


## Reframing Governance in a Transforming World: Advancing Accountability, Sustainability, and Strategic Resilience

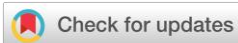
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**Abstract:** The evolving complexity of global economic systems, coupled with rapid technological advancement and heightened societal expectations, has redefined the scope and significance of governance in contemporary organisations. This editorial paper introduces the Journal of Business Governance (JBG) as a scholarly platform dedicated to advancing rigorous, interdisciplinary research on corporate governance, institutional accountability, and sustainable organisational performance. It highlights the transition from traditional, compliance-oriented governance models to more dynamic, stakeholder-driven frameworks that integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, digital oversight, and ethical leadership. Emphasising both developed and emerging market contexts, the paper underscores the importance of comparative perspectives, methodological rigour, and policy relevance in governance research. It further explores critical themes such as board effectiveness, regulatory systems, innovation governance, public-private interfaces, and anti-corruption mechanisms, while advocating for inclusive and globally representative scholarship. By positioning governance as a central driver of long-term value creation and societal well-being, this editorial sets the intellectual direction for JBG and calls for impactful research that contributes to resilient, transparent, and sustainable institutional systems worldwide.

**Keywords:** Corporate Governance; Institutional Accountability; ESG; Sustainable Performance; Regulatory Governance; Board Effectiveness; Digital Governance; Emerging Markets; Stakeholder Theory; Organisational Resilience



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The growing complexity of global markets, the accelerating pace of technological change, and the increasing scrutiny of corporate behaviour have collectively placed governance at the centre of contemporary academic and policy discourse. In this evolving landscape, the *Journal of Business Governance (JBG)* emerges not merely as a scholarly outlet, but as an intellectual platform committed to shaping the future of governance research and practice. Governance today is no longer confined to boardrooms or regulatory filings; it permeates strategic decision-making, organisational culture, stakeholder engagement, and societal accountability. As institutions confront mounting pressures related to transparency, sustainability, and resilience, the need for rigorous, interdisciplinary, and policy-relevant scholarship has never been more pressing.

Corporate governance, once viewed through a narrow lens of shareholder protection and agency conflicts, has expanded into a multidimensional construct that encompasses ethical leadership, institutional accountability, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. The global financial crises, corporate scandals, and more recently, the disruptions triggered by pandemics and geopolitical tensions have underscored the fragility of governance systems that lack adaptability and foresight. These developments have catalysed a shift from compliance-driven governance models to more proactive, integrated, and stakeholder-oriented approaches. In this context, governance is increasingly

understood as a dynamic capability—one that enables organisations to navigate uncertainty, manage risks, and sustain long-term value creation.

The Journal of Business Governance is positioned at the intersection of these critical transformations. It recognises that governance challenges are not uniform across contexts; rather, they are shaped by institutional environments, regulatory frameworks, cultural norms, and economic structures. This is particularly evident when comparing developed economies with emerging markets, where governance systems often operate under different constraints and opportunities. By encouraging comparative and cross-country analyses, the journal aims to deepen our understanding of how governance mechanisms function across diverse settings and how they can be tailored to address context-specific challenges. Such insights are vital for informing both academic theory and practical policy interventions.

A defining feature of contemporary governance discourse is the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into organisational strategies. ESG is no longer a peripheral concern but a central determinant of firm performance, investor confidence, and societal legitimacy. The increasing demand for sustainability reporting, integrated disclosures, and responsible investment practices reflects a broader shift towards accountability that transcends financial metrics. However, the operationalisation of ESG principles remains fraught with conceptual ambiguities, measurement challenges, and implementation gaps. The journal seeks to provide a rigorous platform for addressing these complexities, fostering research that not only advances theoretical clarity but also offers practical guidance for organisations striving to align profitability with purpose.

Equally important is the role of governance in fostering innovation and digital transformation. As organisations embrace artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and digital platforms, new governance challenges emerge related to data privacy, algorithmic accountability, cyber risk, and ethical decision-making. Traditional governance frameworks are often ill-equipped to address these issues, necessitating the development of new models that integrate technological oversight with strategic governance. The Journal of Business Governance encourages contributions that explore these emerging dimensions, recognising that the governance of technology is as critical as the technology itself in shaping organisational outcomes and societal impacts.

The journal also places strong emphasis on the governance of public institutions and the interfaces between public and private sectors. In many economies, particularly in the developing world, the effectiveness of governance systems is closely linked to the quality of public administration, regulatory capacity, and institutional trust. Issues such as corruption, weak enforcement mechanisms, and limited transparency continue to undermine governance outcomes, with significant implications for economic development and social equity. By incorporating perspectives from public sector accounting, regulatory governance, and institutional theory, the journal broadens the scope of governance research beyond the corporate domain, fostering a more holistic understanding of accountability and performance.

Another critical dimension addressed by the journal is the human element of governance. Board composition, leadership styles, diversity, and behavioural dynamics play a pivotal role in shaping governance outcomes. The effectiveness of governance structures is not solely determined by formal rules and regulations but also by the values, competencies, and interactions of individuals within those structures. Research that examines these behavioural and cultural aspects can provide deeper insights into why governance mechanisms succeed or fail, offering valuable implications for both theory and practice (Bebchuk and Weisbach, 2010; Freeman, 2010; La Porta et al., 2000; Shleifer and Vishny, 1997).

Methodological rigour remains a cornerstone of the journal's vision. In an era where data availability and analytical tools are rapidly expanding, the ability to employ robust empirical techniques and innovative research designs is essential for generating credible

and impactful findings. The journal welcomes a wide range of methodological approaches, including econometric analyses, experimental studies, qualitative case research, and mixed-methods designs. At the same time, it recognises the importance of conceptual and theoretical contributions that challenge existing paradigms and propose new frameworks for understanding governance phenomena. The Journal of Business Governance is equally committed to fostering inclusivity and diversity in scholarly discourse. It seeks to amplify voices from underrepresented regions and perspectives, recognising that the richness of governance research lies in its plurality. By creating a platform that values diverse experiences and insights, the journal aims to contribute to a more equitable and globally relevant body of knowledge.

Ultimately, the significance of governance extends beyond organisational boundaries to encompass broader societal outcomes. Effective governance systems contribute to economic stability, social justice, and sustainable development, while weak governance can exacerbate inequalities, erode trust, and hinder progress. In this sense, governance is not merely a managerial concern but a societal imperative. The Journal of Business Governance aspires to play a transformative role in this domain by promoting research that not only advances academic knowledge but also informs policy, guides practice, and contributes to the betterment of society. As the journal embarks on this journey, it invites scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in a collective endeavour to rethink and reshape governance for a rapidly changing world. Through its commitment to excellence, integrity, and impact, the Journal of Business Governance aims to become a leading forum for scholarly dialogue and innovation, fostering insights that drive responsible, resilient, and sustainable organisations across the globe.

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