



**SAVE THE DATES:**

**25 April**

SBE Sustainability Day

**29 April**

Maastricht Debate Watch Party 2024

**16 May**

Lecture on Climate Risk in the Housing Market with Esther Barendregt (Rabobank)

**24 May**

Branko Milanovic' s book presentation and Masterclass

**15 June**

Paper Submission Deadline MORSE Conference 2024

**18-19 June**

MORSE PhD Workshop 2024

**27-28 June**

19th ISGEP Conference on Trade and Productivity Upgrading in Advanced and Emerging Economies

Calls:

## **MORSE Conference 2024 Call for Papers**

**The MORSE conference 2024 will take place on October 23-25 2024 in Maastricht.**

The call for papers is [online](#). Please disseminate this to your networks!

Deadline to submit papers is 15 June. Registrations will open soon.

## **MORSE Blogs**

MORSE continues with its blog series! Every Monday at alternate weeks until end of July, MORSE will publish short blog entries. Read the last blogs about the MILL project [here](#). The next blog will be published on April 22nd, authored by Dagmar Diesner. Follow MORSE on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) to not miss out on any new blog posts!

Would you also like to contribute to our blog series? Let us know writing an email at [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl), we are planning the autumn schedule!

## **MORSE travel grants**

To support MORSE researchers in reaching out to colleagues and stakeholders, it is important that especially our early career researchers have sufficient resources to travel. Of course, we encourage you to consider the environment and travel by train whenever possible. You can request financial support from MORSE for up to 50% of your travel budget, with a maximum of 500 euros for travel within Europe and 1000 euro beyond Europe. Apply at least 2 weeks before your departure by sending a half-page motivated request detailing your topic, the event, and a simple budget to [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl). Find more information, a slide deck template, and exact requirements by clicking on [this link](#).

## **News and Events**

News:

## The New MORSE Theme Structure

MORSE has evolved and its structure has changed. A new theme has been added: Resilience to Uncertainty, led by Giulia Piccillo, and others have been merged or closed. You find the new structure on our MORSE webpage under [themes](#).

## The MILL Project

The **Maastricht Immersive Learning Lab (MILL)** is a project that aims to develop immersive learning techniques in which learners will experience and interact instead of hearing and reading about the challenges we face. Immersive learning takes the learner *inside* the challenge at hand and thus creates an engaging learning environment in which approaches to solving the problem or addressing the challenge are experienced rather than instructed. Of course, reflection on the observed play and repeated interactions help cement the learning experience. In the MILL, teaching courses thus takes on a completely new meaning. Educators will design and supervise carefully prepared, research-based scenario's in which learners play out their assigned parts and thereby acquire the knowledge and skills required to act in response to real(istic) challenges. Academic and post-graduate education can thus become more effective and engaging, while the same tools may help professionals engage with non-professionals to train for eventualities in a much more engaging and effective way. This will help Maastricht University researchers become more effective in training responsible leaders that build resilient organisations contributing to a more sustainable society.

Want to know more? Visit our [MILL Project webpage](#)

Past Events:

## SBE students at the second European Conference on the Economics of Transition and Resilience

On October 20th 55 SBE-students successfully pitched their policy proposals at the European Commission in the second European Student Conference on the Economics of Transition and Resilience. Read more about it [here](#).

## The Third MORSE Conference 2023

Last year, from the 23rd until the 25th October 2023, MORSE hosted the Third MORSE Conference, with outstanding keynotes, an interesting panel with SBE alumni and the presentation of more than 60 papers. Find more information [here!](#)

## Prof.Dr. Heidi Vander Bauwhede visiting scholar at AIM

Prof. Dr. Heidi Vander Bauwhede (University of Gent, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Department of Accounting, Corporate Finance and Taxation) was a visiting scholar at the department of Accounting and Information Management *from the beginning of October 2023 until the end of January 2024*. During her visit, she worked closely with Ann Vanstraelen (AIM) and participated in the MORSE conference and other MORSE activities. She has a strong interest in sustainability. Check out some of her recent publications:

