

European Accounting Review

Editor's report on the year 2020

Beatriz García Osma, April 15, 2020

Foreword to the report. This annual report presents the summary statistics on the operations of *European Accounting Review* in 2020, together with the commentary from Beatriz Garcia Osma, who is the editor at the time of preparing it.

Editor's report on the year 2020

Since 2012, this report is published (after approval by the Publications Committee) on the EAA website in a continued effort to increase the transparency of the editorial process. I hope that the report provides insights to *EAR* authors, reviewers, and readers about how the editorial team has discharged its responsibilities. To increase transparency about the length of time manuscripts are in process, key editorial statistics are reported in the print edition of the fourth issue of the journal in 2021, and also on the website of Taylor & Francis.

I. The 2020 volume (Vol. 29)

In 2020 five issues were produced.¹ As pursued, during 2020 the issues of the journal were published within schedule and included:

- 7 articles in the Special Section on Textual analysis research in accounting (Guest Editors: Reuven Lehavy and Florin Vasvari)
- 30 other regular articles

This represents a total of 37 articles (37 articles in 2019).

II. Editorial policy

During 2020 the journal faithfully continued to implement its aims and scope as defined in 2000, and modified in 2017 to strengthen the international scope of the journal (main change underlined). It is:

“European Accounting Review (EAR) is an international scholarly journal of the European Accounting Association (EAA). Devoted to the advancement of accounting knowledge, EAR provides a forum for the publication of high-quality accounting research manuscripts. The journal acknowledges its European origins and the variety of the European accounting research community. Conscious of these origins, European Accounting Review emphasizes openness and flexibility, not only regarding the substantive issues of accounting research, but also with respect to paradigms, methodologies, and styles of conducting that research. EAR is global in scope and welcomes submissions relating to any country or region as long as their relevance to an international audience is clearly communicated.”

Building on this diversity, *EAR* is committed to publishing insightful and rigorous papers that contribute substantially to advance our knowledge of accounting.

With an internationally renowned editorial team and outstanding contributors, European Accounting Review is a leading forum for the development of accounting theory and practice.”

¹ Following the Publisher and Editor's recommendations, the Publications Committee and the Management Committee have approved the increase of the number of issues per year from four to five, beginning in 2018.

In 2020, *European Accounting Review* relaunched its Annual Conference, which had been held before during Salvador Carmona's and Laurence Van Lent's tenure, both as standalone events and under the auspicious of particular Special Issues.

The aim of the editor is to host this conference, starting from 2020 in a continuous manner, at least during her tenure. In addition, *European Accounting Review*, remodeled its Research Workshop section into an Open Science section. We have also created a Registered Reports section. These sections (along with the annual conference) supersede the annual special issue, which is now more flexibly arranged, as per the Editorial team consideration.

“Open Science Section

The *European Accounting Review* promotes research that is based on Open Science principles, meaning the practice of science in such a way that others can collaborate and contribute. Research that complies to these principles can be submitted to the newly introduced Open Science Section. We expect research in this section to be based on data that is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR). Commercially licensed data can qualify as FAIR as long as the authors provide reproducible code to obtain the data. Applied methods should be communicated by means that make findings reproducible, normally by providing program code. Data and code will be assessed as potential separate contributions to the literature in addition to the actual findings of the study per se. The Open Science Section is open to all topics and methods, including work that is mostly methodological in nature.

Registered Reports

Submissions to this section follow a two-stage review process. The first stage requires a research proposal containing a motivated research question, clearly characterizing the potential contribution of the proposed study and a detailed outline of the research design. This research proposal will be reviewed using the normal review process. In the case where (a potentially revised version of) the research proposal is accepted, and the actual research is carried out according to the accepted proposal, the final study will only be reviewed for expositional clarity but not for contribution and implementation. We envision that this new section is particularly fitting for experimental studies and for studies that require substantial upfront investments in terms of data collection.

Information for Authors

Full details on submission procedures can be found in the “Instructions for Authors” <https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?show=instructions&journalCode=rear20>

Manuscripts should follow *EAR* submission guidelines. When submitting, choose in the *EAR* platform “Registered Reports” or “Open Science Section,” as applicable. Submit via the following link: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rear>”

III. Submissions

Table 1 below provides the evolution of submissions to *European Accounting Review* from 2011 to 2020. It discloses separately regular submissions and submissions to Special issues/sections.

