

Editorial introduction

It may have been noticed that the most recent events resemble at least some of the challenges experienced by humanity one hundred years ago. The small progress made by COP26 in tackling the climate crisis is reminiscent of the difficulties experienced in coordinating countries' efforts to maintain world peace through the League of Nations. The next wave of the COVID-19 pandemic mirrors the returning infection of the Spanish flu while accelerating inflation is similar to the rapidly rising prices in some countries after the First World War. The initial reading of the table of contents of this *Economics and Business Review* issue may also give an impression that it covers topics that are reflections of economic history. The proposal for IMF reform discussed in this issue can be seen as a next step in the evolution of the idea of a "central bank" that goes back to the XVII century. The volatility of agricultural prices is as old as civilization, while the impact of technological progress on the labour market has remained an important economic issue since the first Industrial Revolution.

However, the perspective that history simply repeats itself, even if tempting, is limited. In the highly interconnected global economy that in a very short period of time has had to adjust to such shocks as the climate crisis or accelerating advancements in ICT (among others) the answers that are given by economists to old economic problems may be original and historically unprecedented. The current issue of *Economics and Business Review* aims to provide such answers. It presents studies conducted by thirteen authors from India, Malaysia, Poland and Turkey. The authors employed both theoretical and empirical approaches to shed new light on the research questions put forward by current trends in the economy.

The opening article **Climate crisis, central banks and the IMF reform** by Anna Chmielewska and Andrzej Sławiński explores the role of central banking in containing the global climate change. The authors indicate that national central banks are equipped with limited policy instruments to deal with the climate crisis. However, they recognise the potential of monetary institutions at the international level in this regard. Therefore, the paper advocates institutional reform that would gradually transform the International Monetary Fund into an international central bank and the SDR into a truly international currency. The authors argue that this could significantly increase the IMF's capacity to address the shortfall in resources for decarbonising developing countries.

Arunendra Mishra and R Prasanth Kumar in their paper entitled **Agricultural commodities: An integrated approach to assess the volatility spillover and dynamic connectedness** offer an empirical contribution to the literature on the interdependencies in the commodity market. They analyse the dynamic connectedness between agricultural commodities using the Diebold and Yilmaz method and Time-Varying Parameter Vector Autoregressions. The research based on daily data for the time span of 15 years indicates that commodity prices show connectedness within their own markets and spillover effects among markets are rather of lesser importance. The conclusions of this research may be of interest to both commodity market investors and participants in the real sector.

The paper entitled **Does volatility mediate the impact of analyst recommendations on herding in Malaysian stock market?** by Ooi Kok Loang and Zamri Ahmad enriches the literature on behavioural finance by investigating the herding of stock market investors in response to new information. The empirical research focuses on the mediating role of volatility on the relationship between analyst recommendations and herding on the Malaysian stock market. Based on the panel regression results the authors suggest that the issuance of analyst recommendations might cause volatility fluctuations and subsequently induce herding, especially when the target price suggested by analysts is close to the consensus price. The findings can assist investors and regulators in identifying stocks susceptible to herding.

In the article **The monitoring role of multiple large shareholders and the catering effect of dividends: Evidence from Poland** Aleksandra Pieloch-Babiarz contributes to the behavioural corporate finance by analysing interactions between multiple large shareholders and their effect on the adjustment of dividend policy to investor preferences. The relationship is investigated using fixed effects models. The empirical results are of particular interest to long-term equity investors and can be used in portfolio management. They indicate that collusion of the largest shareholders affects dividend payments. Therefore, the author recommends buying shares of companies that are strongly monitored and lack a controlling shareholder if the investor seeks to invest in dividend-paying stocks.

Ewa Cichowicz, Małgorzata Iwanicz-Drozdowska and Łukasz Kurowski extend the understanding of cybersecurity issues in their article entitled **“Every knock is a boost”. Cyber risk behaviour among Poles**. These issues are of special importance nowadays as the coronavirus pandemic has shifted a large part of individuals’ activities to remote channels. The authors study the safety of individuals’ behaviour in the cyber world, using ordinal logistic regression and instrumental variable analysis. The results of a survey conducted on a representative group of Polish citizens during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic evidently suggest a positive relationship between knowledge and awareness of cyber risk and safe behaviour in the cyber world. The findings

contribute to the debate on the role of economic and financial education in consumer behaviour.

The last paper in this issue, **The relationship between information and communication technologies and female labour force participation in Turkey**, by Samet Tüzemen, Özge Barış-Tüzemen and Ali Kemal Çelik provides new empirical evidence to the debate about the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in fighting employment inequality. The authors investigate the relationship between ICT applications and female labour force participation for Turkey using the auto regressive distributed lag model and impulse response analysis. The findings of the study might suggest that democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law need to be advanced in order to see a positive impact of ICTs on discrimination against women in the labour market. Policymakers ought to be cognizant of this finding.

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