



## AFAANZ Board Election

Voting is now open for the 2024-2026 AFAANZ Board, **which closes 26th April at 5.00pm AEST**. There are nine nominations for two vacant positions on the Board:

- Pallab Biswas
- Martin Bugeja
- Lili Dai
- Julie Harrison
- Sumit Lodhia
- Mona Nikidehaghani
- Nikki Schonfeldt
- Reza Tajaddini
- James Wakefield

The biographies of the nominees can be found below.

To vote, please go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDS9Y8T>

It is necessary that you are a current 2024 AFAANZ Member and you will be asked to enter your 5-digit membership number (note that membership numbers beginning with AF no longer exist). If you do not know your number or would like to join/renew your membership, please either log into your [AFAANZ account](#) or email [info@afaanz.org](mailto:info@afaanz.org). All votes are checked for a valid AFAANZ number and that membership is current for 2024.

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## **Pallab Biswas**

**University of Otago**

I am a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Accountancy & Finance, University of Otago in New Zealand. I completed my PhD in 2013 at the University of Western Australia with Professor Phillip Brown as my supervisor and my research interests include board gender diversity, ESG reporting, private firms, the not-for-profit sector, and auditing. I have published in journals such as Human Resource Management, Journal of Business Ethics, Pacific-Basin Finance Journal, Meditari Accountancy Research, and Accounting & Finance.

I serve as an editorial board member of the Meditari Accountancy Research journal, and am also an Associate Editor at the Accounting Research Journal. I have been awarded the INFINZ Best Paper award for Investment at the 26th New Zealand Finance Colloquium 2022 and, in terms of service to the profession, I represent my Department during the CA ANZ Member Committee meetings. I am also a member of the AFAANZ Auditing and Assurance Special Interest Group (SIG1) and Public Sector and Not-For-Profit Accounting Special Interest Group (SIG6). As part of SIG1, I collaborated within a team commenting on Exposure Draft for Proposal ISSA 5000, Sustainability Assurance Engagements by the Auditing and Assurance Standards of AFAANZ.

Given my diverse background, I am keen to serve as an AFAANZ board member and will bring new perspectives to the AFAANZ board's strategic and operational activities to support its mission "to promote and maintain excellence in the fields of pedagogy, practice, and policy in accounting, finance, and other related subjects through the development of teaching and research in Australia and New Zealand." If elected, I will also seek to better represent AFAANZ members from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and work towards their advancement in teaching, research and engagement areas.

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## **Martin Bugeja**

**University of Technology Sydney**



Martin Bugeja is a Professor of Accounting at the University of Technology Sydney. Prior to joining UTS in 2009, he held an academic position at the University of Sydney and previously worked in various roles in financial accounting and taxation in the banking sector. During his time at UTS, Martin served as the Head of Accounting Discipline Group from 2015 to 2018 and has served on a variety of internal and external committees focused on teaching, research and engagement initiatives. He is an experienced educator and has taught and designed subjects across both undergraduate and postgraduate accounting programs. He has also led the professional accreditation and re-accreditation of the accounting programs at UTS for the past eight years.

Martin's research focuses on financial accounting and corporate governance and his research, which mainly concentrates on Australian regulatory and accounting issues, has been published in international leading journals including *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, *British Accounting Review*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting* and *Abacus*. He currently serves as Deputy Editor of *Accounting and Finance* and is on the editorial boards of *Accounting and Business Research* and *Journal of Contemporary Accounting and Economics*.

Martin has an extensive record of attracting nationally competitive grants, including multiple ARC Discovery Project grants from the Australian Research Council. The findings from his research have been presented to regulators and standard setters including the IASB, AASB and Australian Takeovers Panel. He is actively involved in mentoring early career researchers and assisting colleagues develop their academic careers.

Martin is an active AFAANZ member and is seeking election to the board to contribute to the current (interrelated) challenges facing accounting academia. These include declining student numbers in accounting programs nationally, the relevance of the existing content of accounting education and the impact of professional accreditation requirements, doctoral student training and the wider impact and contribution of accounting research outside academia. Through his election to the Board, Martin aims to use his extensive research, teaching and leading experience and insight to promote innovation and resilience in the accounting profession and academia.

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## Lili Dai

University of New South Wales

Lili Dai is an Associate Professor in the School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation at UNSW Sydney. Before joining UNSW, he held academic positions at the Australian National University and Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands. His research interests are in the areas of capital markets-based research in accounting, auditing, and financial issues, examining how corporate information is prepared and disseminated to stakeholders and how managers make various corporate decisions concerning financing, investment, governance, and innovation policies. His work has been published in *The Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accounting Research*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Review of Accounting Studies*, *European Accounting Review*, *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*, *British Accounting Review*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, and *Journal of Banking and Finance*. His research work has drawn the attention of regulatory bodies and business media and has been recognised by the UNSW Research Excellence Award and UNSW Dean's Research Fellowship.