Table 1 – Submissions and papers published

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
New submissions (excluding Special issues/sections)	469	377	361	351	290	310	264	240	257	326
<i>Change</i>	24%	4%	3%	21%	-6%	17%	10%	-7%	-21%	26%
Submissions Special Issue	-	102	37	60	44	46	28	25	22	43
Total new submissions	560	479	398	411	334	356	292	265	279	369
<i>Change</i>	17%	21%	-3%	23%	-6%	22%	10%	-5%	-24%	-3%
Resubmissions	180	144	121	84	105	99	108	87		
Total submissions managed	740	624	519	495	439	455	400	352		
<i>Of which:</i>										
Submit Young Scholar Track	98	58	57	68	47	64	44	53		
Annual Conference submissions	91									
Special issue Literature Reviews		103								
Special issue Auditing Research			37							
Special issue Textual analysis				54						
Special issue IASB				6						
Special issue Fraud research					44					
Incl. accruals on Special issue					4					
Fraud research										
Published articles (1)	37	37	39	30	30	29	27	24	26	26
(1) Plus Letter from the Editor				1	1					
Number of issues per year	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

The number of original submissions has increased by about 24 percent compared with 2019. This is a substantial increase, potential driven by the pandemic situation.

In 2020, we have launched a Special Issue on “*Innovative Data Sources in Management Accounting Research and Practice*” (Guest Editors: Matthias D. Mahlendorf, Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, Melissa Martin, University of Illinois at Chicago, David Smith, University of Queensland).

In addition to the first-round submissions, the journal has received 180 resubmissions in 2020. In total, the journal has managed 740 submissions.

Table 1 also discloses the number of manuscripts submitted in the Young Scholar Track. This number varies across years but remains significant, with a similar number with respect to 2019.

Considering regular submissions, *EAR* remained highly international, as shown in Table 2A. This table is based on all authors and ranked on the basis of the most recent year. It discloses all 76 nationalities (as reported by authors when they submit their papers) over the period 2019-2020.

Table 2A - Authors of submitted papers (first-round submissions)

Author Country/Region	2020	2020	2019	2019
	No.	%	No.	%
Australia	201	14.1	183	14.8
United States	166	11.6	119	9.6
China	152	10.6	85	6.9
Germany	114	8	115	9.3
United Kingdom	102	7.1	143	11.6
New Zealand	54	3.8	39	3.2
France	45	3.1	31	2.5
Canada	40	2.8	22	1.8

Italy	39	2.7	42	3.4
Spain	39	2.7	51	4.1
Taiwan	39	2.7	33	2.7
Netherlands	25	1.7	20	1.6
Portugal	24	1.7	17	1.4
Iran	22	1.5	18	1.5
Sweden	21	1.5	8	0.6
Hong Kong	18	1.3	21	1.7
Brazil	17	1.2	12	1
Malaysia	17	1.2	12	1
Indonesia	16	1.1	13	1.1
Norway	16	1.1	8	0.6
Belgium	15	1	9	0.7
Finland	14	1	18	1.5
South Korea	14	1	11	0.9
Switzerland	14	1	14	1.1
Greece	13	0.9	3	0.2
Macao	12	0.8	4	0.3
Romania	12	0.8	13	1.1
Nigeria	11	0.8	10	0.8
Egypt	10	0.7	1	0.1
Poland	10	0.7	8	0.6
Japan	9	0.6	18	1.5
Austria	8	0.6	11	0.9
Denmark	8	0.6	19	1.5
India	8	0.6	7	0.6
Ireland	8	0.6	2	0.2
Tunisia	8	0.6	11	0.9
Qatar	7	0.5	0	0
Ghana	6	0.4	0	0
Turkey	6	0.4	1	0.1
South Africa	5	0.3	7	0.6
Viet Nam	5	0.3	3	0.2
Ethiopia	4	0.3	0	0
Hungary	4	0.3	0	0
Oman	4	0.3	2	0.2
Pakistan	4	0.3	3	0.2
Saudi Arabia	4	0.3	9	0.7
Slovenia	4	0.3	3	0.2
Bangladesh	3	0.2	3	0.2
Cyprus	3	0.2	4	0.3
Israel	3	0.2	6	0.5
Lebanon	3	0.2	3	0.2
Russian Federation	3	0.2	1	0.1
Serbia	3	0.2	0	0
Singapore	3	0.2	11	0.9
Algeria	2	0.1	1	0.1
Brunei Darussalam	2	0.1	0	0
Jordan	2	0.1	2	0.2
Slovakia	2	0.1	0	0
United Arab Emirates	2	0.1	3	0.2
Cameroon	1	0.1	0	0
Iceland	1	0.1	2	0.2
Kuwait	1	0.1	2	0.2
Malawi	1	0.1	0	0
Zimbabwe	1	0.1	0	0
Albania	0	0	3	0.2

