

China Scholarships Council Project 2022-23

Title of the project: Governance and management of digital firms

Principle investigators:

Dr. Anant Joshi

Assistant Professor

Department of Accounting and Information Management

School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University

a.joshi@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Dr. Annelies Renders

Associate Professor

Department of Accounting and Information Management

School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University

a.renders@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Dr. Fynn Gerken

Assistant Professor

Department of Accounting and Information Management

School of Business and Economics

f.gerken@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Contact Person: Dr. Anant Joshi (a.joshi@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Keywords: digital transformation, digital capabilities, corporate governance, board of directors, top management

Proposal:

In the contemporary business environment, embracing digital technologies to create business value is no longer a choice but a necessity to compete in a global economy. Boards and senior management around the world are listing digital initiatives as one of their main strategic priorities for achieving a competitive advantage. Nonetheless, developing a high level of digital capabilities and establishing a digital infrastructure requires sound governance and management of a firm's digital assets. In other words, effective digital governance is crucial for firms in establishing digital leadership.

In this research project, we focus on Chinese firms to examine how several organizational governance and management contingencies influence the digital capabilities of firms and how this links to value creation.

China is a rapidly developing economy that is positioning itself as one of the world leaders in digital innovation. Hence, Chinese firms form a suitable setting for our research question. The goal of the research project is twofold. First, we aim to examine how certain board-level and senior management characteristics are instrumental in developing digital capabilities. Second, we explore the interdependencies between digital capabilities and contextual factors specific to Chinese firms, such as ownership structures, industry competition, and mergers and acquisitions.

Approach: This research project will be empirical in nature and based on archival data available in FactSet. This data will be complemented with information collected from firm documents such as financial reports. The archival data will be matched with various output measures of digital leadership and innovation. Sophisticated statistical methods will be employed to collect and analyze data at the firm level.

Requirements candidate:

- Applicants should hold a master's degree, preferably a research master's degree Proficiency in both spoken and written English. Moreover, candidates should share our ambition to conduct high-quality research with academic and societal impact.
- Strong statistical knowledge (experience with statistical packages, such as SAS, R, and STATA, is viewed as a plus).
- Familiarity with programming languages such as Python and R is viewed as a plus.

References:

Joshi, A., Bollen, L., Hassink, H., De Haes, S., & Van Grembergen, W. (2018). Explaining IT governance disclosure through the constructs of IT governance maturity and IT strategic role. *Information & Management*, 55(3), 368-380.

van Peteghem, M., Joshi, A., Mithas, S., Bollen, L., & De Haes, S., (2019) "Board IT competence and firm performance." ICIS, Munich

Papagiannidis, E., Enholm, I. M., Dremel, C., Mikalef, P., & Krogstie, J. (2022). Toward AI Governance: Identifying Best Practices and Potential Barriers and Outcomes. *Information Systems Frontiers*, 1-19.

To whom so ever it may concern:

This research proposal is approved by the Department of Accounting and Information Management,
School of Business and Economics, Maastricht University, The Netherlands



Prof. Dr. Alexander Brügger
Professor of Management Accounting
Department Chair
Department of Accounting and Information Management
School of Business and Economics
a.bruggen@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Tongersestraat 53, 6211 LM Maastricht
PO Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht
T +31 43 38 84924 F +31 43 38 84876