- [Mission alignment with employees and financiers: probing into the workings of B Corp certification.](#)  
Valerie Paelman (UGent), Philippe Van Cauwenberge (UGent) and Heidi Vander Bauwhede (UGent). (2023) Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management 30(4). p.1632-1644.
- [Determinants and value relevance of voluntary assurance of sustainability reports in a mandatory reporting context: evidence from Europe](#)  
Heidi Vander Bauwhede (UGent) and Philippe Van Cauwenberge (UGent). (2022) Sustainability 14(15).

## Prof. Dr. Christian Leuz received an honorary doctorate from Maastricht University

Prof. Dr. Christian Leuz received an honorary doctorate from Maastricht University during the Dies Natalis in January 2024. His promotor was Ann Vanstraelen (AIM). Christian Leuz is the Charles F. Pohl Distinguished Service Professor of Accounting and Finance at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business. He is a distinguished international scholar with significant contributions to the fields of accounting, finance, and institutional economics.

Professor Leuz's work has received several awards and honors for the impact of his research. He is recognized by Thomson Reuters as a "Highly Cited Researcher" and was included in their list of "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds" for five

consecutive years (from 2014-2018).

One of his recent studies on ESG was published in [Science](#).

The article provides large-sample evidence on the impact of unconventional oil and gas development on surface waters, which is a major environmental and health concern. Leuz and his team have built a large, geocoded database that combines surface water measurements with horizontally drilled wells stimulated by hydraulic fracturing (HF) for several shales.

In a [follow-up study](#), they find that transparency in hydraulic fracturing operations can be a force for change in firm behavior, and ultimately reduce pollution.

Prior to the ceremony, Christian Leuz gave a lecture for SBE entitled: "Transparency as a policy tool: Does it work for societal and environmental problems?"

Did you miss it? Click [here](#) to watch the video in honor of Prof. Leuz.

## MORSE Research Day 2024

MORSE hosted the annual **MORSE Research Day** on January 29th. This year the program included an inspiring [guest lecture](#) delivered by [Prof Igor Mayer](#) about the rise of digital twins. We also presented new initiatives, such as the Maastricht Immersive Learning Lab ([MILL](#)) [Project](#), and we hosted the 2024 MORSE Thesis Award Ceremony. Read the [event report](#) to know more about it.

## Workshop on FUSIO-n digital platform

On 6 March, the Assistant Professor Serdar Türkeli of UNU-MERIT, lead of the MORSE Theme *Resilient, Responsible and Sustainable Initiatives Observatory*, introduced the [digital platform FUSIO-n](#), in collaboration with SBE Department of Data Analytics and Digitalisation (DAD). The platform is meant to facilitate potential cross-departmental and societal collaborations in research.

FUSIO-n is a minimal functional design aiming at serving as an e-Platform to foster collaborations for researchers and experts from public administration, industry, civil society. Potential collaborations may target joint publications, collaborative funding applications, co-organized events, partnerships in outlet editorship, or staying updated about potential collaborations, funds, events, outlets based on a list of research interests. During the workshop, participants learned how to create their profiles on FUSIO-n and their lists of experts and could provide their feedback, in order to improve the ongoing development of the platform.

So far, more than 40 researchers have created an account on FUSIO-n. **More updates and a user-guide will be published soon in a MORSE blog**, check [our page](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

Future Events:

## SBE Sustainability Day

The School of Business and Economics will host its [Sustainability Day](#) on the 25th of April. Activities will include a climate desk, a collaborative workshop where participants will learn the science behind climate change and empower you with actions. There will also be a Climate Café where participants will enjoy a nice lunch while discussing current climate topics. Afterward, a panel discussion on green growth versus de-growth will take place. Finally, a workshop by Circee, a slow fashion brand, will help participants develop their own idea of circular business!

