

Invitation to the

# 1<sup>st</sup> STaR Research Conference on Responsible Innovation

November 22-23 2019, WU Vienna

## ORGANIZERS

**WU Competence Center for Sustainability Transformation & Responsibility (STaR)**

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## LOCATION

**WU Vienna**  
**Learning Center LC.2.400 (Clubraum)**  
Welthandelsplatz 1  
1020 Vienna, Austria



WU Vienna is located next to the Prater, one of Vienna's biggest parks and can easily be reached from the city center. Closest subway stations are U2 *Messe-Prater* or U2 *Krieau* (about the same walking distance to the venue)

## REGISTRATION

Attendance is free of charge and by invitation-only.

To register, please click [here](https://bit.ly/2WzZ3EA) or go to <https://bit.ly/2WzZ3EA>

The world is facing economic, social, and environmental challenges of huge proportions. It is clear that tackling the grand challenges of our time, such as the ones reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), requires concerted efforts by national governments, policy makers, research institutions, business organizations and civil society. Achieving the ambitious targets set out in the 2030 sustainable development agenda and ensuring a sustainable future for people and planet will not be possible without innovations in science, technology, law, and other fields on a scale commensurate with that of the challenges we face, as well as transformation of economic systems, business processes and, perhaps most importantly, individual mindsets.

The theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> STaR research conference is responsible innovation. The term *responsible innovation* was initially used in a rather narrow way to explore the responsibility of science with respect to issues such as research on human subjects, intellectual property, research integrity, etc. (Owen et al., 2013). However, more recent conceptualizations have taken a broader perspective by considering the variety of actors inside and outside the scientific system that might be involved in innovation processes that contribute to doing good and avoiding harm in the economic, social and environmental domains. For example, Voegtlin and Scherer (2017, 2019) recently proposed a framework of responsible innovation that evaluates innovations with regard to their potential harmful consequences for people and planet on the one hand, and their potential positive contribution to societal and environmental wellbeing on the other. Further, their framework suggests that governance mechanisms at various levels (global, economic, institutional, legal, organizational) are needed to steer innovation toward avoiding harm and doing good.

For the purpose of this research conference, we adopt a broad perspective on responsible innovation that includes (though is not limited to) innovations in corporate responsibility, sustainability and governance systems, as well as the ethical and responsibility issues associated with innovations in science and technology.

## Aim of the Conference

With this focused conference, we aim to bring together scholars from various fields and disciplines (management, economics, finance, legal studies, information technology, psychology, philosophy, and others) to further our knowledge of the nature, drivers, and outcomes of responsible innovation (RI). Another goal is to examine how aspects of the institutional, economic, legal, and organizational environment may support or hinder the process of RI.

Examples of questions to be addressed include:

- How to integrate sustainability and responsibility principles in strategic decision-making, governance mechanisms and core business processes to promote RI?
- What is the role of RI in the necessary socio-ecological transformation?
- What changes in skill-sets and mindsets at the individual level are needed to support RI?
- How do aspects of the institutional environment (including the legal system) influence the process and outcomes of RI?
- How do companies respond to a changing regulatory environment (e.g., to comply with the EU's climate and other environmental targets), what processes and procedures do they adopt and how does this affect RI? To what extent do companies proactively drive such changes?

## CONTACT

For inquiries about logistics and administrative questions, please contact

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- How do digital transformation and new technologies (e.g., artificial intelligence, block chain) foster (or hinder) RI?
- What new governance and ethical challenges are associated with the rapid technological innovations such as Big Data Analytics, usage of artificial intelligence, etc.?
- How to increase and measure the economic, social and environmental impact of RIs?
- How can scholars across disciplines leverage the various insights and perspectives relevant for the advancement and management of RI?

## Organization

This by-invitation-only conference will take place on November 22 and 23, 2019 and will be hosted by the Competence Center for Sustainability Transformation and Responsibility (STaR) at WU Vienna. The target audience will be an interdisciplinary group of scholars interested in the nature, drivers, and outcomes of responsible innovation. Thus, we will approach the subject of responsible innovation from a variety of disciplinary angles and theoretical perspectives.

Two types of sessions will be held during the conference:

- **Presentations** (60 min, including Q&A) of ongoing research, theoretical advances, etc. A maximum of 6-7 such presentations will be given.
- **Round tables and/or open discussions** (60 min each) on common topics of interest, new research directions, and so on.

Costs for accommodation and food (including the conference dinner) will be covered by the WU Competence Center for Sustainability Transformation and Responsibility (STaR). Participants are asked to cover and arrange their own travel.