempts at addressing the challenges confronting the seas requires a cross-border approach with close collaboration. The Blue Economy entails sustainable use of ocean resources, encompasses traditional activities such as ports, fishing, coastal tourism, aquaculture to frontier technologies including power generation, carbon sequestration, to seabed mining, marine biotechnology for current and future generations.

11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Business, Law & Economics, 6-9 May 2024, Athens,  
Greece: Abstract Book

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**The Constitutional Role of Human Dignity in Promoting  
Ethical Outcomes in the Law**

NOT AVAILABLE

**Rama Seth**

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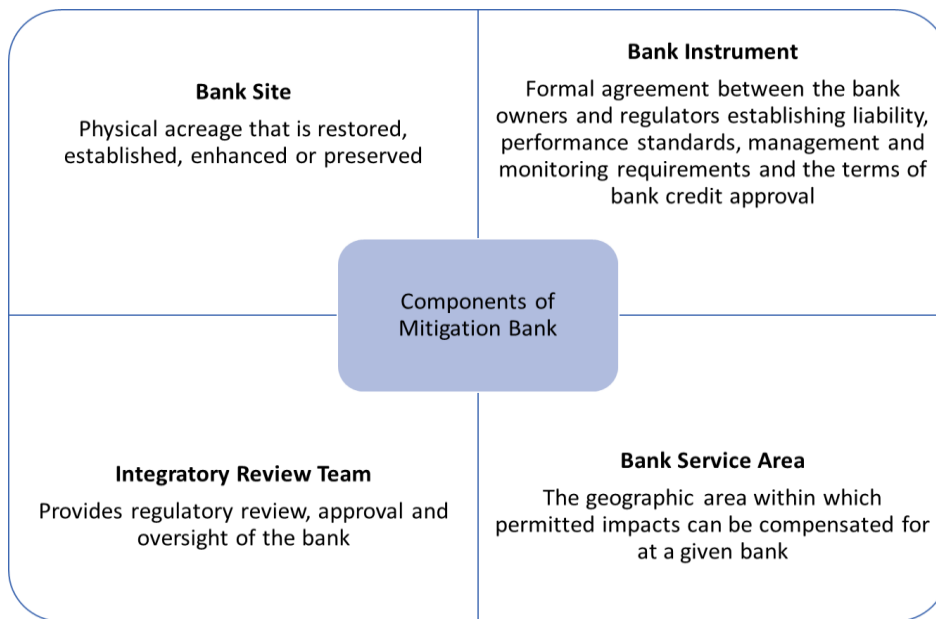
## **Wetland Coin: An Innovative Approach for Pricing Wetland Mitigation Credits**

Nature-based solutions, including wetland restoration, are gaining attention worldwide to mitigate climate change and protect biodiversity. The United States and Germany have mature mitigation credit banking models, and wetland mitigation banking is relatively new in Latin American countries. While wetland mitigation banking is more commonly associated with development impacts, it is also relevant for agriculture in LAC. Conservation compliance provisions, often known as Swampbuster, discourage agricultural production on converted wetlands. In situations where on-site mitigation is challenging, the Farm Bill allows for off-site mitigation through mitigation banking.

The concept of mitigation banking has been the most accepted and prevalent method since the onset of the millennium for compensating for ecological losses of wetlands due to various development projects. Mitigation banking policy establishes large sites for restoration and creation of wetlands even before future development, and thus is successful in arresting the continuous loss of wetlands. Mitigation banking has proven to be more effective than site-specific mitigation for fulfilling compensatory mitigation requirements. Federal agencies have established regulations regarding mitigation banking to ensure that compensatory wetlands provide equivalent ecological functions to destroyed wetlands. However, the wetland mitigation market is still rife with imperfections, especially in pricing wetland mitigation credits. This paper offers a decentralized currency framework using energy analysis and remote sensing methods to address the ambiguity in pricing. It uses an innovative methodology to find the present ecological value of the wetland mitigation bank without the need for historical price information. The lack of historical price data generally leads to inaccuracies in predicting future supply and demand, making it impossible to use standard valuation techniques.