Lili is also a passionate educator, serves as the Director of the Postgraduate Programs of the School, and leads various educational innovation and refreshment activities. He recently developed and launched the CPA Pathway Postgraduate Programs at UNSW, which aimed to provide students with a rich professional experience aligning with the rigorous standards set by CPA Australia and offer students hands-on opportunities to apply their learning in real-world professional settings to enhance their employability. He also led the course refreshment exercises of postgraduate accounting courses, including those related to ESG Reporting and Accounting Analytics, for continuous improvement of academic offerings and student experience.

Lili currently serves as an Editor of *Corporate Governance: An International Review* (CGIR) and a Deputy Editor of *Accounting and Finance* (the home journal of AFAANZ), as well as serving as an Editorial Board Member and ad hoc Associate Editor for *British Accounting Review*. As part of his editorial roles, Lili has acted as a mentor at the 2023 International CGIR Junior Scholar Consortium and edited a 2024 special issue of *Accounting and Finance* with the International Accounting Standards Board for the theme of the IFRS 9 Adoption.

Lili actively engages in the AFAANZ community. He regularly presents, discusses, and reviews papers for AFAANZ Annual Conferences and has received multiple Best Paper Awards at the AFAANZ Conference. If elected to the Board, Lili would be passionate to contribute to both education and research programs at AFAANZ, bring novel perspectives to the Board, and initiate new supports for early career academics to build up educational and research capacities for the AFAANZ community.

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## **Julie Harrison**

**University of Auckland**



I am an Associate Professor in management accounting at the University of Auckland Business School, having joined the University after completing my PhD in 2008. My research interests are in the areas of performance and productivity measurement, revenue management practice, transfer pricing, and sustainability performance and reporting. I have published in journals such as *Accounting Horizons*, *Australian Tax Review*, *Decision Sciences*, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, *Meditari Accountancy Research*, and *New Zealand Journal of Taxation Law and Policy*. I am currently on the editorial boards of the *Australian Accounting Review* and *Meditari Accountancy Research*, and I have been an editor of the *Pacific Accounting Review*.

I am a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand (FCA) and a Fellow Certified Management Accountant. I have taught across a variety of programmes at the University of Auckland and have supervised master's and doctoral students. I was an education board member for Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and I am actively involved with the Beta Alpha Psi student organisation as a faculty advisor and past-Oceania region advocate.

I would like to join the AFAANZ board to be more actively involved with initiatives that help support members to develop their research and teaching skills, particularly in relation to the special interest groups. I am also keen to help support initiatives that help promote our disciplines in a way that will contribute to future growth.

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## **Sumit Lodhia**

**University of South Australia**

Sumit Lodhia is a Professor of Accounting in University of South Australia (UniSA) Business where he leads research focused on sustainability accounting, reporting, and governance. He is currently the director of the Centre for Markets, Values and Inclusion in UniSA Business. Sumit has completed a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Master of Arts (MA) at the University of the South Pacific, and a PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). He was presented with the annual Australasian - Centre for Social and Environmental Accounting (A-CSEAR) Hall of Fame Award for 2017. This award is given to researchers who show leadership and a significant contribution to research on sustainability accounting and reporting. For the last four years, Professor Lodhia has been ranked in the top 2% of cited researchers globally (Stanford University Top 2% World Scientist Ranking).

Sumit has served on the AFAANZ Board since 2018, having had roles such as Special Interest Groups (SIGs) convenor, AFAANZ technical committee co-chair and currently as the doctoral symposium co-convenor. He also has links with Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand (currently a member of their sustainability management advisory committee) and CPA Australia. Professor Lodhia is an associate editor of *Meditari Accountancy Research* and serves on several journal editorial boards.

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**Mona Nikidehaghani**  
**University of Wollongong**



I am a Senior Lecturer in accounting at the University of Wollongong. My research interests are in the areas of accounting information and public accountability, emphasising the digitisation of public service delivery. Since completing my PhD in 2017, I have focused on advancing issues related to social justice and sustainable development within accounting research. This focus has culminated in publications in prestigious journals, such as the *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*; *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*; *Meditari Accountancy Research*; and *Accounting History*.

As the Accounting Discipline Research Leader at the University of Wollongong, I am directly involved in the coordination of industry/academic collaboration, peer mentoring, and thought leadership exercises, thereby enhancing the reputation of the faculty and individual researchers. My research has attracted the attention of multiple government advisory bodies, such as the Australian Productivity Commission regarding unpaid carer leave entitlement in 2023 and the Queensland Productivity Commission Inquiry into the NDIS in 2021. Co-leading research teams has also led to the successful securing of substantial national and international competitive research grants (nearing \$300,000), aimed at enhancing public accountability. Given the socio-political focus of my research, I have collaborated with international non-profit organisations on multiple projects to improve the lives of their beneficiaries and am often called upon to contribute to discussions on public policies at the national level. I have also won best paper awards at leading international accounting conferences.

