

Editor's Word

Dear reader,

We are delivering the first issue of 2021, another year of resilience, faith, and belief in the victory of science. We hope that the coming year is one of many changes and many lessons learned from the challenges we have overcome. We want to congratulate the authors, especially those in management accounting, a very rich field but lacking publications to be discussed in the academic milieu.

The guest editorial is by Professor Diana Paula. She has a Ph.D. in Nursing and has recently attended some lectures in the accounting field, talking about scientificity and methodologies. I believe it is essential to realize there are no differences between concerns and scientificity among the different sciences. All share the same concerns, despite the distinct paradigms and contents.

The papers were approved in blind review, and the first was written by Cassiana Bortoli and Rodrigo Soares. The paper's objective was to theoretically ground the construct "Financial Sophistication", proposing three metrics and sharing contemporary studies' propositions. The academic education and professional experience characteristics in finances that based the construct were: International and Financial training; and Experience-Area, Financial Sector, as a CFO, CEO, International Experience, and Top-level Position in Another Company. The study also proposes three indexes: Academic Financial Sophistication, Professional Financial Sophistication, and Financial Sophistication (which combines the previous two).

The second paper is authored by Vinícius Martins, Sheila da Silva, and Igor da Luz. The authors studied the influence of self-esteem and advisor-advisee relationship on Burnout Syndrome among graduate Accounting students in Brazil. The results show a negative influence of perceived self-esteem on the Burnout Syndrome, stressing the importance of self-esteem when dealing with the challenges the demands of graduate studies impose. There is also a negative and significant influence of having easy access to advisors on the feeling of low efficacy and between a good advisor-advisee relationship and the feeling of exhaustion.

The third paper was written by Joice de Oliveira, Marlon Silva, and João Estevão Neto. Its objective was to identify the relationship between current cost per student in federal universities and undergraduate student performance. The authors found no statistically significant relationship between current cost per student and academic performance. Nonetheless, sociodemographic variables such as race, sex, marital status, maternal education, and income were related to student performance.

The fourth paper, written by Fábio Frezatti, Franciele Beck, Daniel Mucci, and Daiani Schlup, discusses the feasibility of surveys depending on the needs of investigations conducted in applied sciences. The motivation to use this technique derives from the need to improve the collection of not readily available data (either because data are specific, qualitative, or confidential) without compromising scientific rigor. The results emphasize the (i) importance of establishing the target-population and sample, choosing aggregation criteria and means to access the companies; (ii) the need to use objective communication to collect data and sensitize respondents by using reminders via LinkedIn®; and (iii) the importance of considering the community research logic, associated with establishing and complying with a research contract.

The fifth paper was written by Daniel Mucci, Franciele Beck, and Fábio Frezatti in the management accounting field. It was intended to investigate the different configurations of the budgeting process used by medium and large companies operating in Brazil, considering planning, execution, assessment, and cross-sectional characteristics. This study's relevance lies in the fact that it treats the budgeting process holistically, considering budgeting profiles adopted by companies. By combining planning, execution, assessment, and cross-sectional characteristics, the cluster analysis suggests different configurations that show that the budgeting process has different levels of maturity: Budget as mere discourse, Almost planning, Embryonic budget, Budget with a static planning structure, and Budget with a flexible structure.

The final paper in the management field, written by Marines Lucia Boff, Carline Savariz, and Ilse Beuren, was intended to analyze the influence of formal and informal controls on organizational commitment, mediated by organizational confidence. The study's results show that formal and informal controls influence organizational commitment, while organizational confidence plays a mediator role and indirectly influences this relationship. It indicates that the interaction between formal and informal controls with organizational commitment is reinforced by organizational confidence.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that REPeC is not a journal linked to education only, but to various fields, as shown in its objectives: Financial, Managerial, Public, Audit, Taxes, and others.

Without further ado, I am grateful for all researchers who submitted their papers to REPeC and the always helpful referees. Many thanks to the readers! I hope you will enjoy this new issue.

Academic greetings,

Gerlando Lima, Ph.D.
Editor in Chief.