

American Risk and Insurance Association

ARIA's Digital Campus Opens Door to New Opportunities

ARIA's Digital Campus aims to strengthen ARIA's position as a leading global force in risk and insurance economics, fostering collaboration and advancing the field through education and research. ARIA Past President Weili Lu gives insight into the vision of the Digital Campus, the first Digital Campus event, and plans for the future of the program in the following interview.



ARIA

Where and when was the idea for a Digital Campus formed?

Weili: The reason we started a Digital Campus is rooted in the development of technology. We decided that we needed to take advantage of this technological advancement to extend the spread of ARIA's reputation not just to faculty research, but also to students in terms of RMI education. The idea began when Patty Born (Florida State University) asked me a question: how could we invite a leading risk manager to give an online talk to interested students?

With this question, we made a proposal to the ARIA board to create a Digital Campus as a way to let our members know that ARIA is not just a one-event association; ARIA can be anytime, anywhere. Technology has made it possible for us to conduct RMI education while eliminating travel costs for students, faculty, and speakers.

When did the first Digital Campus event take place?

Weili: Our first Digital Campus event was held on November 14th of last year, from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. PST. We were joined by keynote speaker Steve Wilder, Senior Vice President, Risk Management for the Walt Disney Company. We gave him 10 questions and then opened up the floor for students to ask additional questions. So many students had questions that Steve couldn't answer all of them! They were very appreciative for the chance to attend, learn, and ask questions.

130 Students across 11 college campuses attended the Q&A with Steve.

Who else is working on developing the Digital Campus with you?

Weili: Our Digital Campus Committee is comprised of the following people, including me:

- Patty Born, Florida State University
- Richard Peter, the University of Iowa
- Tian Wang, Colorado State University
- Xin Che, Cal State Fullerton

What is the plan for future Digital Campus events?

Weili: The idea is to have one event in the Spring semester, and one in the Fall semester. In one semester, we want to invite a leading risk manager or executive to discuss current industry events, how the industry can help students find jobs, and other hot topics that students would be interested in. In the other semester, we want to invite our journal editors to talk face-to-face with faculty and PhD students, allowing them to ask questions that will help with their research and publication in the journals.

Our next event will be Annette Hofmann from the University of Cincinnati to talk about the Risk Management and Insurance Review (RMIR). Please page 3 of the newsletter for more information.

“Thank you for the insight and opportunity. I feel blessed to be at a school that offers different perspectives and chances to see more of the world.”

- RMI Student following Q&A with Steve Wilder

Digital Campus Committee



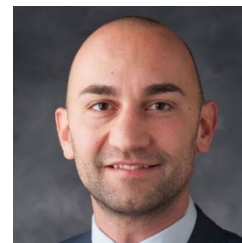
Weili Lu
Cal State Fullerton University



Patty Born
Florida State University



Tian Wang
Colorado State University



Richard Peter
University of Iowa



Xin Che
Cal State Fullerton University



ARIA

ARIA'S DIGITAL CAMPUS

CSUF

School of Risk Management
and Insurance
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

ARIA Digital Campus: An initiative dedicated to promote education and research in Risk management and Insurance; serving as a platform for students, scholars and professionals to share knowledge.



SPEAKER: ANNETTE HOFMANN

Dr. Annette Hofmann is Academic Director of the Lindner Center for Insurance and Risk Management and Great American Insurance Group Chairholder at the University of Cincinnati. She is Editor-In-Chief of the Risk Management and Insurance Review. Her research focuses on the economics of risk and uncertainty, catastrophe risk management, insurance markets, health care markets, risk literacy and leadership, decision-making under risk, and innovations in markets dealing with risk.

INTERVIEWER: PATRICIA BORN

Dr. Patricia Born is the Midyette Eminent Scholar at Florida State University, specializing in insurance markets and risk management. She serves on editorial boards, the American Risk and Insurance Association board, and chairs the Florida Panhandle District Long Term Care Ombudsman Council.