Register [here](#)

## Maastricht Debate Watch Party 2024

On 29 April, Studio Europa Maastricht and POLITICO will organize the third edition of the Maastricht Debate in the run-up to the European Parliament elections (6-9 June). On the same day, SEM organizes a Debate Watch Party. At the Vrijthof square, visitors can watch this important debate on a large screen. We also have a full and inspiring programme before and after the debate. View the entire line-up below. Dive into European democracy at our watch party!

You find more information about the event [here](#)

## Lecture on *Climate Risk in the Housing Market: Insight and Policy Guidance*

**16 May 2024 at 16.00-17.30 – Room TAP11 F0.019**

In this presentation, **Ester Barendregt** will provide insight into the impact of climate risks on the Dutch housing market. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion that includes **Lu Zhang** of the Dutch Central Bank. Click [here](#) to know more about the lecture and the speakers.

Register [here](#) no later than **13 May**.

## **Branko Milanovic's book presentation**

**24 May 2024 at 15.30-17.00 - Franz Palm Lecture Hall**

Branko Milanovic, senior scholar at the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, will present his book *Visions of Inequality: From the French Revolution to the End of the Cold War*.

Click [here](#) to know more about the event and the author.

Register [here](#) no later than 20 May.

## **Masterclass with Branko Milanovic**

**24 May 2024 at 11.00-13.00 – TS53 Room H0.06**

In this masterclass, four invited students from a wide range of academic advancement, spanning from 1st year master students to 3rd year PhD candidates, will have the opportunity to present their inequality related work to Branko Milanovic, and a wider audience.

Click [here](#) to know more about the masterclass.

Register [here](#) no later than 20 May.

## **MORSE PhD Workshop 2024**

**On 18 and 19 June**, we hope to see you at the **4th annual MORSE PhD Workshop**. We would like to invite all PhD candidates to present work related to the themes of the MORSE initiative. You are invited to present your work at any stage of development, and you will receive helpful and interesting feedback from your peers and their supervisors, alike.

We also invite all MORSE members, whether they are supervising any of the PhD candidates presenting or not, to attend and act as discussants for the presentations.

If you are a PhD candidate who would like to present at the workshop, please contact **Prescott Morley** ([p.morley@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:p.morley@maastrichtuniversity.nl)) with a tentative title for your talk. Also, please reach out if you are a MORSE member who would like to attend and act as a discussant.

If you do not fall into either category, please know that you are also invited to join the event and support our PhDs with your constructive feedback on their work. Program details will follow in the coming weeks.

**Research:**

## Highlighted Publications

Vander Bauwhede, Heidi, and Philippe Van Cauwenberge. "Determinants and Value Relevance of Voluntary Assurance of Sustainability Reports in a Mandatory Reporting Context: Evidence from Europe." *SUSTAINABILITY*, vol. 14, no. 15, 2022, doi:10.3390/su14159795

Paelman, Valerie, et al. "Mission Alignment with Employees and Financiers : Probing into the Workings of B Corp Certification." *CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT*, vol. 30, no. 4, 2023, pp. 1632–44, doi:10.1002/csr.2440.

Bonetti P, Leuz C, Michelon G. "Large-sample evidence on the impact of unconventional oil and gas development on surface waters." *Science*. 2021 Aug 20;373(6557):896-902. doi: 10.1126/science.aaz2185. PMID: 34413233.

Michael Greenstone et al., "Mandatory disclosure would reveal corporate carbon damages." *Science* 381,837-840(2023).DOI:10.1126/science.add6815

This is (inevitably) only a short list of the events, publications and projects MORSE-members are involved in. If you can use our support in developing your proposals or would like your project to be announced and shared in the next New Endeavours, please send a description like the ones above to [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

**Do you have other relevant news you would like to share with MORSE community?**  
Reach out to [morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:morse-sbe@maastrichtuniversity.nl), we'll make sure to publish it in the next Newsletter.