Chile	0	0	1	0.1
Croatia	0	0	1	0.1
Estonia	0	0	1	0.1
Mauritius	0	0	1	0.1
Moldova (the Republic of)	0	0	1	0.1
Monaco	0	0	2	0.2
Palestine, State of	0	0	2	0.2
Philippines	0	0	2	0.2
Thailand	0	0	2	0.2
Uruguay	0	0	1	0.1
Yemen	0	0	1	0.1
Total	1430	100	1235	100

The largest volume continues to come from Australia, the U.K, Germany, U.S., and China. The standings of top countries remain relatively stable with respect to previous years.

Table 2B provides the geographical distribution of authors of accepted papers for 2012-2020 (corresponding to 282 papers published). Here, countries with lower submission rate like Canada or the Netherlands appear to be quite successful in terms of their acceptance to submission rate, indicating higher average quality of submissions.

Table 2B - Authors of accepted papers (2012-2020)

Country (as reported by authors)	2012-2020	2012-2020	Country (as reported by authors)	2012-2020	2012-2020
	No.	%		No.	%
Germany	123	17.3	New Zealand	12	1.7
United States	120	16.9	Belgium	11	1.6
Australia	73	10.3	Finland	10	1.4
United Kingdom	42	5.9	Hong Kong	8	1.1
Canada	41	5.8	Switzerland	8	1.1
China	35	4.9	Greece	7	1
Netherlands	33	4.7	South Korea	7	1
France	28	3.9	Portugal	6	0.8
Italy	28	3.9	Denmark	5	0.7
Spain	22	3.1	Croatia	2	0.3
Sweden	22	3.1	Ireland	2	0.3
Austria	18	2.5	Japan	2	0.3
Singapore	15	2.1	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	1	0.1
Taiwan	14	2	Norway	1	0.1
Israel	12	1.7	Venezuela	1	0.1
			Total	709	100.0

Table 3 provides a distribution of submitted papers (first submissions) by subjects, as reported by the authors during the submission process.

Table 3 – Distribution by subjects

	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Accounting Information Systems	16	3	12	3	13	3	12	3
Auditing	101	18	75	16	110	28	50	12
Financial Accounting	228	41	181	39	150	38	203	50
Managerial Accounting	94	17	68	14	58	15	50	12
Other	88	16	118	24	52	13	73	18
Taxation	30	5	23	5	15	4	22	5
Total	557	100	477	100	398	100	410	100

Financial accounting remains the most active area, representing about 40 percent of all submissions. Auditing is next (18 percent, up slightly with respect to 2019, similar to prior year -except for 2018, when there was a special issue on topics related to auditing-, and back to the numbers of previous years (12 percent in 2017)). Managerial accounting is the third subject (17 percent, compared with 14 percent in 2018). We notice in 2019 an important increase of the weight of “Other,” this is largely due to the literature review special issue.

Table 4 provides a distribution of submitted papers (first submissions) by research methods, as reported by the authors during the submission process. Empirical archival methods clearly dominate, while again, here, we can notice a substantial jump as well in the “Other” category of 2019, driven by the literature reviews special issue.

