

PRI-CDC Academic Conference

Paris, 13-15 November, 2013

Call for Papers

Investing for Sustainable and Long-Term Returns

The [PRI Initiative](#), the [Groupe Caisse des Dépôts](#) and the [Chaire Finance Durable et Investissement Responsable](#) are pleased to announce the *Sixth Annual Academic Conference on Responsible Investment*, to be held 13-15 November 2013 at CDC's headquarters in Paris.

Details of the conference will be posted on the [PRI website](#) as they become available. All enquiries should be directed in the first instance to academic@unpri.org. As in previous years the first day will be a *Student Symposium*, dedicated to the latest new research by Ph.D students. The main conference will be held on the 14 and 15 of November and consist of plenaries and smaller panel sessions.

As an international event, this is a unique opportunity for academics, students and investment professionals to hear the latest findings, communicate priorities for future research and to network with each other.

The overall theme for the conference is ***Investing for Sustainable and Long-Term Returns***. We invite paper submissions and panel proposals addressing this, particularly in the following areas:

- *The financial implications for long-term investors at the portfolio level of issues such as natural resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, inequality, human capital and employee relations or human rights.*
- *How these issues affect strategic asset allocation, benchmarks and the design and performance of investment strategies.*

- *The financial impact of company and investor short-termism on long-term investors' returns and on sustainability.*
- *How can incentives be aligned throughout the investment chain from asset owners via investment managers to companies and other types of investment in order to promote sustainable, long-term returns?*
- *The implications of ESG factors for financial performance and for the performance of alternative asset classes such as hedge funds and commodities.*
- *The relevance of behavioural finance to responsible investment issues.*
- *The implications of responsible investment for modern portfolio theory.*
- *What can investors can do to promote and sustain a stable, well-functioning market and financial system?*

In addition to full papers, we also invite poster presentations and proposals to host workshops.

Conference Prizes

PRI-Forum pour l'Investissement Responsable Award – awarded to European nationals, researchers based at or partnering with European institutions and/or addressing a topic related to European financial markets. Three awards valued at €5,000.00 euros each and one research grant valued at €10,000.00 will be awarded. Applications for the PRI-FRI awards must be made by **15 July, 2013**. Shortlisting will be on **17 September, 2013** and final selection on **22 October, 2013**. The awards will be presented at the dinner on the evening of the 13th of November. Further details, including the judging panel, will be found on the PRI-FIR call for papers and on the [FIR website](#).

Sustainalytics Prize for Excellence in RI Research – an international award which recognizes the most outstanding conference paper by a student or students (€2500) and the most outstanding paper by an academic or academics (€3500). The judges of the prize will be the [Steering Committee](#) of the Academic Network, plus a nominee of Sustainalytics. The awards will be made at the conference dinner on **14 November, 2013**.

Those wishing to enter should indicate this on the [main conference submission form](#).

The submission dates for the prizes are the same as for the main conference. **Please note you can apply for both the PRI-FIR and Sustainalytics Awards, but to do so you must submit by 15 July, 2013.**

Application requirements

Conference Papers and Student Symposium

Working drafts or extended abstracts of their papers (minimum 8 pages; all stylistic conventions accepted) will be considered for the conference. However, for the Sustainalytics Prize a full paper **must** be submitted by **31 August, 2013**.

Applicants are invited to [submit their application online](#) by **31 August, 2013 (but please note the earlier 15 July deadline for PRI-FIR applications)**.

Abstracts should include:

- Summary of the significance of the research
- Relevance to the conference theme
- Description of research methods and findings
- Expected contribution to theory and / or practice

The document must be accompanied by a cover page that includes:

- The candidate's contact information
- A working title
- The conference theme/s being addressed
- Biographical information on the author(s), including a scanned passport and details of relationships to European research institutions (only for consideration for the FIR Awards)

For PhD or Master's students who would like to be considered for an award: The cover page and abstract must be accompanied by a reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature if sent by e-mail.

If you are applying to present at the conference in conjunction with the PRI-FIR Award, please note that the only additional requirement is that abstracts should include a reference to the conference research themes.

Workshops

The purpose of workshops at the Academic Conference is to support research on emerging issues in responsible investment. If you would like to host a workshop at the conference, please include the following in your proposal:

- Workshop background and purpose, and its connection to the theme of the Paris Academic Conference
- List of key participants
- Tentative agenda
- Expected projects/outcomes from workshop

Application timeline

15 July 2013 –Papers being considered for the PRI-FIR award must be submitted

31 August 2013 – Final materials for all conference participants to be submitted

30 September 2013 – Notification of acceptance to present or host a workshop will be provided.

22 October 2013 – PRI-FIR Award winners will be selected.

Award presentation for the PRI-FIR Award will be held on **13 November, 2013** in Paris. The award presentation for the Sustainalytics Research Prize will be held on **14 November, 2013**, also in Paris.

Judging Criteria

Conference Papers and Student Symposium

Proposed conference papers will be reviewed by a selection panel of academics and investment professionals. Judging criteria include:

- Practical significance of the research, particularly the potential to apply research in investment environments
- Contribution to responsible investment research
- Originality of subject of study or approach; there is an emphasis on empirical analysis
- Methodological strength

Workshops

Proposals for workshops will be reviewed by the PRI Secretariat and the Academic Network and will be evaluated for their potential to stimulate interesting discussion and research.

Travel subsidies

We will not be able to offer travel subsidies for post-doctoral or academic presenters. We have some funds to assist in student travel and we encourage graduate students to submit abstracts. Graduate students should include any request for travel subsidy, specifying their need and amounts required, in their application.

Detailed travel information for the conference will be provided closer to the conference dates.