

CALL FOR PAPERS — M&A CONFERENCE APRIL 24-25, 2019

**“MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS:  
STATE OF THE ART IN RESEARCH & PRACTICE”**

Warwick Business School

Venue: The Shard, London

Program Chairs: Melissa Graebner (UT Austin), Koen Heimeriks (WBS, Conference Organizer), Will Mitchell (Rotman), James McLetchie (McKinsey)

**\*\*\* CONFERENCE ABSTRACT \*\*\***

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) activities are at an all-time high. Increasingly, companies turn to M&A to cope with digitalization, environmental volatility, shifting technologies, and competition from adjacent industries. Despite inherent challenges in the dealmaking and post-merger integration phases, these recent developments cause portfolio transformation to top executive agendas. This conference brings together leading thinkers from practice and academia to address open questions on strategic and behavioral issues, the role of context, and best practices for today’s M&A to succeed. By sharing “state of the art” insights on how to prepare, execute, and learn to be successful, the conference unites executive and academic interests and aims to define frontiers in M&A research and practice in the years ahead.

**\*\*\* THEMES AND KEYNOTES \*\*\***

Opening Keynote: Philippe Haspeslagh

**Theme 1: Strategy and Stakeholder Management**

James Allison (EVP Corporate Strategy, M&A, and Treasury, Unilever)  
Maurizio Zollo (Bocconi)

**Theme 2: Behavioral Dynamics and Technology**

James McLetchie (Partner, U.K. Head of Merger Management Practice, McKinsey & Company)  
Tomi Laamanen (University of St. Gallen)

**Theme 3: Role of Context in M&A**

Mark Gunther (Senior Director, Global ventures, Philips Lighting)  
Will Mitchell (Rotman)

**Theme 4: Best Practices and Learning**

Karl-Michael Popp (Senior Director M&A, SAP)  
Melissa Graebner (UT Austin)

**Timeline:**

15 January 2019 – Paper submission deadline  
28 February 2019 – Notifications of program review committee decisions  
mid-March 2019 – Full conference program available online  
1 April 2019 – Conference registration deadline  
24-25 April 2019 – WBS seminal M&A conference at WBS The Shard, London

For details, please contact: [mandaconference2019@wbs.ac.uk](mailto:mandaconference2019@wbs.ac.uk)