RM-SIG activities at AIB Minneapolis:
register early to avoid disappointment!

CARMA–AIB pre–conference workshops

For the third year in a row, free CARMA-AIB Research Methods Workshops will be offered as a pre-conference activity for the upcoming 2018 AIB Annual Conference in Minneapolis. Six workshops are being offered as a partnership between the **Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis (CARMA)** and the Research Methods Special Interest Group of the AIB. The Director of CARMA, Dr. Larry Williams, will be attending AIB and delivering one of the workshops.

** If you wish to sign up to a workshop, email Stewart Miller stewart.miller@utsa.edu. **

Research Methods Clinics

As in 2016 and 2017, the RM-SIG will be organizing a series of clinics during the conference on a variety of methods-related topics. These Clinics provide roundtable discussions and direct feedback from a series of research methods experts so you must register in order to attend. The clinics fill up quickly, so watch for the announcement on the AIB listserv.

In this Newsletter:

- **Research Methodology offerings at AIB Annual Meeting Minneapolis 2018**

- **Common problems in research design—and how to avoid them**

- **CARMA short courses in 2018: quantitative and qualitative**

- **Events to watch out for in 2018**

- **How to be an expert reviewer of qualitative manuscripts**

- **AIB Best Paper Award in Research Methods 2018**
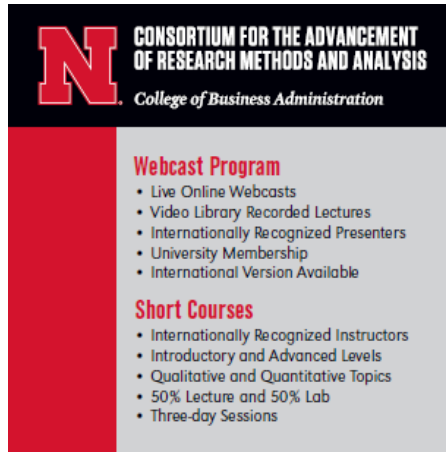
CARMA-AIB Research Methods Workshops

Six workshops are being offered on 24 June. They are free for AIB members who are registered to attend the 2018 annual meeting.

Workshop Descriptions

Qualitative Data Analysis (June 24, 2018 - 9am –12pm)

Description: In this workshop, we cover techniques to build trustworthiness in coding using computer aided qualitative data analysis software. Trustworthiness is the established approach to evaluate qualitative research, and many dimensions of trustworthiness and activities to improve trustworthiness have been incorporated into the methods of research in top management and organizational journals. One area of inductive qualitative research that has not been fully fleshed out in terms of aspects of trustworthiness is coding activity. This is surprising given advancements in computer aided qualitative data analysis software (CAQDAS) to enhance trustworthiness. In this workshop, I identify procedures to enhance trustworthiness in coding and identify supporting software techniques and inductively analyze several letters to shareholders from four companies.

Course instructor: Anne Smith, University of Tennessee

Introduction to Structural Equation Models (June 24, 2018 - 9am –12pm)

Description: This workshop includes an introduction to SEM, including confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation methods with latent variables. We will discuss special issues related to the application of these techniques in organizational research, and compare these techniques with traditional analytical approaches. We will cover the conceptual and statistical assumptions underlying theses methods, how to implement data analysis techniques using software program, and how to interpret results using the contemporary software programs.

Course instructor: Larry J. Williams, University of Nebraska

Intermediate SEM: Model Evaluation (June 24, 2018 - 2-5pm)

Description: This workshop assumes participants have some introductory knowledge of SEM. It will cover how to build measurement models, including use of items and parcels as indicators. A second topic to be addressed is the use of CFA models for common method variance. Finally, the issue of model evaluation will be a third focus. Discussion will focus on how these issues arise in organizational research, and examples will be emphasized. An emphasis will be placed on what IB researchers should know to conduct and review research that includes these three topics.

Course instructor: Larry J. Williams, University of Nebraska

An Introduction to Multi-level Analysis (June 24, 2018 - 9am –12pm)

Description: This workshop is introductory in nature. It starts with a brief overview of the historical roots resulting in the need to consider multilevel issues in our research designs. We then discuss the issues underlying aggregation and disaggregation as this is at the heart of multilevel modeling. The latter in turn forces us then to consider some of the analytical challenges (e.g., interdependence vs. independence of observations; intraclass correlations and variance partitioning, etc.) resulting from multilevel thinking. We then move into the basic multilevel models such as random intercept, and random slopes models. Considerable time will be spent on the latter as understanding these makes actually conducting the analyses much easier. After completing it, the topic will switch to multilevel conceptualization. Finally, we end this workshop discussing aggregation indices and their importance.

