

# ***European Accounting Review***

## **Editor's report on the year 2020**

**Beatriz García Osma, April 15, 2022**

**Foreword to the report.** This annual report presents the summary statistics on the operations of *European Accounting Review* in 2021, together with the commentary from Beatriz Garcia Osma, who is the editor at the time of preparing it.

### **Editor's report on the year 2021**

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 2022, and also on the website of Taylor & Francis.

#### **I. The 2021 volume (Vol. 30)**

In 2021 five issues were produced.<sup>1</sup> As pursued, during 2020 the issues of the journal were published within schedule and included:

- 5 articles in the Special Issue on New Directions in Auditing Research (Guest Editors: Bertrand Malsch and Brendan O'Dwyer)
- 1 editorial article in the special Issue on New Directions in Auditing Research (Guest Editors: Bertrand Malsch and Brendan O'Dwyer)
- 7 articles from the 2020 European Accounting Review Annual Conference (last issue)
- 26 other regular articles

This represents a total of 39 articles (37 articles in 2020).

#### **II. Editorial policy**

During 2021 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.”*

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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.”

In 2021, *European Accounting Review* continued to hold the 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 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 only 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 2012 to 2021. It discloses separately regular submissions and submissions to Special issues/conferences.

**Table 1 – Submissions and papers published**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
New submissions (excluding Special issues/conference)	512	469	377	361	351	290	310	264	240	257
<i>Change</i>	9%	24%	4%	3%	21%	-6%	17%	10%	-7%	-21%
Submissions Special Issue	19	-	102	37	60	44	46	28	25	22
<b>Total new submissions</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>279</b>
<i>Change</i>		17%	21%	-3%	23%	-6%	22%	10%	-5%	-24%
Resubmissions	184	180	144	121	84	105	99	108	87	
Total submissions managed	750	740	624	519	495	439	455	400	352	
<i>Of which:</i>										
Submit Young Scholar Track	71	98	58	57	68	47	64	44	53	
Annual Conference submissions	35	91								
Special Issue Management Acc	19									
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)	38	37	37	39	30	30	29	27	24	26
(1) Plus Letter from the Editor	1				1	1				
Number of issues per year	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4

The number of original submissions has increased by about 9 percent compared with 2020, to a total of 512. Jointly, during the tenure of the editor, the average of normal submissions is 491, while it was 345 for the previous editor (2016-2019). This is a substantial increase, potentially still driven by the pandemic situation and may stabilize in 2022.

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), this received 19 submissions of high quality. It is expected that a full number will be printed in 2022, with an editorial from the joint guest editors.

In addition to the first-round submissions, the journal has received 184 resubmissions in 2021. In total, the journal has managed 750 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 the previous years.

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 72 nationalities (as reported by authors when they submit their papers) over the period 2020-2021.

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

Author Country/Region	2021	2021	2020	2020
	No.	%	No.	%
China	224	14.7	152	10.6
Australia	177	11.6	201	14.1
United States	162	10.7	167	11.7
Germany	121	8.0	114	8.0
United Kingdom	93	6.1	102	7.1
Spain	80	5.3	38	2.7
Italy	63	4.1	39	2.7
New Zealand	52	3.4	54	3.8
Canada	38	2.5	40	2.8
Hong Kong	34	2.2	17	1.2
France	30	2.0	45	3.1
Taiwan	28	1.8	39	2.7
Finland	24	1.6	14	1.0
Portugal	24	1.6	24	1.7
Iran	20	1.3	22	1.5
Indonesia	19	1.2	16	1.1
Netherlands	19	1.2	25	1.7
Romania	19	1.2	12	0.8
India	16	1.1	8	0.6
Nigeria	16	1.1	11	0.8
Sweden	16	1.1	20	1.4
Pakistan	15	1.0	4	0.3
Brazil	14	0.9	17	1.2
Austria	13	0.9	8	0.6
Greece	13	0.9	13	0.9
Russian Federation	13	0.9	3	0.2
Denmark	12	0.8	8	0.6
Malaysia	12	0.8	17	1.2
Saudi Arabia	12	0.8	4	0.3
Japan	11	0.7	9	0.6
Tunisia	11	0.7	8	0.6
Singapore	9	0.6	3	0.2
Switzerland	9	0.6	15	1.0
Turkey	9	0.6	6	0.4
South Korea	8	0.5	15	1.0
Belgium	7	0.5	15	1.0
Cyprus	7	0.5	3	0.2
Kazakhstan	7	0.5	0	0.0
Macao	7	0.5	12	0.8
Norway	7	0.5	16	1.1
Serbia	6	0.4	3	0.2
Kuwait	5	0.3	1	0.1
Thailand	5	0.3	0	0.0
United Arab Emirates	5	0.3	2	0.1
Egypt	4	0.3	10	0.7
Ireland	3	0.2	8	0.6
Viet Nam	3	0.2	5	0.3
Czech Republic	2	0.1	0	0.0
Ghana	2	0.1	6	0.4
Iceland	2	0.1	1	0.1
Algeria	1	0.1	2	0.1

