“Helping developing and fragile countries reform their finances or just another case of Potemkin Villages”

SUCCESS STORY - CRAGS

Fred Mear of the Centre for Research in Accountability, Governance and Sustainability (CRAGS) is the lead consultant for work commissioned by the PEFA (Public Expenditure Financial Accountability). The aims of the secretariat following the Paris accord were to enhance the working together of donor organizations in assisting improving Public Finances of developing and fragile states.

The study was commissioned to give guidelines on the tools currently available to assess Public Financial Management systems and Sub-systems and give practical guide on their use by donor and recipient countries.

Welcome

Welcome to the 2016 edition of the Accounting and Finance Research Newsletter.

The REF2014 produced some excellent results for BAL, placing us inside the top 50 for Business and Management research. We are now placed 3rd overall amongst modern universities, with 64% of our research being ranked as ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’. Whilst we are obviously delighted with these outcomes and with our outstanding NSS results, our attention must now turn to the challenges of both maintaining these positions and building upon them. The department continues to appreciate the need to achieve significant advances in both ‘research’ and ‘teaching and learning’ and recognizes the shared benefits of these two objectives. Attention is now upon the REF2020 and our aim of ensuring that as a department we have a significant impact upon the same.

With the current research successes of colleagues and ongoing investment in new staff, we will further consolidate our position as a leading Business School, within a top modern university in the Midlands. The department was also very well represented at the Faculty Research Conference on 14 September 2016.

I hope that you find this publication interesting and that it encourages you to engage with the department’s research initiatives. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Best wishes,
Emmanuel

Professor Emmanuel Adegbite
HOD, Accounting and Finance

Editorial

In this edition we present research news on recent book chapters, articles published in 3* and other highly rated journals and refereed conference papers written by members of the Department. This edition also highlights research seminars, conference presentations and invited talks delivered by staff. Further, this newsletter presents news of our research collaborations with staff of other departments within the faculty and the establishment of three new research centres within the department.

I trust that readers will find this edition informative and stimulating. The aim of the newsletter is to serve as a springboard to connect people with common research interests across the Faculty and beyond.

Dr. Kemi Yekini
Editor
In order to enhance scholarly activities, three new research centres have been established, they are:

- The Centre for Research in Accountability Governance and Sustainability (CRAGS). The key objective of this research group is to provide support for early career researchers and to promote scholarly research in accounting, governance, sustainability and public sector accounting.
- The Finance and Banking Research Group (FiBRe). This group aims to promote scholarly research in financial markets and instruments, investment behaviour, financial institutions and public finance.
- The Centre for Accounting and Finance Education (CAFÉ). The objective of CAFÉ is to encourage scholarly activities in pedagogic research in accounting and finance.

Anybody interested in joining any of these groups and/or in contributing in the collaborative research efforts should contact the directors of the groups as follows; CRAGS: Dr Kemi Yekini at kyekeini@dmu.ac.uk; FiBRe: Dr Neil Lancaster at neil.lancaster@dmu.ac.uk; CAFÉ: Lisa Wakefield at lwakefield@dmu.ac.uk. This academic year, the departmental research seminar series featured seminars from the research centers on alternate Wednesdays from both internal and external speakers. More details on the department’s website.

In addition, the brown bag series on research ideas was introduced to help colleagues bring research ideas to reality. For more details please contact Dr Brendan Lambe at brendan.lambe@dmu.ac.uk

Welcome on Board!

We welcome our new colleagues to the Department; Dr Albert Danso, Adam Finkel-Gates; Christine Harrison-Bligh; Dr Frank Kwabi; Dr Brendan Lambe; Dr Ming-Tsung Lin; Dr Qinye Lu; Dr Nicole Lux; Dr Linh Nguyen; Dr Samuel Owusu-Agyei; Dr Ting Zhu.

Recent Journal Articles

Prof Emmanuel Adegbite

Rachel English

Dr Brendan Lambe

Fred Mear

Dr Kemi Yekini
- The impact of community expectations on corporate community involvement disclosures in the annual report of UK listed companies” *Presented at the 39 th Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association held at MECC Maastricht, the Netherlands, May 11-13 2016.

The department was well represented at the faculty research conference held on 14 September 2016 with five members of the department presenting at the conference as follows:

- **Rachel English.** Discussion paper on “Preferential international trade after 23 June 2016”.

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• **Dr. Neil Lancaster** “Understanding exchange rate economics as a co-ordination problem”

• **Dr John Margerison** “Chinese accountants and their environmental ethic – changing accountability for sustainability”

• **Nick Webber** “The society of the great and the society of the small: isomorphism and conceptualization within and without the mind”.