Course instructor: Robert Vandenberg, University of Georgia

Intermediate Multi-level Analysis (June 24, 2018 - 2-5pm

Description: If you don't have a basic understanding of multilevel modeling, I'm worried you may get a bit lost in this one. For example, if you attended my introductory workshop earlier in the day, you'll be fine. In summary, this workshop uses the Mplus statistic package to analyze a number of random coefficients multilevel models. While I use Mplus, some of the models may be evaluated using other statistical packages. There is a progression in this workshop from analyses used to test the assumptions for aggregation to complex ones involving mediation, cross-level interactions, and models in which there are variables only at the between and within levels of analyses. The examples illustrate both the random vector of means and of coefficients/slopes. None of the examples in this module are structural equation models using latent variables. The examples in this module incorporate observed variables only. Participants will be given a comprehensive handout with all the examples including syntax.

Course instructor: Robert Vandenberg, University of Georgia

Identification in IB Empirical Research (June 24, 2018 - 2pm-5pm)

Description: Across many social science disciplines, there is increasing focus that empirical research identify causal mechanisms of empirical relationships versus plausible alternatives. In this workshop, we will discuss the issue of identification and what it means for IB research. Our focus will be how to consider identification from the initiation of research questions, to research design, and through the execution of the empirical analysis.

Course instructor: J. Myles Shaver and Joel Waldfogel, University of Minnesota

Ten Common Problems in Research Design in Management,

and How They Severely Hamper the Publishability of your Work

Michael Mol, Copenhagen Business School

This is a summary of a presentation given at the Annual Strategy and International Business Symposium, University of Birmingham, 19 October 2017

This presentation was an attempt to summarize problems in research design that are commonly encountered in papers. It was based on extensive experience as a reviewer and author, along with some editorial experience.

Research design refers to the choices made to link theory with an empirical setting. So it excludes the choice of theory and subsequent theoretical framing at the front end as well as the technical execution of research methods at the back end.

Research design matters because better designs provide more reliable research findings and are easier to communicate. It is generally easier to try and avoid mistakes in research design prior to starting a new project than to try and remedy them afterwards. Failures in research design can easily lead to rejections.

The presentation listed and discussed ten main design problems in decreasing order of importance:

1.   theory follows results;

2.   endogeneity;

3.   common method bias / variance;

4.   overly descriptive;

5.   wrong method choice;

6.   theory / methods mismatch;

7.   relevance;

8.   sampling and generalisation errors;

9.   low external validity;

10.   incomplete specifications.

Both the choice and order of importance were based on Michael's subjective set of experiences.

This overview of design problems was then followed by an analysis of the forces that lead these design problems to persist over time, namely

- the composition and dynamics of author teams,

- the role of reviewers and editors,

- the attitude of employers (institutions),

- the role of funders,

- and the behavior of respondents (the data sources).

Michael Moi's Practical remedies for research design problems:

First	Always try to answer the question:
	What would a good study design look like for this research question'?
Second	Develop a checklist of potential research design problems:
	Before the study and prior to submitting empirical papers, run through the list.
Third	Continuously try to justify the steps that were taken:
	Why was it done this way and are there any reasonable alternatives?
Fourth	Write it up in such a way that the reader can work out what was done:
	Never try to obfuscate problems that are there.
Fifth	Include the limitations of a study...
	And use those limitations wisely

The Annual Strategy and International Business Symposium is hosted by Department of Strategy and International Business at **The Birmingham Business School (BBS).** The aim of the event is to advance the understanding of emerging topics in international business and strategy, as well as the quality and diversity of research methodologies applied within those areas.

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CARMA: Consortium for the Advancement of Research Methods and Analysis

(1) Quantitative Short Courses in Detroit, Michigan, June 2018

Hosted by Wayne State University

Two sessions are being offered, which allows course participants the opportunity to take two back-to-back courses that compliment one another.