I systematically embed research insights into the development of teaching material and incorporate industry masterclasses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. I mentor the next generation of scholars by supervising doctoral students in financial accounting. I have also served as the Academic Program Director for the University of Wollongong Global Honours Program. Working directly with multiple Faculties and the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global), I initiated the development of embedded honours for the program, and designed honours subjects for accounting students. My efforts have been formally recognised, as I have received the Faculty of Business and Law Teaching Excellence Award. I have also been nominated for the University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

I aspire to cultivate a culture of mentorship, collaboration, and innovation within the AFAANZ community. Based on personal lived experience, I am passionate about supporting and nurturing early- and mid-career academics, as well as those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In particular, I aim to provide opportunities for them to advance research that benefits the AFAANZ community and the broader society.

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## **Nikki Schöndfeldt**

**University of Western Australia**

Nikki Schöndfeldt is a Senior Lecturer in Accounting at the University of Western Australia and a recent recipient of an AAUT Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Nikki is an active member of AFAANZ and the AFAANZ Education SIG. At UWA, she recently served as Director of Education for the Business School. She serves on the Digital Learning and Teaching Advisory Committee and the Student Advisory Working Party looking at first year experience. She also co-leads the Community of Practice for Active Learning. Nikki has published in journals including *Accounting & Finance*, *Accounting Education*, *Journal of Accounting Education* and *Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting* and was awarded the ECR Accounting Education best paper award at the 2023 AFAANZ conference. Nikki is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is passionate about the accounting profession. In addition to her AAUT Citation, Nikki has recently received other national teaching awards, including the MYOB Educator of the Year and the Accountants Daily Accounting Academic of the Year. Her teaching philosophy is to 'never leave a room empty-handed'. This means designing learning activities that teach disciplinary content as well as purposefully develop different graduate skills, as appropriate.

If elected to the board, Nikki is committed to using her experience and passion for education, to further AFAANZ's goals for promoting the study and understanding of accounting and finance disciplines through industry collaboration. Specifically, she will focus on creating various opportunities where leading and contemporary research can be shared with the AFAANZ community, thereby contributing to the culture of continuous learning. These initiatives will enhance the collective skills of the AFAANZ community, ensuring that educational practices remain current to prepare graduates for the challenges and opportunities of changing professions.

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## Reza Tajaddini

Swinburne University of Technology



As Chair of the Department of Accounting, Economics, and Finance at Swinburne University of Technology, I bring a wealth of experience in academic leadership and program development. Before assuming this role, I directed several programs, including the Master of Financial Planning and the Finance discipline at Swinburne, where I gained expertise in curriculum design, industry partnerships, and accreditation processes.

My doctoral studies at the University of Otago, New Zealand, were further ignited by my engagement in research, particularly in the fields of cultural economics, finance, and real estate investment. This is evident in my extensive publications across reputable journals such as the *Journal of International Review of Finance*, the *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and the *Journal of International Money and Finance*.

As an educator, I am deeply committed to excellence in teaching and learning. I am honoured to have received two Teaching Excellence Awards from the Swinburne School of Business, Law, and Entrepreneurship, as well as recognition through the Swinburne Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Excellence Award and the Australian Awards for University Teaching Citation (AAUT). My innovative approach to teaching, especially in complex quantitative-based units, and integration of industry-based technologies within the finance discipline exemplify my dedication to advancing pedagogical practices.

Moreover, my longstanding membership with AFAANZ underscores my commitment to this academic community. I actively contribute by presenting, discussing, and reviewing papers at the association's annual conferences. Through these engagements, I strive to serve and advance the educational sectors of accounting and finance in Australia and New Zealand.

In seeking a position on the board, I am eager to leverage my leadership experience, research expertise, and commitment to educational excellence to contribute meaningfully to the organization's mission and goals. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

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## **James Wakefield**

**University of Technology, Sydney**

I'm an Associate Professor of Accounting and MBA Program Director at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Since joining UTS in 2008, I have held visiting appointments at the University of Oxford, University of Southern California, Monash University and LUISS Guido Carli. My research focuses on understanding the effectiveness of accounting education strategies to improve student engagement and learning outcomes. My research has been published in journals including *Accounting & Finance*, *Issues in Accounting Education*, the *British Accounting Review* and education journals more generally, including *Computers & Education* and the *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology*.

My philosophy of teaching centres on recognising student diversity in large cohorts and implementing adaptable approaches to accounting education that provide each student with the opportunity to pursue their aspirations and goals. I have applied this philosophy throughout my extensive experience teaching and coordinating undergraduate and postgraduate courses. I have been fortunate enough to receive teaching and learning awards and citations from Universities Australia, the Australian Business Deans Council, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, the Office of Learning and Teaching and UTS. I have also worked with not-for-profit organisations to promote financial literacy and educational well-being outcomes in society more generally.

Consistent with my expertise, I have a passion and belief in the importance of promoting the nexus between research and accounting education practice to promote better outcomes for the diverse students we teach and society more generally. I strongly believe in the value of mentoring the next generation of accounting academics and facilitating a collegial environment to further the impactful work that we are undertaking. If elected as an AFAANZ board member, in line with my expertise and beliefs, I will endeavour to further our collaborative, supportive and progressive membership body to generate outcomes that positively impact our students and society.

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