



**Call For Papers: A Special Issue on
“Information Technology, Agency Problems and Fraud”**

Conference Sponsored by

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, YORK UNIVERSITY

June 2-3, 2016
Montreal, Canada

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

- Jonathan Karpoff (University of Washington)

ORGANIZERS:

- Douglas Cumming, Schulich School of Business, York University
- Sofia Johan, Schulich School of Business, York University
- Denis Schweizer, Concordia University, John Molson School of Business

RATIONALE:

There are rapid information flows over the Internet through news media and social networks. Intermediaries make use of the Internet through multiple channels, such as but not limited to customer services, online accounts, web banners, and information dissemination. The Internet enables internationalization through a variety of marketing channels and increased the speed of communications and transactions, and decreasing their human and financial resource limitations. New forms of Internet-based financing such as crowdfunding or peer-to-peer lending emerged and have become a widespread phenomenon.

The role of the Internet affects corporate governance in number ways, including but not limited to a shift in governance of firms from boards of directors to shareholders or backers. The shift to the Internet in turn influences especially networks, marketing, human resource decisions and the offshore outsourcing of labor, and financing. The Internet with its global availability also impacts environmental factors, such as tax systems, regulation, legislation, national technological infrastructures and payment methods. Relatedly, the Internet offers cost effective distance-learning technologies and new innovative forms of knowledge transfer such as Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), which results in e.g. increased fund-raising and increased community interaction. Also, the Internet in some ways may deter fraud, but in other ways may provide new mechanisms to carry out fraud.

Despite the widespread media attention on the Internet, new information flows and fraud, the links between information technology and fraud are under researched in academic journals around the

world. The evolving structure of financial markets in conjunction with the Internet gives rise to new work on topic.

This international conference and special issue will provide a timely debate on the Internet and its impact on agency problems fraud. The conference also encourages, but does not require, submission to the *Information Systems Frontiers*. Papers submitted to the *Information Systems Frontiers* are processed through the journal's online system and would go through the normal review process.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Some research questions that contributors to the conference might address are:

- Are agency problems and fraud mitigated by developments in information technology?
- How successful is the Internet in facilitating financial transactions and mitigating default and fraud through crowdfunding portals?
- What are the financial market consequences of misconduct and fraud, and are these consequences distinct in the information technology sectors?
- What are the governance consequences of misconduct and fraud for management, and are these consequences distinct in the information technology sectors?
- Can regulation be designed to improve ethical standards with the flow of information over the Internet?
- Related research questions are welcome.

PAPER SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

Papers are to be submitted to:

CONTACT: Douglas J. Cumming
Email: dcumming@schulich.yorku.ca

With the subject heading:

"Concordia Conference on Information Technology, Agency Problems, and Fraud"

In your submissions, please indicate whether you want your paper to be considered for the Special Issue in *Information Systems Frontiers*. Papers submitted to the ISF should also be submitted online at the ISF webpage. Papers will be reviewed following normal ISF standards.

KEY DATES:

To aid in the development of papers, a two-day conference will be held at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada on June 2-3, 2016. The conference will feature an evening reception on June 2 with the keynote speaker. Conference paper presentations will be on June 2 and 3 at Concordia University.

Deadline for submission to the conference is February 1, 2016. Authors will be notified about acceptance to conference by March 1, 2016. Acceptance to the conference does not guarantee acceptance into *Information Systems Frontiers*.

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Douglas Cumming

Douglas Cumming, J.D., Ph.D., CFA, is a Professor of Finance and Entrepreneurship and the Ontario Research Chair at the Schulich School of Business, York University, Canada. He teaches the MBA course “Venture Capital and Private Equity”. His research interests include venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, mutual funds, entrepreneurship, and law and finance. He is the incoming Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Corporate Finance* (effective 2018). He is a Co-Editor of *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice* and *Finance Research Letters*, and has been a guest editor for 12 special issues of top journals. He has published over a dozen books, and 140 articles in leading refereed academic journals in finance, management, and law and economics, such as the *Academy of Management Journal*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of International Business Studies* and the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. His work has been reviewed in numerous media outlets, including *The Economist*, *The New York Times*, *Canadian Business*, the *National Post*, and *The New Yorker*.

Sofia Johan

Sofia Johan, LL.B (Liverpool), LL.M. in International Economic Law (Warwick), Ph.D. in Law and Economics (Tilburg), is the AFM Senior Research Fellow at the Tilburg Law and Economics Centre (TILEC) in The Netherlands and Adjunct Professor of Law and Finance at the Schulich School of Business, York University. Her research is primarily focused on law and finance, market surveillance, hedge funds, venture capital, private equity and IPOs. Her work has been presented at the *American Law and Economics Association*, *American Economic Association*, *European Law and Economics Association*, the *European Financial Management Association*, and other leading international conferences. She has published over 40 articles in leading journals and 3 books with Oxford and Elsevier. Her recent publications have appeared in numerous journals including the *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Journal of International Business Studies*, *American Law and Economics Review*, *International Review of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *European Financial Management*, *European Economic Review*, and *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, among numerous other journals. She is the coauthor of *Venture Capital and Private Equity Contracting: An International Perspective* (Elsevier Science Academic Press, 2nd Ed., 2013, 756pp) and *Hedge Fund Structure, Regulation and Performance around the World* (Oxford University Press, 2013, 300pp). Prior to her Ph.D., she was the head legal counsel at the largest government owned venture capital fund in Malaysia. She has also consulted for a variety of governmental and private organizations in Australasia, Europe, and North America. Her work for the Australian Government on “Venture Capital’s Economic Impact in Australia” was awarded the best paper prize in 2013 from the Australasian Private Equity and Venture Capital Association.

Denis Schweizer

Denis Schweizer, Ph.D., FRM, CFP, is an Associate Professor of Finance at the John Molson School of Business, Concordia University. His research is focused primarily on entrepreneurial finance as well as modern financing instruments and corporate governance, including hedge funds, venture capital, and private equity. His work has been presented continually at, e.g., the *Financial Management Association*, the *Midwest Finance Association*, and other international conferences. Since 2011, he has published twenty-seven articles in leading journals, such as *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Banking and Finance*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, and *Journal of Business Ethics*, among others. He has received a number of academic best paper awards, such as the *Australasian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association* Research Price for 2013-2014 and *European Financial Management – Readers’ Choice Best Paper Award* 2013. He is also a member of the investment committee of Universal Bank, and was aboard member of the investment fund Source for Alpha in Switzerland.