

Navigating Academic Practice in a Changing World: *AI, Sustainability, and Scholarly Careers*



Professor Charl de Villiers

Charl de Villiers is Professor of Accounting at The University of Auckland, New Zealand. He is internationally recognised for his Sustainability Accounting research and expertise, which led to his appointment as a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM). Charl is also an adjunct professor at the University of Cape Town and the University of Pretoria.

Charl has over 500 research-based publications and presentations, including more than 120 articles in refereed journals, and two Routledge-published edited books. His research has often advocated for regulated sustainability disclosures, a call that has gained significant traction internationally in recent years. As sustainability and environmental concerns have become more pressing, the demand for transparency and accountability in corporate reporting has grown. Charl's research has provided robust frameworks for understanding and implementing such disclosures and governance mechanisms, helping to shape regulatory policies worldwide. As an indication of impact, his research has been cited more than 20,000 times, and his h-index is over 60, i.e., more than 60 of his research publications have each been cited more than 60 times. A Stanford University study ranks Charl in the top 100 of all accounting academics globally for lifetime citations, in the top 50 for annual citations, and among the top 2% of scientists worldwide. In 2022, he was inducted into the AAAJ/APIRA Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to the interdisciplinary accounting research community, and in 2024 into the CSEAR Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to social and environmental accounting research.

Charl has published in *Accounting, Organizations and Society*; *Journal of Management*; *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal* (AAAJ); *British Accounting Review* (BAR); and *European Accounting Review*, among other journals. He is editor-in-chief of *Meditari Accountancy Research* and serves on the editorial boards of 10 academic journals, including AAAJ and BAR. He is deputy editor of *Accounting & Finance*, and has often served as an editor of AAAJ special issues and as a guest associate editor of BAR. Charl plays an active role in promoting sustainability accounting research in New Zealand and Australia, having established and serving as chair of the steering committee of the Sustainability Accounting Research Network (SARN) and its annual Conference. He also furthers accounting research in general, by regularly presenting and publishing on methodology, theory, the choice of research topic, what constitutes a contribution to the literature, and the writing of academic research. Charl was President (New Zealand) of AFAANZ (Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand) from 2018 to 2020. He has maintained his links with the accounting profession as a FCA and FCMA.

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We invite you to a unique seminar devoted to sharing ideas about how to link our academic field, e.g., accounting, to real-world problems, i.e., those related to social and environmental issues, often referred to as sustainability, and how to build a meaningful academic career. The seminar will be led by one of the world's most distinguished scholars in the field of Sustainability Accounting, Professor Charl de Villiers. The seminar is addressed to faculty members and PhD students of the Krakow University of Economics.

Seminar Programme

Sustainability Accounting – an overview

- *What are the elements of Sustainability Accounting and the important drivers of current interest in the field?*

Sustainability Accounting – research opportunities

- *How can interesting developments in the field be turned into interesting research projects with good publication potential?*

AI and sustainability accounting

- *How can we expect AI to influence future developments in Sustainability Accounting?*

Publishing in higher-quality academic journals – enhancing your chances of success

- *Which elements are most important in ensuring a paper gets through the initial screening when it is submitted to a journal, and after review, gets the opportunity to be revised and resubmitted?*

Developing a research portfolio and managing your academic career

- *Are there ways to enhance the chances of having a successful and fulfilling academic career?*

Your Questions – Expert Answers

- *A direct discussion with a leading scholar.*

Why Attend?

This is a unique opportunity to engage directly with one of the most impactful scholars in Sustainability Accounting and in Business Studies more generally. The insights you gain could be applied in your own area of research interest, making for a more fulfilling and meaningful career.

We warmly invite you to participate!

Time & place

Krakow University of Economics

Rakowicka 27, 31-510 Kraków

Friday 2 October 2026, time: 10:00 - 15:00, room: TBD - Seminar

Monday, 5 October 2026, time: 10:00 - 15:00, room: TBD - Individual consultations with Professor Charl de Villiers. Prior reservation is required via e-mail: joanna.krasodomska@uek.krakow.pl