Session 1: 4 June (all day), 5 June (all day), 6 June (half day)

Six course options:

1	"Introduction to Meta-Analysis"	Ernest O'Boyle, Indiana University
2	"Advanced SEM I: Measurement Invariance, Latent Growth Modeling & Nonrecursive Modeling"	Robert Vandenberg
3	"Introduction to Multilevel Analysis"	James LeBreton
4	"Introduction to R"	Scott Tonidandel
5	"Intro to Big Data and Data Mining with R"	Jeff Stanton
6	"Intermediate Regression: Multivariate/Logistic, Mediation/ Moderation"	Ron Landis

Session 2: 7 June (all day), 8 June (all day), 9. June (half day)

Six course options:

1	"Introduction to Structural Equation Methods"	Larry J Williams
2	"Advanced SEM II: Missing Data Issue in SEM, Multi Level SEM and Latent Interactions"	Robert Vandenberg
3	"Advanced Multilevel Analysis"	James LeBreton
4	"Multivariate Statistics with R"	Steve Culpepper
5	"Analysis of Big Data"	Fred Oswald
6	"Advanced Regression: Alternatives to Difference Scores, Polynomial and Response Surface Methods"	Jeff Edwards

(2) Qualitative Short Courses in Boston, Massachusetts

Hosted by Boston College

Two sessions are being offered, which allows course participants the opportunity to take two back-to-back courses that compliment one another.

Session 1: 11 June (all day), 12 June (all day), 13 June (half day)

Three course options:

1	"Introduction to Qualitative Methods/Ethnography"	Dr. Michael Pratt
2	"Producing Discovery in Coding Qualitative Data"	Dr. Karen Golden-Biddle
3	"Interviewing for Qualitative Research"	Dr. Ashley Mears

Session 2: 14 June (all day), 15 June (all day), 16. June (half day)

Three course options:

1	"Advanced Qualitative Analysis"	Dr. Rhonda Reger
2	"Text/Image Analysis and Computer Aided Qualitative Data Analysis Software (CAQDAS)"	Dr. Anne Smith
3	"The Craft of Inductive Qualitative Research"	Dr. Michel Anteby

More information can be found on the CARMA website:

http://cba.unl.edu/outreach/carma/short-courses/

From the journals:

Feature topic alert

AIB members may be interested in the following feature topic:

Organizational Research Methods

Feature Topic: Moderation and Mediation in the Organizational Sciences

Volume 20, Issue 4, October 2017

Other events to watch out for in 2018

1. Forum on Case-Based and Qualitative Research in Business Administration in China

The **Forum on Case-Based and Qualitative Research in Business Administration** in China was hosted by Wuhan University from 10-12 November 2017. This is the 11th year that the Forum has been held. Participants gathered to present and receive expert feedback on their papers, attend talks given by prominent international scholars (including Pratima Bansal and Jason Shaw), and to receive advanced training on crafting qualitative papers.

The 2017 conference attracted over 400 participants, which attests to the growing interest in qualitative research among Chinese scholars. Participants were from a wide range of universities, career stages, disciplinary and methodological backgrounds.

The Forum will be held again in 2018. Anyone interested for more information should contact Shasha Deng (dengshasha@rmbs.ruc.edu.cn) at the Renmin Business School.

2. Internet and Big Data in Economics and Social Sciences: 2nd International Conference on Advanced Research Methods and Analytics

July 12 - 13, 2018. Universitat Politecnica de Valencia, Spain, http://www.carmaconf.org

Research methods in economics and social sciences are evolving with the increasing availability of Internet and Big Data sources of information. After the great success of the first edition, the CARMA Conference has become a leading forum for researchers and practitioners to exchange ideas and advances on how emerging research methods and sources are applied to different fields of social sciences as well as to discuss current and future challenges.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

Internet and Big Data sources in economics and social sciences

- Social media and public opinion mining
- Google Trends and Search Engine data
- Web scraping
- Geospatial and mobile phone data

Big Data methods in economics and social sciences

- Sentiment analysis
- Internet econometrics
- Information quality and assessment
- Crowdsourcing

Internet and Big Data applications

- Official statistics
- Tourism forecasting
- Business analytics with social media
- Social behavior and mobility patterns
- Consumer behavior, eWOM and social media marketing
- Politics and social media
- Bibliometrics and sciencetometrics