In this paper, we will first describe the financing of restoration, creation, enhancement and preservation of the wetlands by making developers compensate for the loss of wetlands losses in advance of development. Using the Components of a wetland mitigation bank shown below we will propose an Innovative approach for pricing wetland mitigation credits: the Wetland coin.

**Figure 1.** *Components of a Wetland Mitigation Bank*



We also propose developing mathematical formulations to impart a more concrete understanding of our framework and the need to conceptualize the smart auction market. We then expect to compare how this model might be better than the current pricing mechanisms. Ultimately, we also need to identify shortcomings and regulatory constraints that may affect this mechanism.

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## **Robot Judges and the Rule of Law**

The last two decades have witnessed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the application and administration of law in an increasing number of legal systems. Examples of such AI use include algorithms for predicting recidivism in the US criminal justice, a decision support system for judgments on pension applications in Mexico, and advise/alert programs for judges in some Chinese courts. In the burgeoning literature, views on possible robot judges are divided: some authors claim that robots should serve as chief justice when a board of human judges considers them to be on a par with the average judge; others assert that recidivism-predicting algorithms violate fairness; still others provide nuanced assessments by mentioning both pros and cons. The rule of law, which is admittedly a bedrock principle of any modern legal system, seems to provide an indispensable litmus in assessing the soundness of adjudicative robots. Nevertheless, few studies to date have been made on the question of how to assess adjudicating machines from the perspective of the rule of law. Among such exceptional studies, the blanket argument that John Tasioulas presents against artificial judges, invoking a thin conception of the rule of law, deserves scrutiny. Despite the significance his fundamental and far-reaching argument would have if it were well-founded, no attempts to examine it have been done.

To fill this gap in the literature, this paper scrutinizes Tasioulas's objection to robot judges by conducting a few thought experiments. I begin with a distinction between thin and thick conceptions of the rule of law: a thin conception focuses on formal and procedural requirements, including consistency, generality, prospectivity, and publicity; in contrast, a thick conception incorporates substantive elements, such as democracy and human rights, into this concept's scope. After sketching both camps, I explain why the former is more plausible than the latter. Next, I summarize Tasioulas's view, self-proclaimed to rely on a thin conception of the rule of law. He argues that, while the rule of law thinly interpreted can enhance citizens' rational autonomy through explainability, answerability, and reciprocity, AI judges undermines the three routes. Then, it is demonstrated that Tasioulas's argument leads to a misguided reading of the rule of law, displaying two serious drawbacks. The paper concludes by noting the significance of the rule of law in assessing the soundness of possible AI adjudicators.

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## **Health Outcomes of Risk of Automation at Work: Evidence from Germany**

Automation is transforming work at a rapid pace, and its significance goes far beyond labor and labor markets. However, little is known about its socio-economic consequences. This study contributes to the scarce literature on sociodemographic outcomes of technological change by investigating the impact of risk of automation at work on subjective and objective health measures of German employees.

We exploit the longitudinal structure of the German Socio-Economic Panel (GSOEP) (2013-2018) and merge it with occupational information from the expert database BERUFENET of the Federal Employment Agency (Grienberger et al., 2022). Our main explanatory variable - risk of automation - follows the task-based approach of Autor et al. (2003) and builds on the distribution of different tasks within occupations. We define occupations with less than 30 percent of routine tasks as having a low risk of automation, occupations with 30-69 percent of routine tasks have a medium risk of automation, and occupations with at least 70 percent of routine tasks are considered to have a high risk (Dengler and Matthes, 2015). We estimate fixed effects regressions in order to assess gender-specific differences in self-reported health, anxiety (frequency of being worried in the last month) and healthcare use (visiting a doctor in the last three months) among the workers employed in occupations with the medium and high risk of automation and those dealing with the low risk. Along with our main specification, we also estimate random effects, pooled models, conditional fixed-effects logit, and (dynamic) correlated random effects probit (the so-called Mundlack correction).