Table 4 – Distribution by methods

	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018	2017	2017
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Analytical	52	9	44	9	39	10	37	9
Empirical/archival	381	68	261	55	239	60	269	66
Experimental	30	5	20	4	19	5	17	4
Field work (includes case studies and surveys)	46	8	41	9	55	14	54	13
Interpretative, narrative, and historical	20	4	26	6	27	7	17	4
Other	25	5	84	17	19	5	16	4
Total	557	100	477	100	398	100	410	100

IV. Editorial feedback

On behalf of the EAA and myself, we would like to warmly thank all those who have generously given their time to review articles for the journal. Volume 29, Issue 1, 2020, includes a list of the name and institution of scholars who have acted as reviewers during 2019.

In 2020, turnaround times for editorial feedback to authors were as follows (data for 2019 are shown for comparative purposes) (see Table 5A):

Table 5A – Number of days from first submission to first decision

	N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
2019	478	41	45	0	192
2020	557	41	42	0	222
2019 (excluding desk rejections)	248	74	67	33	192
2020 (excluding desk rejections)	292	74	69	17	222

Table 5A discloses the number of days between first submission and first decision. This statistic is critical to judge the quality of the organization of the editorial process. This table separates desk rejections, which automatically reduce the mean of the statistic and other decisions. It appears that the mean (median) is stable around 74 (69) days, which shows that the editorial team has continued to pay special attention to ensuring a good turnaround time for authors.

Table 5B shows that around 70 percent of submitted papers receive a first decision within a 60-day time frame and 90 percent before 90 days. This table includes desk rejections.

A limited number of papers stayed in the system for a significant amount of time, as only 3.1% of all manuscripts took longer than 120 days to process.

Table 5B – Split of the number of days from first submission to first decision

	2020	2020	2019	2019
	No.	%	No.	%
<=30 d	265	47.7	229	48.0
> 30 d and <= 60 d	94	16.9	92	19.3
> 60 d and <= 90 d	145	26.0	107	22.4
> 90 d and <= 120 d	35	6.3	36	7.5
> 120 d	32	3.1	13	2.7
Total	557	100.00	477	100.0

I would like to warmly thank associate editors for their commitment to the journal, which results in excellent editorial feedback and quick turnaround to authors. Associate editors are handling submissions in their areas of interest and this reduces the workload of the editor considerably.

V. Editorial decisions

Table 6 discloses the statistics of decisions for the first four rounds over the last two years.

Table 6 – Editorial decisions

	2020	2020	2019	2019
	No.	%	No.	%
First submission (First round)				
Minor Revision	1	0.2	2	0.4
Major Revision	69	12.3	57	11.9
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	46	8.1	30	6.3
Reject	176	31.5	158	33.1
Desk rejection	265	47.4	230	48.1
Withdrawn	3	0.4	1	0.2
Total	560		478	100.0
Revision 1 (R1) (Second round)				
Accept	2	2.4	2	2.6
Minor Revision	22	26.8	17	21.8
Major Revision	28	34.1	37	47.4
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	7	8.5	5	6.4
Reject	23	28.0	17	21.8
Total	82	100.0	78	100.0
Revision 2 (R2) (Third round)				
Accept	26	45.6	11	30.6
Minor Revision	21	36.8	17	47.2
Major Revision	4	7.0	6	16.7
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	0	0.0	1	2.8
Reject	5	8.8	1	2.8
Total	57	100.0	36	100.0
Revision 3 (R3) (Fourth round)				
Accept	27	87.1	12	57.1
Minor Revision	4	12.9	8	38.1
Major Revision	0	0.0	1	4.8
Reject	0	0	0	0.0
Total	31	100.0	21	100.0

VI. Social Media and Diffusion

During the year 2020, *EAR* started a twitter account (https://twitter.com/EAR_Journal), which at the time of producing this report has sent out 210 tweets, and has 672 followers. Previously, up to 2019, there has also been a Facebook account, which unfortunately could not be transferred to the new editor, given the terms of Facebook and was discontinued.