Digital transformation and global society

- Privacy and legal aspects
- Electronic Government
- Smart Cities
- Industry adoption
- Gender bias

If you are interested in organizing a special session as part of CARMA 2018, please contact the organization at secretariat@carmaconf.org

Important dates:

Submission deadline: 23 March, 2018
Acceptance notification: 11 May, 2018
Camera ready due: 28 May, 2018
Conference: 12-13 July, 2018

3. Course: Structural Equation Modeling Using Stata

Website https://www.stata.com/training/public/structural-equation-modeling-using-stata/

Description:

This course covers the use of Stata for structural equation modeling (SEM). SEM is a class of statistical techniques for modeling relationships among variables, both observed and unobserved. SEM encompasses some familiar models such as linear regression, multivariate regression, and factor analysis and extends to a variety of more complicated models. The course provides an overview of fitting linear structural equation models and evaluating the model fit. In addition, a number of models that fall within the linear SEM framework will be discussed with an emphasis on using Stata to fit each one. The course concludes with a brief introduction to multilevel models and generalized-linear models within the SEM framework.

Price: $1,295

4. Staying in touch with events in the Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) community

There is a very active QCA and configurational analysis community. The best way to stay informed about upcoming events is to connect with COMPASSS.

COMPASSS (COMPArative Methods for Systematic cross-caSe analySis) introduces itself as 'a worldwide network bringing together scholars and practitioners who share a common interest in theoretical, methodological and practical advancements in a systematic comparative case approach to research which stresses the use of a configurational logic, the existence of multiple causality and the importance of a careful construction of research populations'.

For more information, see http://www.compasss.org/index.htm

How to be an expert reviewer of qualitative manuscripts

This is a summary of some key takeaways from a panel session held at the European International Business Academy annual conference, Milan, December 2017. The speakers were Michael Gibbert, Università della Svizzera italiana; Niina Nummela, University of Turku; Rebecca Piekkari, Aalto University; Becky Reuber, University of Toronto; Catherine Welch, University of Sydney. The panel was coordinated by Emmanuella Plakoyiannaki, University of Leeds.

The application of rigor and quality criteria in qualitative research has long been a matter for debate. Paradigmatic diversity and the lack of a 'boilerplate' associated with conducting and reporting qualitative findings lead to different paths to evaluating quality. The speakers of this panel examined the questions of what constitutes methodological rigor and how it can be evaluated in International Business scholarship.

Other issues which arose from the panel session will be covered in future newsletters.

Why you should ask: what sort of qualitative research is this? (Rebecca Piekkari, Aalto University)

- It is important to recognize that qualitative research comprises diverse traditions. Eisenhardt and Yin represent a positivist tradition. Just because a paper does not conform to their prescriptions, does not mean that it is of poor quality. **There is no single template for qualitative research**.

- For example, many qualitative researchers do not agree that the purpose of a study can only be to generate propositions for further testing. Rejecting a paper solely on this basis, or demanding that propositions be added, may not be appropriate.

- Reviewers therefore need to think carefully about what the theoretical purpose of the paper is. In qualitative research, different 'styles of theorizing' are possible—not just generating propositions.

- While the tradition of qualitative positivism has in the past preferred multiple over single case studies (although this is gradually changing), other qualitative traditions have placed a high value on the increased insight which a single case study design can provide.

- While qualitative positivism might adhere to the principle of research objectivity, other qualitative traditions are more sceptical about whether objectivity is ever achievable. This does not mean that 'anything goes', but it does mean that researchers will be open about how their own positionality affected the study, and what they did in response.

How to review mixed-method studies (Niina Nummela, University of Turku)

- Assessing the validity and reliability of a mixed-method study has three components: 1) assessing the qualitative part, 2) the quantitative part, but also 3) how the two have been mixed. How have the author/s justified their mixed-method design? How well have the two methods been integrated? How have the results from the qualitative and quantitative part been compared and interpreted?

- There is no single way to 'mix' methods. Just because the qualitative part is not the pre-study to the dominant, quantitative part, does not necessarily mean it's wrong, so don't reject a paper simply because it does not conform to this design.

- The qualitative results may conflict with the quantitative results. This is not unusual and does not necessarily mean the study is flawed. Rather, a reviewer should assess how the author has explained this conflict, and used it as a source of insight.

