The Rutgers Institute for Corporate Social Innovation (RICSI) is proud to host the Questions & Unanswers About Social Innovation (QUASI) Seminar Series. To participate, please REGISTER HERE.

September 18th, 2020, 11am – 12:30pm EST

Can shareholder-owned corporations maximize profits without harming their stakeholders?

Yes: Jill Brown, Professor of Management, Bentley University

1) Issues of reputation, legitimacy, moral salience, and social judgments condition firms to avoid harming stakeholders.


2) Shareholder primacy is in the rear-view mirror... corporations have come to realize that shared utility with stakeholders provides a win-win for business... in addition to providing a certain measure of risk management.

“Business Roundtable Redefines the Purpose of the Corporation to Promote 'An Economy that Serves All Americans, Principles of Corporate Governance’”

Brown, J. “Will a Global Pandemic and Recession Hit the Reset Button for Corporate Governance and Business/Stakeholder Relationships?”


3) Firms with the best stakeholder relations offer higher overall value.


No: Jerry Davis, Gilbert & Ruth Whitaker Professor of Business Administration, University of Michigan

1) Profit-oriented corporations are responsible for creating or exacerbating nearly every major societal pathology in the West today, including the climate catastrophe


These articles, provided by the speakers, underpin the arguments that each scholar will make during the seminar. You are encouraged to explore these articles in advance of the seminar, and we hope that you can use them as a resource in your future studies. Please note that hyperlinks may be inaccessible to some. One day, academic articles may be freely available, but for now, many are held hostage behind paywalls. Please contact the authors directly for any articles you cannot access; typically, authors are more than happy to share their work and appreciate the interest. Or you may pay the ransom to the publishers.