

oikos / PRI Young Scholars Finance Academy 2012

Responsible Investment: Risk Management and/or Maximum Impact?

February 5-10, 2012, Gais (Switzerland)

oikos **Call for Papers**

Submission Deadline: **Friday, November 4, 2011**



The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and oikos foundation will convene the fourth annual international Young Scholars Finance Academy on February 5-10, 2012 in Gais, Switzerland.

The Academy provides a unique platform to develop emerging researchers. Exceptional graduate students and young faculty are at the center of the programme and they will have exposure to leading academics and practitioners who provide feedback on their work and share advice about careers in the field of responsible investment. The event includes paper development workshops, professional development roundtables, guest speeches and outdoor activities in the picturesque Swiss Alps. The event is co-sponsored by SAM Zurich and Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

The philosophy of the Academy is towards long-term development of young academic research. Consequently, participants are also encouraged to submit papers to a follow up symposium hosted by the PRI and the Canadian Business Ethics Network in Vancouver in June 2012.

Research Themes: Risk Management or Maximum Impact?

When the United Nations-backed Principles for Responsible Investment Initiative was launched in 2006, the priority for signatories was to develop tools to help investors use extra-financial information to identify and manage long term financial risks in their portfolios. Recently there has been a growing interest by foundations, public agencies and institutional investors in determining whether social and environmental goals can actually be met in conjunction with financial objectives. Initiatives such as the Big Society Bank in the United Kingdom and the growth public-private partnerships in development finance begin to raise questions of when and how extra-financial information can be used to make investment decisions. It is debated whether investors simply manage risks or if they do play a role in fulfilling public interest objectives.

The Academy will address this tension by inviting papers in five areas:

- The role of Institutional Innovation for Responsible Investment
- Institutional Investors and Shareholder Engagement
- Responsible Investment and Behavioural Finance
- Corporate Governance and Incentives for Responsible Investments
- ESG-focused investments among mainstream investors

For further background please refer to the Research Agenda developed at the 2010 oikos PRI Academy which is available for download at: [http://bit.ly/oikos PRI research agenda](http://bit.ly/oikos_PRI_research_agenda)

Academic Faculty

Moderated feedback will be given by selected peers and internationally well-reputed guest faculty:

- **Jill Solomon**, Professor of Corporate Governance & Accountability, Department of Management, King's College London
- **Hoje Jo**, Professor of Finance, St. Clara University, USA
- **Fabrizio Ferraro**, Professor of Strategic Management, IESE Business School, Spain
- **Nicolas Mottis**, Professor for Accounting and Management, ESSEC Paris, France



Participants, Location & Fee

The goal of the Academy is to promote intensive learning through in-depth discussion and feedback. Space is therefore limited to **15** PhD students and Post-docs. The Academy is located at a scenic chalet in the Swiss Alps close to Zurich. The CHF 400.- fee for the Academy covers hotel accommodation, catering and extra-curricular excursions.

Submission Process

Students and young faculty are invited to apply with

1. a one page cover letter with a brief bio and motivation to participate,
2. a CV, and
3. a summary (max. 2 pages) of your PhD or research project which includes: working title; Academy topic addressed and how the paper fits into a wider literature and a statement of the research and practical relevance of the research project for PRI signatories and institutional investors in general.

Submission deadline

Please send your application no later than **November 4, 2011** via email to Christoph Biehl at finance@oikos-international.org
Thank you!

Notifications about acceptance will be sent out to all candidates by **November 15, 2011**. Final papers must be received for circulation to Academy participants by **December 15, 2011**. To obtain additional details on the submission process or connect with oikos PRI Young Scholars Finance Academy alumni, please visit our website at www.oikosinternational.org/projects/finance

oikos PRI Travel Grant

Supported by the PRI Academic Network, three grants (travel, fee and accommodation) are available for outstanding young scholars coming from developing countries. To apply for one of these grants, please provide a Letter of Interest and a Reference Letter from a senior faculty member.

Project Partner



The oikos Foundation and the UN PRI Academic Network are committed to strengthening excellence within the international academic community in the field of Sustainability Management and Economics. For information on additional oikos young scholars academies and academic projects please refer to our websites at www.oikosinternational.org/academic.html and www.academic.unpri.org

oikos PRI Young Scholars Development Academies 2010/2011: Participant Feedbacks

An extraordinary experience that allowed me to meet with leading scholars in the field.

Dennice Allen,
RMIT University Melbourne, Australia

"The oikos PRI Academy strongly encourages personal engagement and high-level discussions. Highly recommendable."

Beiting Cheng, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, USA

An in-depth look at the most recent and relevant research in the field of responsible investment.

Thomas Durkee,
University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

It has been a great experience! You've managed to get together a really fine group of people. And the setting in the swiss alps could not have been better.

Thiago Neto,
London School of Economics, U.K.

It was a great learning experience: very enriching in many senses.

Nadia Mans, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

A superb week. I came away completely inspired by what we might all accomplish, individually and together.

Kate W. Parrot, MIT, Cambridge MA, USA