



# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

## The Role of Science-Based Targets on Carbon Mitigation: Addressing the Tension between Net Zero Anxiety and Economic Growth

**DATE:** Friday 4 April 2025

**TIME:** 11:00am – 12:00pm

**MEETING DETAILS:** Learning Studio 66 Level 6, 1PSQ  
& Zoom Online (Meeting ID: 812 1862 6939,  
Password: 848621)

**RSVP:** COB, Friday 28 March 2025

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### **PRESENTER:**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Despite the growing importance of science-based targets (SBTs), our knowledge of their impact on corporate decarbonisation commitment is extremely limited due to inadequate research. To address this gap, we investigate the relationship between SBTs and corporate carbon reduction. Our empirical results reveal the following insights: First, the adoption of an SBT leads to significant subsequent carbon reduction in our sample companies. Second, decarbonisation does not occur until SBTs have been adopted for several years. Third, our findings show that the adoption of SBTs does not harm these companies' profitability. Overall, our results suggest that SBTs are long-term investments that do not generate immediate but long-term and more sustainable outcomes. In sum, SBTs seem to be a strategy that can help management achieve a win-win situation: achieving a carbon reduction target without reducing economic growth. This justifies the need to study SBTs in future research in the field of carbon-accounting.

### **BIOGRAPHY:**

Dr Jingduan Li is a lecturer in the School of Business and Law at CQ University. He holds a PhD from UNSW, and his research primarily focuses on CSR, ESG, carbon accounting, international accounting, financial reporting and corporate governance. As an early career researcher, he has published numerous papers in A/A journals\* and serves as a reviewer for over ten journals, including Accounting and Finance, British Accounting Review, European Accounting Review, Journal of Business Ethics, and Business Strategy and the Environment.