- As a reviewer, you do not need to be an expert on all aspects of a mixed-method study. Explain in your review what the boundaries of your expertise are.

Dos and don't in reviewing qualitative research (Becky Reuber, University of Toronto)

DO Insist on a research question being grounded in a scholarly conversation and findings contributing to a scholarly conversation. Research based on qualitative methods is no different than research based on quantitative methods in this respect.

DO Pay attention to fit between research question, theoretical assumptions and methods-related choices. The authors should communicate a direct association between their research question and theoretical assumptions they make (for example, the lens they're using to analyse the data), and their methods-related choices. There are a variety of options and choices need to be well-justified.

DO Pay attention to methodological rigour (setting/sample, data collection/analysis). There are multiple authoritative references for what constitutes good practice and authors should draw on credible ones in justifying their methods-related choices.

DO Pay attention to construct definitions. Authors should define the key theoretical constructs in the paper, both those they're drawing on from the literature and those that come from data analysis and are presented as findings.

DO ask for balance between showing and telling. It is hard to get the right balance between telling the story and showing the data - see Michael Pratt's editorial in the October 2009 issue of *Academy of Management Journal*. Reviewers should provide feedback if they think the story needs more data as evidence or if the storyline needs to be emphasized more because it is being lost in the data.

DO ask for support for claims. Authors should provide empirical evidence for their claims in the Findings section. The evidence needs to match the claim made; for example, you should be able to recognize that a quote from an informant matches the author's interpretation of it.

DON'T Get too hung up on framing in a first (and maybe even a second) review. If the authors have a huge volume of qualitative data, there are likely to be multiple stories in it and it may take some iterations to narrow it down. Your suggestions are valuable in that respect, but because a number of reviewers may be providing suggestions and your knowledge of the data is incomplete, don't be offended if your suggestion is not followed in the paper's revision.

DON'T Dismiss because exhibits are weak. There aren't standard templates for exhibits to the extent that they exist for papers based on quantitative methods, so exhibits tend to be custom-made. This can be very difficult to do, not least because of the limitations of PowerPoint. If you have suggestions for how their theoretical model can be better illustrated in an exhibit, please pass them along.

DON'T say that more data is needed without saying why. Collecting more data is hard so be sure to be specific about what would help and why. For example, it may be that the authors are implying managerial intentions without data on managerial intentions, and you should point this out.

DON'T Assume all qualitative methods are the same or be formulaic in your expectations. If you're unfamiliar with the methods used or the format used to present the findings, then it's helpful to look at the methods-related authorities cited by the authors to understand better what they're trying to do.

Feature topic: New Approaches to Multilevel Methods and Statistics

Special issue of *Organizational Research Methods*

Multilevel perspectives have the potential to significantly improve our understanding of organizational phenomena and are thus frequently advocated in a large number of micro and macro research areas (Hitt, Beamish, Jackson & Mathieu, 2007; Mathieu & Chen, 2011). While the general availability and knowledge of multilevel methods and statistics have vastly increased over the past several decades, it is important that we continue to develop new methodological approaches as many important multilevel research questions cannot be adequately addressed with current methods and statistics. This applies to aspects of multilevel research that have received considerable attention in the past, such as top-down multilevel effects (e.g., LoPilato & Vandenberg, 2015), as well as areas that have received less attention, such as emergence and bottom-up effects (Hitt et al., 2007; Kozlowski, Chao, Grand, Braun & Kuljanin, 2013; Moliterno & Ployhart, 2016), multilevel networks (Moliterno & Mahony, 2011; Wang, Robins, Pattison & Lazega, 2013), and alternative cross-level models (Yammarino & Gooty, in press).

The purpose of this Feature Topic (FT) is to encourage the development and application of novel methods and statistics that significantly advance our ability to empirically investigate multilevel research questions in the organizational sciences. We are open to any approach that makes a significant methodological or statistical contribution to multilevel research. Some potential topics in three broad aspects of multilevel research are provided below.