Bahrain	1	0.1	0	0.0
Bangladesh	1	0.1	2	0.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0.1	0	0.0
Brunei Darussalam	1	0.1	2	0.1
Cameroon	1	0.1	1	0.1
Jordan	1	0.1	2	0.1
Monaco	1	0.1	0	0.0
Oman	1	0.1	4	0.3
Qatar	1	0.1	7	0.5
Rwanda	1	0.1	0	0.0
Slovenia	1	0.1	4	0.3
South Africa	1	0.1	5	0.3
Estonia	0	0.0	1	0.1
Ethiopia	0	0.0	4	0.3
Hungary	0	0.0	4	0.3
Israel	0	0.0	3	0.2
Lebanon	0	0.0	3	0.2
Malawi	0	0.0	1	0.1
Poland	0	0.0	10	0.7
Slovakia	0	0.0	2	0.1
Zimbabwe	0	0.0	1	0.1
Total	1521	100	1430	100

China becomes our largest submitting country, with the largest volume continuing 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, and some growth from Spain and Italy.

Table 2B provides the geographical distribution of authors of accepted papers for 2012-2021 (corresponding to 318 papers accepted). Here, countries with lower submission 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)	2012-2021	2012-2021	Country (as reported by authors)	2012-2021	2012-2021
	No.	%		No.	%
Germany	147	17.8	Israel	12	1.5
United States	133	16.1	Hong Kong	11	1.3
Australia	84	10.2	Greece	8	1.0
Canada	54	6.5	Switzerland	8	1.0
United Kingdom	53	6.4	Denmark	7	0.8
China	41	5.0	South Korea	7	0.8
Netherlands	38	4.6	Portugal	6	0.7
France	33	4.0	Ireland	3	0.4
Italy	30	3.6	Japan	3	0.4
Sweden	26	3.1	Croatia	2	0.2
Spain	25	3.0	Cocos (Keeling) Islands	1	0.1
Austria	20	2.4	India	1	0.1
Singapore	15	1.8	Malaysia	1	0.1
Taiwan	15	1.8	Norway	1	0.1
New Zealand	14	1.7	Russian Federation	1	0.1
Finland	13	1.6	United Arab Emirates	1	0.1
Belgium	12	1.5	Venezuela	1	0.1
			Total	827	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**

	2021	2021	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Accounting Information Systems	23	4	16	3	12	3	13	3
Auditing	105	19	101	18	75	16	110	28
Financial Accounting	220	40	228	41	181	39	150	38
Managerial Accounting	76	14	94	17	68	14	58	15
Other	102	18	88	16	118	24	52	13
Taxation	27	5	30	5	23	5	15	4
Total	553	100	557	100	477	100	398	100

Financial accounting remains the most active area, representing about 40 percent of all submissions. Auditing is next (19 percent, up slightly over time, similar to prior year -except for 2018, when there was a special issue on topics related to auditing. Managerial accounting is the third subject (14 percent, compared with 17 percent in 2020. We notice in 2019 an important increase of the weight of “Other,” this is largely due to the literature review special issue. This extends however to 2021. A look at the self-reported “other” category for 2021, given its growth, reveals some misclassifications by authors, but also the following information: Accounting Education (2), Accounting History (1), Corporate Governance (7), CSR, Sustainability, Social Accounting (25), Literature Reviews (10), Public Sector Accounting (5), Editorial for Special Issue (1)

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**

	2021	2021	2020	2020	2019	2019	2018	2018
	No.	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Analytical	47	9	52	9	44	9	39	10
Empirical/archival	395	71	381	68	261	55	239	60
Experimental	31	6	30	5	20	4	19	5
Field work (includes case studies and surveys)	41	7	46	8	41	9	55	14
Interpretative, narrative, and historical	17	3	20	4	26	6	27	7
Other	22	4	25	5	84	17	19	5
Total	553	100	557	100	477	100	398	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 30, Issue 1, 2021, includes a list of the name and institution of scholars who have acted as reviewers during 2020.

In 2021, turnaround times for editorial feedback to authors were as follows (data for 2020 are shown for comparative purposes) (see Table 5A):

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

	N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum
2020	557	41	42	0	222

2021	553	37	21	0	207
2020 (excluding desk rejections)	292	74	69	17	222
2021 (excluding desk rejections)	273	69	64	6	207

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 69 (64) 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 2.2% 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	2020	2020
	No.	%	No.	%
<=30 d	281	50.8	265	47.7
> 30 d and <= 60 d	110	19.9	94	16.9
> 60 d and <= 90 d	123	22.8	145	26.0
> 90 d and <= 120 d	24	4.3	35	6.3
> 120 d	12	2.2	32	3.1
Total	553	100.00	557	100.00

