

## 2009 School Seminar Series

Waikato Management School  
Te Raupapa



# The Accumulate Weight of Evidence in Audit Fee Research: Further Steps in Meta-Analysis

Wednesday, 14 October 2009  
1.10pm – 2:00pm  
MSB.1.02

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### Abstract

Research on factors related to audit fees has become widespread in recent decades, with nearly 200 hundred papers now published. These studies examine issues such as audit quality or independence, using a model of the relationship of audit fees to the variables of interest, with controls for the size, complexity and riskiness of the entity being audited. This type of research is valued because it uses reliable and comparable information, and because other approaches to research about auditing are frequently not feasible. Recent narrative research reviews note that auditing research has had little influence on public policy, and observe that this may be because research results are sometimes conflicting. Thus there may be scope for meta-analysis to resolve these conflicts. A previous meta-analysis concluded that many issues are not resolved and that "there are still uncertainties in the audit fee literature" as well as "some anomalies (e.g., internal auditing), mixed results (e.g., leverage), and areas where additional research could be beneficial (e.g., governance)." This paper first revisits these issues, with more data, and then explores ways in which meta regression analysis might be used to resolve certain issues in auditing and audit fee research.

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