

ICPM Research Award: Call for Papers

The International Centre for Pension Management (ICPM), a global research-based network of pension organizations, is accepting submissions for its annual Research Award.

Up to CAD **\$100,000** will be awarded to exceptional papers with potential to make a strong contribution to the topics of interest to the [ICPM Research Partners](#). To be considered, research should be completed or close to completion but not published. The Research Award will seek to reward innovation, practical applicability, and research excellence. Award winners will be invited to present their research at a webinar or at an [ICPM Discussion Forum](#), and their papers will receive wide distribution among the ICPM Research Partners.

Research topics

The ICPM encourages submissions on topics with practical relevance for pension organizations. Papers and case studies with implications for fund management, engagement of plan participants, pension design, governance, risk, ESG issues, and investment-related topics are strongly encouraged. The following two pages provide description of the topics and list selected prior award recipients.

Award payments

Payments are made directly to the submitting author and the distribution of the prize monies amongst the researcher(s) is at the discretion of the submitting author, unless otherwise requested in writing as part of the submission process.

Submission process

Send an email to icpm@icpmnetwork.com with the subject line: "ICPM Research Award: Last Name of the Submitting Author." Attach to the email:

1. Paper,
2. Completed application form (see page 4), and
3. Up-to-date CVs of the authors.

Application deadline and timeline

The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2021. The [ICPM Research Committee](#), composed of both practitioners and academics, will evaluate all submissions, recognizing novel insights, practical applicability and research excellence. Decisions will be shared directly with the submitting author in late May 2021.

Suggested research topics

ICPM will consider submissions on any pension- or investment-related research topic that supports effective management in pension and investment organizations. Topics of particular interest include:

Pension fund investment

Investment challenges for pension fund investors with long-term liabilities remain central to the interests of the ICPM Research Partners. The range of relevant topics is broad, but the following issues are of particular interest:

- the importance of illiquidity premiums,
- the question how regulators and supervisors should deal with pension funds as opposed to investors with a shorter-term orientation, such as mutual funds, and
- the potential added value and the effectiveness of collaboration of large investment organizations in various domains (such as engagement with companies, asset managers and investing in alternative assets).

Engagement of plan participants

Raising pension awareness among pension plan participants is a relevant research topic in a DC environment. This topic becomes increasingly important in DB schemes in which participants have fewer degrees of freedom. Effective ways to raise awareness and to communicate with pension plan participants and other stakeholders are central research questions on the agenda of most pension organizations (both DB and DC).

Pension design

Most pension organizations are reforming their pension design to cope with current challenges, such as financial market volatility, aging populations, changing labor markets, and so on. Optimizing pension design is a topic of central interest for many pension organizations, including the ICPM Research Partners. Studies showing how pension system design may yield macro-economic benefits are also welcome.

Governance

Governance of pension organizations, in their broadest definition, is another area of interest and importance to the ICPM Research Partners. Papers that offer practical suggestions on how to influence and change existing organizations (both investments and pensions), are welcome.

Risk

In the context of pension provision, risk encompasses multiple topics. We are interested in projects that would help practitioners define appropriate metrics for risk and uncertainty, especially as they may relate to funding status or regarding investments in alternative assets. In addition, topics related to longevity risk, climate change and practical application of macro risk factors on the total portfolio level and balance sheet are welcome.

Research recently funded by ICPM

“Responsible Institutional Investing Around the World”, by Pedro Matos, Rajna Gibson, Simon Glossner, Philipp Krueger, and Tom Steffen

“Portfolio delegation and 401(k) plan participant responses to COVID-19”, by David Blanchett, Michael Finke, and Jonathan Reuter

“How Alternative Are Private Markets?” by Elise Gourier, William N. Goetzmann, and Ludovic Phalippou

“Disaster on the Horizon: The Price Effect of Sea Level Rise”, by Asaf Bernstein, Ryan Lewis, and Matthew Gustafson

“The Long-Term Consequences of Short-Term Incentives”, by Alex Edmans, Vivian Fang, and Allen Huang

“Coordinated Engagements”, by Elroy Dimson and Oguzhan Karakas

“The Return Expectations of Institutional Investors”, by Aleksandar Andonov and Joshua Rauh.

“Global Portfolio Diversification for Long-Horizon Investors”, by Luis Viceira and Kevin Wang

“The Dark Side of Hedge Fund Activism: Evidence from Employee Pension Plans”, by Anup Agrawal and Yuree Lim

“Population Structure and Asset Values”, by Stephen Bonnar, Lori Curtis, Kate Rybczynski, Miguel Leon-Ledesma, Jaideep Oberoi, and Mark Zhou

“A Protocol for Factor Identification”, by Kuntara Pukthuanthong, Richard Roll

“Asset Allocation and Bad Habits”, by Andrew Ang, Amit Goyal, Antti Ilmanen

“Can Institutional Investors Improve Corporate Governance Through Collective Action?”, by Craig Doidge, Alexander Dyck, Hamed Mahmudi, Aazam Virani

“Connections and Conflicts of Interest: Investment Consultants Recommendations”, by Shikha Jaiswal

“Does Corporate Social Responsibility Create Shareholder Value? The Importance of Long-Term Investors”, by Ambrus Kecskés, Sattar Mansi and Phuong-Anh Nguyen

“Fee Disclosure to Pension Participants: Establishing Minimum Requirements”, by John A. Turner, Hazel A. Witte

“How Accurately does 70% Final Earnings Replacement Measure Retirement Income (In)Adequacy?”, by Lars Osberg, Kevin D. Moore, Bonnie-Jeanne MacDonald

“International Diversification and Labor Income Risk”, by Carolina Fugazza, Maela Giofré, Giovanna Nicodano

The ICPM website lists other [funded research](#) and [ICPM Discussion Forum](#) papers on topics of interest to the Research Partners.

ICPM Research Award: Application Form

Title of Project:
Names and affiliations of researchers:
What is the main question that you answer? How does this connect to the research topics of interest to the ICPM?
What is the relevance of your research to practitioners (max 200 words)?
What is the status of your research and the expected date of completion?
Did any of the researchers involved obtain funding from ICPM in the last five years? If so, what was the name of the project?