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**

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	No.	%	No.	%
<b>First submission (First round)</b>				
Accept	1	0.2	0	0.0
Minor Revision	2	0.4	1	0.2
Major Revision	60	10.8	69	12.3
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	40	7.2	46	8.1
Reject	171	30.6	176	31.5
Desk rejection	279	50.0	265	47.4
Withdrawn	5	0.9	3	0.4
Total	558		560	
<b>Revision 1 (R1) (Second round)</b>				
	2021	2021	2020	2020
	No.	%	No.	%
Accept	0	0.0	2	2.4
Minor Revision	21	21.6	22	26.8
Major Revision	42	43.3	28	34.1
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	8	8.2	7	8.5
Reject	26	26.8	23	28.0

Total	97		82	
	2021	2021	2020	2020
<b>Revision 2 (R2) (Third round)</b>	No.	%	No.	%
Accept	20	34.5	26	45.6
Minor Revision	28	48.3	21	36.8
Major Revision	7	12.1	4	7.0
Reject and Revise with low probability of publication	2	3.4	0	0.0
Reject	1	1.7	5	8.8
Total	58	100.0	57	100.0
	2021	2021	2020	2020
<b>Revision 3 (R3) (Fourth round)</b>	No.	%	No.	%
Accept	19	76.0	27	87.1
Minor Revision	5	20.0	4	12.9
Major Revision	1	4.0	0	0.0
Reject	0	0	0	0
Total	25	100.0	31	100.0

## VI. Social Media and Diffusion

During the year 2020, *EAR* started a twitter account ([https://twitter.com/EAR\\_Journal](https://twitter.com/EAR_Journal)), which at the time of producing this report has sent out 413 tweets, and has 1,110 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 2021, the recipients are:

**Best Paper Award:** “Enforcement, Managerial Discretion, and the Informativeness of Accruals,”  
David Windisch (*Amsterdam Business School*)  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09638180.2020.1771393>

**Best Reviewer Award:** Francisco Ascui (*The University of Edinburgh*) and Katharina Hombach (*Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg*)



## VIII. Annual Conference

In 2021, the annual conference was hosted online, 7 papers were presented over two days. All papers had discussants.

### *Thursday, 18 November*

Paper 1: 12.00 to 13.15 [Chair: Thorsten Sellhorn]

“When do governments “go dark”? Evidence on governments’ disclosure choices in periods of uncertainty,” by Marco Trombetta and Claudio Columbano (*IE University*).

*Discussant:* Oliver Binz (*INSEAD*) [**Winner of Best Discussant Award**]

Paper 2: 13.45 to 15.00 [Chair: Jeff Ng]

“Derivatives disclosure and stock price informativeness: Evidence from SFAS No.161,” by Wen-Hsin Hsu, Wenhsin Chang and Hsintsai Liu\* (*National Taiwan University*)

*Discussant:* Nancy Su (*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University*).

Paper 3: 15.30 to 16.45 [Chair: Beatriz Garcia Osma]

“Does practitioner research help auditors to provide higher audit quality and improve their reputation?” by Benedikt Downar, Juergen Ernstberger, Martin Prott (*Technische Universität München*), and Christopher Koch\* (*Johannes Gutenberg University*).

*Discussant:* Kris Hardies (*University of Antwerpen*)

Editorial Board Meeting: 17.00 to 18.00

### *Friday, 19 November*

Paper 4: 12.00 to 13.15 [Chair: Christian Hofmann]

“The SEC Compensation-related Comment Letters and Excess CEO Compensation,” by Wexiao Wang, Lijuan Zhang, Mark Wilson\* and Tejshree Kala (*Australian National University*).

*Discussant:* Christoph J. Sextroh (*Tilburg University*)

Paper 5: 13.45 to 15.00 [Chair: Maria Correia]

“Mandatory Adoption of IFRS-for-SMEs-based Reporting Standards in Private Firms: A Swedish Regulatory Experiment,” by Niclas Hellman, Henrik Nilsson, Milda Tylaite\* (*Stockholm School of Economics*), and Derya Vural-Meijer (*Uppsala University*) [**Winner of Best Paper Award**]

*Discussant:* Rodrigo Verdi (*MIT*)

Paper 6: 15.30 to 16.45 [Chair: Pepa Kraft]

“How Do Non-Performing Loans Evolve along the Economic Cycle? The Role of Macroeconomic Conditions and Legal Efficiency,” by Nicolas Rudolf\* (*University of Lausanne*), Jannis Bischof and Wilhelm Schmunt (*University of Mannheim*).

*Discussant:* Rimmy Tomy (*University of Chicago*)

Paper 7: 17.15 to 18.30 [Chair: Luc Paugam]

“Spend Money to Make Money? Voluntary Audit Reviews and Firms’ Cost of Debt,” by Vlad-Andrei Porumb\*, Ysemin Zengin Karabrahimoglu, Shuo Wang (*University of Groningen*), and Gerald Lobo (*University of Houston*)

*Discussant:* Michel Magnan (*Concordia University*)

The editor would like to thank Baha Diyarov (EIASM), as well as Elica Krasteva (University of Liverpool Management School) for their 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**

I would also like to welcome two new associate editors: Melissa Martin (University of Illinois Chicago), and Helena Isidro (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.

\*\*\*