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# The Illusion of Transparency in Corporate Governance

Does Transparency Help or Hinder True Ethical Conduct?

- Provides an innovative, critical perspective on transparency for the corporate governance field, highlighting an emerging area
- Uses philosophical concepts and understandings to stimulate new thinking about corporate governance, encouraging regulators to question their requirements for good corporate governance practice
- Addresses the shift in societal expectations for ethical behaviour

Transparency is generally seen as a corporate priority and a central attribute for promoting business growth and social morality. From a philosophical perspective, society has experienced a gradual paradigm shift which intensified after the Second World War with the advent of the information era. As a fundamental part of an inescapable, hegemonic capitalist system and given the insistent emphasis on it as a moral imperative, transparency, this book avers, needs to be examined and challenged as to its true governance value in building a sustainable twenty-first century society. Rather than clinging to the fantasy of complete transparency as the only form of accountability, corporate governance is strengthened in this way by practicing true social responsibility, which emerges not from outward-looking compliance but from a deeper place in the corporate psyche through inward-looking contemplation and the development of moral maturity.

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