

Paris, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Results of 2019 European FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability” have been revealed during a ceremony held at AG2R La Mondiale in Paris**



The ceremony took place on October 8<sup>th</sup> in the presence of the awardees who presented their winning works and papers and of **Sylvain Marsat**, 2019 Jury Chair who said: *“I am proud and happy to have this unique opportunity to preside over this fourteenth FIR-PRI awards ceremony. The outstanding contributions rewarded demonstrate the vitality, excellence and relevant practical implications of academic research in the flourishing field of sustainable finance”*. **Mikael Homanen**, Head of academic research at the PRI, made an opening speech on the importance of building and strengthening bridges between researchers and practitioners, which has always been the purpose of the Awards.

**2019 awardees are:**

- **Best Master Thesis:**

*“Sustainability bonds, a lever for sustainable economic development in emerging countries?”*

**Mélanie Comble** – Kedge Business School

Mélanie Comble: *“I am very grateful that the jury, comprising both academics and market players, found the topic of green bonds and their potential impact on emerging markets interesting. I deeply believe that wider cooperation between academia and asset managers will help identify the best financing solutions for achieving a more sustainable future. The FIR-PRI awards are clearly supporting such a virtuous cooperation.”*

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- **Best PhD Thesis:**

*“Optimal Diversification and the Transition to Net Zero: A Methodological Framework for Measuring Climate Goal Alignment of Portfolio Investors”*

**Jakob Thomä** – CNAM

Jakob Thomä: *“It is an honor to be recognized in this way by FIR and PRI. It is critical that sustainable investment industry benefits from more scientific publications and research, to build the arsenal demonstrating its viability both for risk management and its broader role in supporting sustainable development goals. The PhD prize helps motivate academia in that direction.”*

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- **Best Pedagogical Innovation:**

*“CAS Sustainable Finance” at Haute école de gestion de Genève,*

**Andrea Baranzini** – Haute école de gestion de Genève

**Antoine Mach** – Covalence SA

**Jean Laville** – Conser Invest

Andrea Baranzini, Antoine Mach & Jean Laville: *“We are very happy to win the FIR-PRI Finance & Sustainability Award 2019 for the Best Pedagogical Innovation. This acknowledges the experience of HEG-Genève in embedding sustainability into management and finance courses, and gives us a great encouragement to further help finance professionals seriously integrate environment, social and governance factors.”*

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- **Best Published Article (two awardees ex-aequo):**

*“Fossil Fuel Divestment and Portfolio Performance” in Ecological Economics*

**Arjan Trinks** – University of Groningen

Co-authors: Bert Scholtens, Machiel Mulder & Lammertjan Dam – University of Groningen

Arjan Trinks: *“To admit, I was happily surprised to receive the news, especially given the many important works that are popping up in the sustainable finance field. Being awarded this prize and being put in the spotlight by two highly regarded institutions is truly a great honor. With the paper, we hoped to contribute not only to the academic study on sustainable investment but also to have relevant impact on real-life practice. It is great to see how this plays out as we already received quite a lot of attention for the paper. It's exciting to be in a field that is alive and kicking! And even more so to be endorsed in this work by FIR and PRI.”*

*"Creating Common Ground: A Communicative Action Model of Dialogue in Shareholder Engagement"* in Organization Science

**Fabrizio Ferraro** – IESE Business School  
**Daniel Beunza** – Cass Business School

Fabrizio Ferraro & Daniel Beunza: *"Our study of shareholder engagement of ICCR with Ford and General Motors between 1997 and 2009 suggests that effective shareholder dialogue is possible but that overcoming initial adversarial positions take years, and parties need to shift from strategic action to communicative action. We hope our work will contribute to our understanding of how dialogue on climate change can be fruitfully established between investors and corporations."*

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- **PhD Research Grant:**

*"Stranded States? Public Management of Fossil Fuel Asset in the International System"*

**Alex Clark** – University of Oxford

Alex Clark: *"I was delighted to receive this research grant to support my intended PhD work at Oxford University. The grant will enable me to focus on decisions faced by the world's governments that will be important determinants of the pace of decarbonisation. I will be researching how governments, the owners of the majority of existing fossil fuel power plants and reserves, should manage them in light of the expected impacts of climate change."*

**VISIT AWARD WEBSITE** (winning papers available)

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