• **Dr Kemi Yekini** “The impact of community expectations on corporate community involvement disclosures in the UK”

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**Latest Books, Book Chapters and Book Reviews**

**Dr Kemi Yekini**

- ‘Insights regarding the applicability of semiotics to CSR communication research’ in David Crowther & Linne Lauesen (eds), *Handbook of Research Methods in CSR*, Cheltenham, UK and Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

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**Contributions to Professional Publications**

In addition to academic publications, members of the department also published in professional magazines as follows:

**Beverley Vickerstaff and Rachel English**

The Top 200 Leicestershire businesses published yearly in the Leicester Mercury. This league table identifies and ranks Leicestershire’s businesses, providing a measure of climbers, non-movers and fallers, which is passionately reviewed by the Leicestershire business community.

**Linda Hickston**

‘Marginal and Relevant Costing in the ACCA P3 exam' Student Accountant (the ACCA magazine)

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**GUEST SPEAKERS & KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

Members of the department were invited to give guest lectures at various events and universities across the UK. These included the following:

**Linda Hickston** was invited to present at the Bloomberg Education symposium in June 2016 on the use of Bloomberg to enhance assessment.

**Dr. Neil Lancaster** was invited to speak on “Changing how we teach economics in the UK” at the Department of Economics Seminar Series, School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), University of London on 13th January 2016. See details [here](#).

**Fred Mear** was invited to facilitate a number of sessions on the PEFA Conference and Workshops held in Budapest in April 2016. See [Summary report](#) for details.

He was also invited to present a paper titled “Local Government debt” to a visiting Delegation of senior officials from the Chinese Ministry of Finance in Edinburgh on 24th November 2016.

**Beverley Vickerstaff** was invited to deliver a breakfast presentation at BBC radio Leicester on “Leicestershire Top 200 companies” a publication by DMU in conjunction with the Leicester Mercury. The presentation was followed by an interview. Rachel English took a lead role in preparing the publication and was effectively supported by Jane Reeves.

**Dr Kemi Yekini** was invited to speak on “Academic Writing dynamics: Understanding and avoiding plagiarism” at a Community youth annual conference entitled “Campus Horizon 2016” held at the University of Birmingham, 8th October 2016.

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**OTHER RELATED SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

**Rachel English** is a member of the editorial team of *The Journal of Business and Retail Management Research*, a SCOPUS indexed and SCIMAGO ranked Journal.

**Linda Hickston** reviewed for the Accounting Education Journal.

**Dr. Neil Lancaster** reviewed for the *Economics eJournal* and also reviewed a paper for the Association for Heterodox Economics Annual Conference.

**Dr Brendan Lambe** is a guest editor on a British Journal of Management (BJM) special issue (BJM is an ABS ranked 4*). For details click [here](#). He also organised the 1st Conference on Management and Environmental Sustainability College Court, Leicester in May 2016

**Dr. Kemi Yekini** in collaboration with Dr Ismail Adelopo, is currently working on a special issue focusing on Corporate Disclosure for the Accounting Research Journal. Click [here](#) for details

In collaboration with the Centre for Comparative Housing Research, Fred Mear and Dr Kemi Yekini are currently working on a consultancy research evaluation project with Commonweal. The project will last for three years.

In addition, Fred Mear successfully secured an ongoing Consultancy research with PEFA Secretariat of the World Bank. The goals of the PEFA Program are to strengthen capacities to assess the status of country PFM systems and develop a practical sequence of reform and capacity improvement actions, in a manner that, encourages country ownership; reduces the transaction costs to countries; enhances donor harmonization; allows monitoring of progress of country PFM performance over time; better addresses developmental and fiduciary concerns and leads to improved impact of reforms.
Congratulations to Our PhD Students!

Congratulation to one of our newly completed PhD student Dr Lukman Raimi, who won the Business and Law Best Thesis award. Dr Raimi was supervised by Ashok Patel and Dr Kemi Yekini.

We also congratulate two of our PhD students who successfully defended their theses with minor corrections. Their topics are:


Menan Mohamed Etab: “The Internal and External Contingent Factors That Affect the Determination of Profitability in Islamic Banks in Comparison to Conventional Banks in Egypt” June, 2016. Menan was supervised by Prof. David Crowther and Dr David Russell.

Welcome on Board!

We welcome our new PhD students to the Department.

- Benjamin Menzo is being supervised by Dr Kemi Yekini and Fred Mear;
- Nuha Alofi is being supervised by Dr Kemi Yekini and Dr Zhiyong Li;
- Matthew Udengbe is being supervised by Dr Kemi Yekini and Dr John Margerison.

Doctoral research seminar series

The department has put in place a monthly doctoral research seminar series for our PhD students in order to enhance the research and presentation skills of our doctoral students. Please contact Dr Kemi Yekini at kyekini@dmu.ac.uk for more information.

Many thanks to all contributors to this edition. Appreciation also goes to Dr Louise Obara for taking the time to proofread the publication.