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# Analysts' perceptions of 'earnings quality'

Richard Barker & Shahed Imam

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subjective) non-accounting references are especially widely used where analysts express positive or negative opinions about earnings quality. It is relatively unusual for an analyst's opinion to be both negative and accounting-based. If, however, an analyst does express negative, accounting-based views on earnings quality, then he or she is highly unlikely to be positive in other respects. We interpret this evidence to be consistent with analysts' economic incentives to generate trading volume yet to be favourably biased towards companies, while seeking to use value-relevant information relating to earnings. We also conclude that the importance of accounting-based information relating to earnings quality is more important than it might seem, and that it exerts a significant influence on the analysis and recommendations in analysts' reports.

Keywords::

- earnings quality
- analysts' reports
- analysts' opinions

## Notes

Richard Barker is Senior Lecturer at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge and Shahed Hosseini is Senior Lecturer at Warwick Business School, University of Warwick. The authors thank two anonymous referees for their helpful comments. The authors are also grateful to Rhoona Kaur for her assistance in preparing this paper. Wenjuan Chen is a research fellow at the Centre for Financial Markets, University of Cambridge. Dr Richard Barker, Judge Business School, University of Cambridge, 100 Brookline Drive, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1223 336327. Fax: +44 (0)1223 336328. E-mail: r.barker@jbs.cam.ac.uk



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