

Does corporate social and environmental reporting really matter?

It depends ... on what?

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It depends on matters of: perspective, practices, and institutional arrangements

Quattrone, P. (2022). Seeking transparency makes one blind: how to rethink disclosure, account for nature and make corporations sustainable. *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*



Is this an 'Income' or a 'Political' statement?

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Revenues	+	
Cost of Goods Sold	-	
Gross Margin	=	
Operating expenses	-	
Operating income	=	
Financial income	+/-	
Profit Before tax	=	
Тах	-	
Net profit	<u>}</u> = ≁	

- Functional contribution to profit
- Firm management vs ownership
- The purpose of the firm is profit max
- Auditors paid by the owners in their interest

Lost in translation ... (market ideology, financialization, belief in transparency...)



Transparency presupposes what one wants to Make transparent (Marilyn Strathern)

Believing in transparency can be deceptive



Liu Bolin, *The Future*

Who wants transparency when you can have magic? (The Duke of Windsor, The Crown)



Value Added Statement for Nature

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Revenues	+
Cost of production and services	+
Value added by operating activities	+
Interest received	+
Dividends received	+
Wealth created	=

Distributed as follows: Employees (through salaries, wages and benefits)

Providers of interest bearing capital (through interest)

The State (for services through tax payments)

The Firm (through retained earnings)

Shareholders (through dividends)-Wealth distributed (= to wealth produced)=

- See Italy, Germany (then and now)
- Nature becomes a stakeholder (with no voice)
- We recognize the destruction of natural capital and the need to give back to nature
 - (to reconstitute natural capital)
- The firm has no purpose



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Accounting can save the world!

Or at least it creates the conditions for its salvation