

**When**  
Monday,  
May 3, 2021 11h30-13h00

**Where**  
Zoom

(to get zoom information  
[parg@sprott.carleton.ca](mailto:parg@sprott.carleton.ca))

## The Blind Spots of Interdisciplinary

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### ABSTRACT

When implemented effectively, interdisciplinary research has the potential to generate novel insights that advance our thinking about a particular phenomenon, as well as produce practical impact. Despite decades of calls for such research, research communities are becoming more siloed and less impactful (especially in accounting research). We propose that an unexamined reason for this problem is the diffusion of a particular mode of interdisciplinary research. Specifically, we observe researchers who are trained in accounting, work in accounting departments and publish in accounting journals, yet label themselves as 'interdisciplinary researchers' because they import theories from other fields. This mode, that we term 'identity-based' interdisciplinary accounting research (IAR), is a selective interpretation of what interdisciplinary means, that is, one that capitalizes upon calls for impactful, boundary-spanning work without incurring any of the costs and penalties associated with true interdisciplinary research. This paper aims to highlight the dangers of identity-based IAR, and instead argue that interdisciplinarity should be more of a practice. We argue that IAR can be best achieved through the collaboration of researchers from different fields by integrating the members of a research team's background and training. Our purpose is to demonstrate how the intersection of perspectives from different fields (and different career stages) can enrich scholarly output for multiple stakeholders. We show this 'practice-based IAR' may unfold through different channels, allowing for meaningful and impactful research, effective diffusion and dissemination and an IAR community that encourages interdisciplinary research practices.

### ABOUT THE PRESENTER

**Charles H. Cho** is Professor of Accounting and the Erivan K. Haub Chair in Business & Sustainability at the Schulich School of Business, York University. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, a Master of Science in Accounting, and a PhD in Business Administration (Accounting Track) from the University of Central Florida. He also worked for KPMG LLP and other public accounting firms for several years in auditing and taxation. His research interests include Social and Environmental Accounting; Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); and Accounting and the Public Interest. More information here: <https://schulich.yorku.ca/faculty/charles-cho/>

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