Social accountability and the finance sector: the case of Equator Principles (EP) institutionalisation

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Niamh O’Sullivan was born in Cork City, Ireland in 1977. She completed a BA degree in geography and archaeology and an MA degree in geography in University College Cork (UCC), between 1995 and 2000. She then spent four and a half years with the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), in Geneva, Switzerland between 2001 and 2005. Here she became founder and project manager for the UNEP FI African Task Force (ATF), as well as joint project manager for the UNEP FI – GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) Financial Services Sector Supplement Working Group. She also organised a number of UNEP FI conferences and events internationally, including one at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD), in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002.

Niamh began her PhD in the accounting section of the University of Amsterdam Business School (UvABS) in September 2005. Throughout her PhD she presented her research at a number of international conferences, including the Asia Pacific Interdisciplinary Research in Accounting (APIRA) event in Auckland, New Zealand in 2007; and the Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting Research (CSEAR) summer school in St. Andrews University, Scotland in 2008. Her research has also gained both international and national recognition. This includes being shortlisted as one of six international finalists in the Aspen Institute Business and Society Programme Dissertation Proposal Awards in 2007 and becoming a recipient of the KPMG Netherlands PhD research awards since 2007. In addition, Niamh’s first (co-authored) article from her research was published in the *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal* (AAAJ) in 2009. This article won the French SIF (Social Investment Forum) “Best Published Article Award”, and also received a High Commendation in the AAAJ Mary-Parker Follett Outstanding Paper Award for 2009, in 2010.

Niamh now looks forward to writing more articles from her PhD thesis with Prof. Brendan O’Dwyer and to continuing her research into social accountability and the finance sector at post-doctorate level at UvABS.