April 17th,
2:00 PM (PT)

DIGITAL EVENT
VIA ZOOM

JOIN NOW

<https://fullerton.zoom.us/j/82860944104>

ARIA Small Grant Recipient Profile: Brad Karl, Florida State University



Brad Karl, Research Director, Risk Management & Insurance Center at Florida State University, received one of ARIA's small grants at the 2024 FSU RMI Research Symposium in January 2024 in Miramar Beach, Florida.

The Symposium, originally established in 2023, was created to bring together some of the world's leading risk management scholars to present their original research and discuss emerging trends, debate issues and share perspectives on the risk management and insurance marketplace. The past 3 conferences have averaged 30 attendees per event.

The FSU Risk Management & Insurance Center funded and hosted the event, which was sponsored by ARIA. Visit <https://business.fsu.edu/rmiresearchsymposium> for more information about the Symposium and to view the 2024 Program.

Interested in an ARIA Conference or Workshop Grant? ARIA's Board of Directors invites ARIA members to submit proposals requesting grant funding to host or organize research conferences and professional development workshops.

<https://www.aria.org/grants>

New JRI Editor Martin Boyer Details Efforts to Improve the Journal's Ranking

The flagship journal for the American Risk and Insurance Association- the Journal of Risk and Insurance (JRI)- underwent a change in leadership in January, with HEC Montreal's Martin Boyer taking over as editor-in-chief. Martin and I discuss the past three months, upcoming challenges, and the priorities of the Journal under his leadership.

On the first few months as Editor:

These first few months have been challenging. Wiley has implemented new rules with respect to submissions and submission platforms. That has been and is continuing to be a challenge. There is also the issue of the speed at which submitted papers are reviewed and evaluated. And, of course, we are always trying to attract interesting papers submitted by ARIA members. Other than that, it's been an interesting few months. I learned a lot from Joan Schmidt, we overlapped for a month before I officially took over as editor, and now I want to add my own personal touch to the Journal.

On his priorities as Editor:

Our primary short-term objective is to speed up the submitted paper acceptance speed. For example, we don't want a paper that was initially submitted in 2023 to just now be accepted. This means that the paper is now 3 to 5 years old and by the time it's published, we are in 2026. We must speed up the reporting process, here and at other journals, and not only with respect to desk rejects! That's something we are working hard to figure out- there is a lot that I am still figuring out (sigh!).



Martin Boyer

Editor in Chief, Journal of Risk and Insurance

As far as long-term goals, we must find a way to make sure that when people think of research and economics, they think of the JRI. There has been a resurgence of research on insurance in major economics and finance outlets, but it doesn't seem to trickle down to the Journal. I will be bringing this issue to the World Congress in August. With the help of the organizing committee of WRIEC, I intend to use this platform to relay directly to the great majority of contributors to the Journal that this is what we must do for the Journal... and this is how we can support your careers!

JRI

The biggest issue in the next three years is bringing forth the quality of research in the JRI for other satellite journals and researchers. It is important for every ARIA member that Journal articles are more cited in other, more prominent journals. This is difficult because insurance economists who are not ARIA members or close to ARIA members do not publish in the JRI. But as I've mentioned, this is something we are working on at the Journal, and it is something that we must work on as an organization. Every cite counts!

On how ARIA as an association can support the journal:

The best way to support is not directly through the journal, it's in the periphery. When we do referee reports for journals outside of the JRI, it is fundamentally right to inform the others about papers that have been published in the JRI that they might have not seen. We can and we must suggest papers published in the last 2 years to authors who write in tier-1 journals. It is crucial to remind ARIA members that we must continue finding ways to have our papers cited elsewhere. One way is to cite JRI papers when we publish in other journals; another way, which is often forgotten, is through referee reports, by pointing to relevant JRI articles that authors might have missed.

View the latest issue of the JRI here:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396975/2025/92/1>

Recent JRI Issues

- December 2024:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396975/2024/91/4>

- September 2024:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396975/2024/91/3>

- June 2024:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15396975/2024/91/2>



Newsletter questions? Reach out to ARIA
Communications Executive Cameron
Madsen:

ace@aria.org