Our findings indicate that both men and women employed in occupations with the high risk of automation tend to be worse off in terms of self-reported health and anxiety than their counterparts employed in occupations with the low risk. No significant effect of risk of automation on healthcare use is found in both gender groups. These findings are consistent across model specifications. In addition, we

stratify our sample by the region of settlement (West vs East Germany), respondent's migration background and some important work-related characteristics (i.e., sector of employment, company's size, type of the working contract, and type of employment with respect to working hours). Although our findings from the sensitivity analysis are mostly in line with the main results, some heterogeneity in effects is observed among the compared groups.

Overall, the results of this study highlight potential threats of automation to health and the need for policy measures which might prevent its negative spill-over effects.



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## **Social Integration of China's Internal Migrants into Urban Communities**

China's ongoing urbanization process has been bringing massive influx of internal migrants into urban area, which makes the social integration of urban migrants an important issue. The hukou system assigns Chinese citizens specific legal status which relates to substantial aspects of migrants' lives in host cities. This kind of institutional barriers that internal migrants faced in China connects them to international migrants on the experience of integration into the host societies. This study explores the relationship between hukou status and China's internal migrants' social integration into urban communities.

Existing empirical literature mostly relies on cross-sectional data which fails to measure the impact of acquiring local hukou on social integration and cannot exclude the influence of unobserved factors. Furthermore, the prevalent practice of using hukou as the criterion for determining migrant status can hardly distinguish hukou's effect from other variables affecting social integration.

To respond to these limitations, this article adopts a comprehensive mixed-methods approach. Preliminary quantitative analyses utilize panel datasets from the Chinese Labor Dynamics Survey 2012~2018. The random effects analysis suggests a positive correlation between local hukou status and social integration. However, a subsequent fixed-effects analysis shows the absence of a causal relationship between hukou and social integration, which means the link between the two might be an indirect one.

The followed up qualitative analysis, based on data from interviews conducted in Shanghai, delves into the mechanism of this indirect relationship. Findings indicate that hukou may indirectly influence migrants' social integration through variables such as the intention to integrate, children's education, discrimination and exclusion experiences, and institutional uncertainty brought by migrants' non-local hukou status.

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**Regulation of National Space Resource Activities: China as  
a Case Study**

Development of an International Framework on Space Resource Activities-2019, this research provides an in-depth analysis of the concepts of the celestial body, space resources, space resources activities, and categorization of space resources. Moreover, a case study of space resource activities in China is adopted combined with the comparisons between China and the USA, and China and Russia, in an attempt to review the current situation regarding Chinese space resource activities and explore whether it is possible to develop a regulatory model for regulation of space resource activities. Apart from that, this research provides a careful review of current international laws and China's municipal laws addressing space resource activities and their limitation. Based on the above discussions, this research at the end provides some proposals for formulating a regulatory model for China, which can be one of the possible regulatory models for other countries to follow.

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## **The Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility: Empirical Evidence from France**

The current study aims to analyze how the corporate social responsibility committee (CSRC) could influence corporate social performance. We focus on specific areas of corporate social responsibility (hereafter CSR), namely the protection of human rights, and the environment and enhancing business ethics, community involvement, corporate governance, and workplace conditions. The paper is drawn on firms listed on the SBF120 index<sup>1</sup> between 2003 and 2018.

We provide the following findings. First, establishing CSR committees enhances social performance through specific vehicles, such as increasing the business involvement in ecological and social projects protecting human rights. Second, several CSRC characteristics have more pronounced effects than others on CSR performances. For instance, all CSR dimensions are positively associated with directors' assiduity and negatively related to the CEO membership in CSRC. The chair membership, however, drives better CSR performance: it is positively associated with employees' well-being, business ethics, and governance quality. In the same vein, gender diverse CSRCs are more concerned about the environment, human rights, and corporate governance. CSRC functioning, specially meeting frequency increases human resources and business ethics. We show a positive association between board chair membership and human resources, business ethics, and corporate governance is also identified. These results are robust in high CSR-sensitive industries.

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<sup>1</sup>The SBF120 index consists of the 120 largest capitalizations listed on the French Stock Exchange market (SBF: Société des Bourses Françaises).

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