Bottom-up Effects and Processes:

 - Approaches to overcoming the inherent challenges associated with testing the impact of a lower-level independent variable on a higher-level dependent variable (whether it be main, interactive or mediation effects) that stem from the observation mismatching that typically occurs with bottom-up statistical analyses (cf. Felin, Foss & Ployhart, 2015). For example: a) measurement approaches that disaggregate a higher-level dependent variable into a lower-level independent variable; b) quasi-experimental designs that involve exogenous mobility events; c) approaches that leverage field/lab data collection and computational modeling/agent-based simulations; d) novel uses of existing multilevel techniques (e.g., residual files of Random Coefficient Modeling (RCM)/Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) or Within-and-Between Analysis (WABA) to track constructs progression from lower levels to higher levels)

 - Approaches to capture emergence and examine mechanisms. For example: a) generalized measurement approaches to capture compilation and fuzzy composition forms of emergence; b) wearable technology and experience sampling to collect fine-grained data associated with social dynamics involved with emergence; c) analytical approaches (e.g., renormalization group, temporal network approaches, topic modeling) to analyze the large and multifaceted data collected from wearable technology and experience sampling approaches

Top-down Effects and Processes:

 - New modeling approaches to cross-level direct effects that overcome the inherent challenges associated with analyzing these effects with RCM/HLM
 - Alternative approaches to address modeling challenges associated with simultaneous multi-unit hierarchical nesting (e.g., multi-group membership)
 - Novel econometric techniques to analyze cross-level effects
 - Approaches to handle endogeneity issues in traditional multilevel techniques

Multilevel Networks:

 - Network approaches to detect communities and their hierarchical structures in organizations
 - Network approaches to identify individual and group influencers in organizations
 - Within- and cross-level dynamics in multilayer organizational networks
 - Multilevel extensions of exponential random graph models

Completed full manuscript submissions for the FT are due by **July 1, 2018**. Authors may begin submitting manuscripts for the FT on June 1, 2018 (and not before that date). When submitting completed manuscripts, be sure to select from the dropdown menu the FT on Multilevel Methods and Statistics.

The Guest Editors for this Feature Topic are: Rory Eckardt, Binghamton University (reckardt@binghamton.edu); Seth Spain, Concordia University (seth.spain@concordia.ca); Shelley Dionne, Binghamton University (sdionne@binghamton.edu); Thomas Moliterno, University of Massachusetts Amherst (moliterno@isenberg.umass.edu); and Francis Yammarino, Binghamton University (fjyammo@binghamton.edu).   Questions about possible submissions are welcomed.

There will also be a panel session on multi-level issues in IB research at the AIB 2018 meeting in Minneapolis—more details will follow in the next newsletter.

Call for Chapters:

Field Guide to Intercultural Research

Editors:

Dr David S. A. Guttormsen – BI Norwegian Business School, Norway

Prof Jakob Lauring – Aarhus University School of Business and Social Sciences, Denmark

Dr Malcolm K. Chapman – Leeds University Business School, United Kingdom

To be published by Edward Elgar

If you have experienced intercultural challenges when conducting fieldwork in corporate and international settings, if you have wanted to share your expertise regarding 'lessons learned' in solving such challenges, and if you would like to share practical tips with aspiring field researchers – we would like to wholeheartedly encourage you to consider publishing in Edward Elgar Publishing's *Field Guide to Intercultural Research*.

For more information, please contact: David Guttormsen, david.guttormsen@bi.no

AIB Best Paper Award in Research Methods 2018
Sponsored by the University of Sydney Business School

This award is given to the best paper (as selected by a committee) accepted to a competitive session at the AIB Annual Meeting that

- develops and/or utilizes innovative and non-traditional methodological approaches to investigate pertinent IB phenomena,

- advances IB methodology,

- provides creative methodological solutions to important IB problems, and

- informs scholars in IB and beyond about methodological advancements.

Nominees for the 2018 award will be proposed by track chairs, but we will also be asking for self-nominations—so watch for the announcement on the AIB listserv.

Best Methods Paper Award Winner 2017:

'When Near is Far and Far is Near:

A Quantile Regression Model of FDI, Geographic Location and Connectivity'

Lilac Nachum, City University New York, Grace Hong Hyokyoung, Michigan State University, Grigorios Livanis, Northeastern University

Contact Us

If you have any feedback, content or suggestions for the next issue, please let us know. Contact:

catherine.welch@sydney.edu.au

If you have any questions about the award, please contact the Chair of the RM Award Committee, Bo Nielsen (bo.nielsen@sydney.edu.au)