

A European perspective on comparative corporate governance research

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Comparative corporate governance research:

The No-No's

- **There is no corporate governance bible**

There are different view (of course!)

Checklists and ratings are at best partial

The re-regulation wave is suspect

- **The US imitation fallacy**

The US economy is large and competitive, but is this because of or in spite of its governance system?

- **Anything goes?**

Evidence of governance problems in many economies around the world



Gross national income per capita 2004

\$

- 1 Luxembourg 56,230
- 2 Norway 52,030
- 3 Bermuda .. a
- 4 Switzerland 48,230
- 5 United States 41,400
- 6 Denmark 40,650
- 7 Liechtenstein .. a
- 8 Iceland 38,620
- 9 Japan 37,180
- 10 Sweden 35,770
- 11 Channel Islands .. a
- 12 Ireland 34,280
- 13 United Kingdom 33,940
- 14 Finland 32,790
- 15 Austria 32,300
- 16 Netherlands 31,700
- 17 Belgium 31,030
- 18 Germany 30,120
- 19 France 30,090 b
- 20 San Marino .. a

\$ Purchasing power parity

- 1 Luxembourg 61,220
- 2 Bermuda .. a
- 3 United States 39,710
- 4 Norway 38,550
- 5 Switzerland 35,370
- 6 Liechtenstein .. a
- 7 Ireland 33,170
- 8 Channel Islands .. a
- 9 Iceland 32,360
- 10 Austria 31,790
- 11 Denmark 31,550
- 12 Hong Kong, China 31,510
- 13 United Kingdom 31,460
- 14 Belgium 31,360
- 15 Netherlands 31,220
- 16 Canada 30,660
- 17 Japan 30,040
- 18 Sweden 29,770
- 19 Finland 29,560
- 20 France 29,320



Future research

- **New angles**
The days of trashing agency theory are over
Economics & sociology, & psychology, & politics....
- **New cross-country datasets**
The small worlds project
legal system
Investor protection
- **The Devil is in the details**
Often there are very specific reasons for differences in
corporate governance
Banks/markets, business groups, industrial foundations,
two-tier systems, employee representation