The new Twitter account is managed with the help of Cristina Grande (Cass Business School), and Antonio Vázquez (Stockholm School of Economics), and provides timely information on:

- Each article forthcoming and online on the Taylor & Francis website
- *EAR* new issues
- *EAR* calls for papers
- *EAR*-related news in the EAA newsletter.
- *EAR* quarterly statistics

VII. EAR Awards

Since 2018, the EAA Management Committee introduced a new initiative: the *EAR* Best Paper Award and the *EAR* Best Reviewer Award. All Associate Editors, as well as the Editorial Board were consulted to select the best paper award, while the best reviewer award was assigned based on evaluations received by the reviewers by the associate editors during the year.

For 2020, the recipients are:

Best Paper Award: “Camouflaged Indicators of Earnings Management” by Itay Kama and Nahum Melumad <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09638180.2019.1595693>

Best Reviewer Award: Jonas Heese (Harvard Business School) and Jacco Wielhouwer (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

VIII. Annual Conference

In 2020, the annual conference was hosted online, 7 papers were presented over two days. All papers had discussants.

Thursday, 19 November

Paper 1: 12.00 to 13.15 (Discussant: Stefano Cascino, LSE) [Chair: Beatriz García Osma]

“*Corporate reporting and users’ information needs – A preparer perspective*” by Kathrin Oberwallner (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), Christoph Pelger* (University of Innsbruck), and Thorsten Sellhorn (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München). [**Winner of Best Discussion Award EAR Annual Conference 2020**]

Paper 2: 13.45 to 15.00 (Discussant: Xinyu Zhang, Cornell University) [Chair: Victor Maas]

“*Probabilistic Audits and Misreporting – The Influence of Audit Process Design on Employee Behavior*” by Corinna Ewelt-Knauer (Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen), Sandra Winkelmann* (Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen), and Anja Schwering (University of Potsdam). [**Winner of Best Paper Award EAR Annual Conference 2020**]

Paper 3: 15.30 to 16.45 (Discussant: Zahn Bozanic, Florida State University) [Chair: Pepa Kraft]
“*The credit-risk relevance of loan impairments under IFRS 9 for CDS pricing: Early evidence*” by Romain Oberson* (Laval University).

Friday, 20 November

Paper 4: 12.00 to 13.15 (Discussant: Ulrich Schäfer, University of Zurich) [Chair: Christian Hoffman]
“*Digitalized Information Sharing in a Multi-Tier Supply Chain Relationship*” by Clemens Löffler* (FH Wien der WKW)

Paper 5: 13.45 to 15.00 (Discussant: Gaizka Ormazábal, IESE) [Chair: Thorsten Shellhorn]
“*Institutional Blockholders and Voluntary Disclosure*” by Xiaochi Ge* (Cass Business School), Pawel Bilinski (Cass Business School) and Arthur Kraft (Cass Business School).

Paper 6: 15.30 to 16.45 (Discussant: Igor Goncharov, Lancaster University) [Chair: Joachim Gassen]
“*Does Citizens’ Financial Literacy Relate to Bank Transparency?*” by Justin Jin (McMaster University), Kiridaran Kanegaretnam (York University), Yi Liu* (Trent University), and Maoyong Cheng (Xi’an Jiotong University).

Paper 7: 17.15 to 18.30 (Discussant: Dmitri Byzalov, Temple University) [Chair: Beatriz García Osma]
“*Cost Stickiness and the Accuracy of Peer-Based Valuation Models*” by Niklas Kreilkamp* (Justus Liebig Universität Giessen), Arnt Wöhrmann (Justus Liebig Universität Giessen), and Sophie Teichmann (Justus Liebig Universität Giessen)

The editor would like to thank Baha Diyarov (EIASM) for his invaluable support, as well as the collaboration of the EAA-ARC staff and organizing committee from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid: Baptiste Colas, Encarna Guillamón-Saorín, and Fengzhi Zhu.

IX. Other editorial matters

Guochang Zhang (HKU Business School) has stepped down as associate editor. I wish to thank him for his many years of service. He was associate editor at *EAR* with Laurence, Hervé, and myself. I would also like to welcome two new associate editors: Sven Model (The University of Manchester), and Jeffrey Ng (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University).

I would like to thank all associate editors and editorial board members that dedicated their valuable time to *EAR*, as well as welcome all new members.
