

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

22nd Corporate Responsibility Research Conference

“Corporate Responsibility in an Age of Geopolitical Uncertainty”

Hosted by KEDGE Business School (France) and Université Cadi Ayyad (Morocco)
in association with

the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds (UK)
and ESCP Business School (France)

28th-30th October 2026

(PhD workshop on afternoon of 28th October)

Submission Deadline: 29 May 2026

A little over one decade ago, then UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon (2011), in his attempt to highlight the incompatibility of economic growth objectives and planetary boundaries, labelled the 20th Century economic model as a “global suicide pact”. Even though there was no lack of urgency in 2011, with hindsight, this was still in the good old days of relative peace and stability. Since then, we have moved from the (admittedly painstakingly slow) process of building up global governance infrastructures and the incremental greening of industries towards a series of large-scale disruptions that include the rise of populism and economic nationalism, Brexit, artificial intelligence, post-truth, Covid-19, regional violent conflict, or the United States’ withdrawal from multi-lateral institutions such as the IPCC, UNFCCC and the WHO. Strange times indeed. The fear is that these shorter-term developments rapidly undermine the governance infrastructure needed to tackle the set of longer-term grand challenges as embodied by the UN SDGs. Are these developments only temporary blips or more permanent fissures of the governance system for sustainability? What do they mean for the transition to sustainability? And what do they mean for voluntary, stakeholder-driven, beyond-compliance corporate responsibility? Is there anything out there that can provide us with optimism?

In addition, these global-level trends coincide with our decision to take CRRC as a traditionally European corporate responsibility conference to Marrakech, Morocco. Marrakech is one of the gateways to Africa, a vast continent with its own unique set of sustainability challenges that often tend to be marginalized, if not forgotten, by Western corporate responsibility theorizing. As such, the conference opens up an array of research opportunities, allowing us to reflect on and refine Western-centric views of CSR, corporate sustainability, sustainability transitions and related concepts and practices.

CRRC is a cross-disciplinary conference looking for both conceptual and empirical papers filling the research and knowledge gap in both theory and practice related to the impact of CSR on society. We are interested in contributions from different disciplines and fields of study. CRRC is the ideal place to test new ideas and to experiment with new formats. Therefore, we welcome

suggestions for special workshop streams and innovative ideas. The tradition of CRRC is to focus on participants and the debate. We aim to create an environment that is welcoming and friendly yet succeeds in challenging the existing knowledge base and assumptions, and hence drives the debate around corporate responsibility forward.

CONFERENCE THEMES

<p>Sub-theme 1: CSR and Planetary Boundaries Chair: Prof Pasi HEIKKURINEN, Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology</p>
<p>Sub-theme 2: International CSR Chair: Prof Lutz PREUSS, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 3: Social Impact and CSR Chair: Dr Robert KUDLAK, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań</p>
<p>Sub-theme 4: Corruption and CSR Chair: Prof Julien HANOTEAU, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 5: Circular Economy Chair: Prof Frank FIGGE, ESCP Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 6: CSR and Global Governance Chairs: Prof Ralf BARKEMEYER, KEDGE Business School & Prof Chafik Bentaleb, Cadi Ayyad University</p>
<p>Sub-theme 7: Sustainable Workplace Chair: Prof Marc OHANA, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 8: CSR Communication Chairs: Dr Rory PADFIELD, University of Leeds & Elise FRANÇOIS, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 9: Consumer Behaviour on Sustainability Issues Chair: Prof William YOUNG, University of Leeds</p>
<p>Sub-theme 10: Stakeholder engagement for sustainability Chairs: Dr Anna HANNULA, Tampere University & Sara VELEZ-ZAPATA, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 11: CSR and Diversity Chairs: Prof Hugh LEE, KEDGE Business School & Dr Doha Sahraoui, Cadi Ayyad University</p>
<p>Sub-theme 12: Business, Peace and ESG Chairs: Prof Jason MIKLIAN & Sarah CECHVALA, University of Oslo</p>
<p>Sub-theme 13: Biodiversity and Business Chairs: Dr Marileena MÄKELÄ & Dr Tiina ONKILA, University of Jyväskylä</p>
<p>Sub-theme 14: Sustainable Entrepreneurship Chairs: Dr Thomas LONG, EDHEC Business School, Dr Padmaja ARGADE, International University of Monaco, & Dr Sara Bentebbaa, KEDGE Business School</p>
<p>Sub-theme 15: Open call for papers and sub-themes on CSR and Sustainability Chair: Prof Jennifer GRIFFIN, Loyola University Chicago</p>

ABSTRACTS

Initial abstracts of approx. 500 words should be emailed to **crrconference2026@gmail.com** by **29th May 2026**. Files should be sent in MS Word format, and the file name should be first author's surname. Please include names, affiliations and contact details of all authors. We are flexible with regard to the formatting of the abstract, but would like to ask authors to make sure that they cover the following aspects:

- Research Question: What is the research question that the submission aims to answer?
- Theoretical Framework: What are the main concepts, models or theories used in the paper? Include 3-4 central references.
- Method: Which method is used for the research work?
- Findings: What are the main outcomes and results of the paper?
- Which sub-theme is your paper aimed at or is it for the open call?

Abstracts will be reviewed and selected by the scientific committee of the conference. Authors will be notified of acceptance by mid-June 2026.

IMPORTANT DATES

early February 2026	Call for abstracts opens
29 May 2026	Deadline for abstract submission
15 June 2026	Notification of accepted abstracts Conference registration opens
15 September 2026	Deadline for full paper submissions Registration deadline
28 October 2026	Pre-Conference PhD Workshop
29/30 October 2026	Corporate Responsibility Research Conference

PAPERS

The conference papers of a maximum of 6,000 words including references should be emailed to **crrconference2026@gmail.com** **no later than 15th September 2026**. Please note that papers will not be accepted or appear in the programme unless speaker(s) have registered in full for the conference.

BEST PAPER AWARDS

The scientific committee of the conference will review all papers presented and award two prizes for the CRRC best overall paper and the CRRC best PhD paper at the conference dinner. Criteria for the selection process are contribution to the research field, quality of the research, innovativeness, and diversity of views.

PRE-CONFERENCE PHD WORKSHOP

Our popular pre-conference PhD Workshop will be held on the afternoon of 28 October. It will appeal to first-time attendees as well as those who have attended throughout their PhD career. This annual workshop provides a relaxed environment to allow lively exchange and discussion between PhD students as well as the opportunity to gain helpful advice and feedback from a panel of experienced PhD supervisors in the field.

REGISTRATION FEES

Regular Registration*	EUR 280
PhD Registration*	EUR 230

* The registration fee includes registration, coffee breaks and lunches on 29 and 30 October, and the conference dinner on 29 October. For PhD students, it also includes dinner on 28 October.

For more information on the conference please visit www.crrconference.org or contact us at crrconference2026@gmail.com.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Marrakech!