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Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG): Intersections and Linkages With the IS Curriculum

TREO Talk Paper

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Abstract

Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) programs and risks are increasingly important to organizations and their stakeholders, e.g., customers, employees, and investors. Information technology (IT) solutions and practices will help to enable organizations to achieve their ESG goals. As ESG concepts become more relevant to both IT-producing organizations and IT-using organizations, they should be represented in one or more learning outcomes for students in information systems (IS) academic programs.

But ESG is a broad term that has multiple meanings and taxonomies. It overlaps with its predecessor term, corporate social responsibility (CSR), which many business and IS academic programs already cover. This raises questions on whether and how to include ESG concepts in the IS curriculum.

For instance, should ESG be a theme running through one or more existing IS courses? Should there be an entire course devoted to ESG (or a subset of ESG)? How should coverage of ESG replace or augment existing coverage of subjects such as e-waste, digital ethics, and societal impacts of computing?

This session will share ideas from ongoing research into the intersections and linkages of ESG and IS academic programs. Topics will include the current state, key trends, and options for IS programs looking to update and strengthen their coverage of ESG concepts.