ISSN 2392-1641 e-ISSN 2450-0097

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Volume 8 (22) Number 3 2022

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Paper based publication

ISSN 2392-1641 e-ISSN 2450-0097

POZNAŃ UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS PRESS ul. Powstańców Wielkopolskich 16, 61-895 Poznań, Poland phone +48 61 854 31 54, +48 61 854 31 55 www.wydawnictwo.ue.poznan.pl, e-mail: wydawnictwo@ue.poznan.pl postal address: al. Niepodległości 10, 61-875 Poznań, Poland

Printed and bound in Poland by: Poznań University of Economics and Business Print Shop

Circulation: 200 copies



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Editorial introduction

Trust in social science is commonly defined as a willingness to become vulnerable to someone else's actions. In the world of incomplete information trust substitutes the costly process of gathering knowledge about someone else's interests and previous behaviour. As such, it encourages human interaction, including economic transactions, but also helps to conduct economic policy. It is also fundamental for introducing new financial instruments or more generally the development of financial markets. The ongoing crisis initiated by the COVID-19 pandemic and prolonged by Russia's unlawful invasion of Ukraine has a detrimental impact on trust towards family members, trading partners, members of minority groups, political class or society as a whole. This process is fuelled by many populists who undermine public belief in fundamental democratic institutions such as the rule of law. That detrimental impact is difficult to measure and as a result is rarely discussed but its consequences will be long-lasting.

The current issue of *Economics and Business Review* includes six articles covering various current topics present in economic debate. They were written by eleven authors that work in Germany, Poland, Ukraine and Turkey. However, behind this variety of topics it can be seen that all these articles describe phenomena that either help to build trust (the rule of law, the institution of marriage) or to some extent rely on trust (financial development, policy effectiveness, migration). Thus it is hoped that these articles will inspire readers to consider the reasons, consequences and possible remedies for trust deterioration. *Economics and Business Review* could serve as an outlet of first choice to present the scientific results of these considerations.

The first paper by Erick Behar-Villegas entitled *Absurda lex*, *sed lex*? Public Value and the decay of the Rule of Law: A conceptual perspective introduces two theoretical frameworks that explain the connection between the rule of law and public value and presents three manifestations of the rule of law's decay. These comprise the excess of legal-formalism, the excess of discretion in enforcement and the instrumentalisation of the law. All these forms increase uncertainty among economic agents, decrease their trust both towards the state and other people and fuel the process of democratic decay, i.e. the degradation of liberal democracies and their institutions.

The next article by Taras Vasyltsiv, Olha Mulska, Oksana Osinska, Oleksandr Makhonyuk titled **Social and economic development of Ukraine: Modelling**

the migration factor impact aims to identify the causality links between migration and indicators of the development of Ukraine. The analysis is based on a broad set of socio-economic indicators and concludes that emigration reduces unemployment in Ukraine in the short run while remittances are found to increase disposable income, the share of households' food expenditure and the level of the consumer price index. At the same time the authors' policy recommendations are aimed at increasing the trust of young people in the social and economic development of Ukraine and discourage them from leaving the country.

The third contribution is entitled **An analysis of causal relationship between economic growth and financial development for Turkey: A MODWT—Granger causality test** and it is written by Hayri Abar. The novelty of this study lies in analysing the relationship between financial development and economic growth in multiple time horizons by decomposing the time series into various so-called wavelets. The results confirm a bidirectional causality link between financial development and economic growth for 4–8 year, 8–16 year and 16–32 year periods and an unidirectional impact of financial development on economic growth for a one year period. The policy recommendations concentrate on increasing the competitiveness of the financial sector, stabilising the value of the currency and reinforcing the atmosphere of stability and trust in the financial sector.

The fourth paper is written by Hale Akbulut and it is titled **Effectiveness of environmental policies on carbon emissions:** A panel threshold analysis. It contributes to the literature by modelling the mediating role of environmental policy in the relationship between carbon emission and its determinants. The geographical scope covers BRIICS countries which were responsible for almost 47% of the world's ${\rm CO_2}$ emissions in 2020. The analysis is based on a panel threshold regression and reveals that carbon emission effects from foreign direct investment and the share of the services sector were significantly affected by environmental policy stringency. Namely, it appeared that FDI and the service sector reduce the ${\rm CO_2}$ emissions only when a stringent environmental policy is in place.

The title of the fifth contribution is **Energy tokens as digital instruments of financial investment** and it is written by Kamilla Marchewka-Bartkowiak and Marcin Wiśniewski. In this article the authors focus on the latest trend in financing climate and energy policy which is based on the distributed ledger technology (more narrowly: blockchain), namely tokenization. The authors evaluate the investment attractiveness of selected nine energy tokens from the point of view of the effectiveness measures applied to ordinary financial instruments. The results suggest that many investors still do not perceive such tokens as trustworthy because their investment attractiveness compared to investments in stock and commodity markets and investments in major cryptocurrencies appeared to be low.

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The sixth article deals with an institution where its benefits rely on trust probably more than any other. It is because the paper introduces a model to study the probability of marriage break-up in reaction to the pandemic shock. It is entitled Marriage, divorce and coronavirus—theoretical analysis of the influence of COVID-19 on family capital and it is written by Paulina Malaczewska and Maciej Malaczewski. The model takes into account the consumption expenses, marriage capital with its depreciation, investments in this capital, the costs of divorce and the total utility obtained by the agent in two situations—staying in marriage and divorce. The model reveals that a change in economic conditions has the smallest effect of any factor influenced by COVID-19 in changing the likelihood of a divorce or the likelihood of a marriage continuing.

Michał Pilc Lead Editor

Aims and Scope

The **Economics and Business Review** is a quarterly journal focusing on theoretical, empirical and applied research in the fields of Economics and Corporate and Public Finance. The Journal welcomes the submission of high quality articles dealing with micro, mezzo and macro issues well founded in modern theories and relevant to an international audience. The EBR's goal is to provide a platform for academicians all over the world to share, discuss and integrate state-of-the-art Economics and Finance thinking with special focus on new market economies.

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Economics and Business Review is indexed and distributed in Scopus, Claritave Analytics, DOAJ, ERIH plus, ProQuest, EBSCO, CEJSH, BazEcon, Index Copernicus and De Gruyter Open (Sciendo).

Subscription rates for the print version of the E&BR: institutions: 1 year - ϵ 50.00; individuals: 1 year - ϵ 25.00. Single copies: institutions - ϵ 15.00; individuals - ϵ 10.00. The E&BR on-line edition is free of charge.