

# Proposed Topics for Master Thesis

Below you find a list of potential topics for a Master’s Thesis. Topics are grouped into overarching topics and the respective mentor who would be supervising the thesis.

If you are interested in working on one of those topics please first contact the Head of Research Center (nikolai.bunzmann@ng.team).

## Legal Issues (Dr. Elis Tarelli)

1. Board-structure composition of businesses firms / non-profit organisations – the role and significance of independent expert (boards) members for good governance practice (The case if Albanian business firm / non-profit organisations)
2. Corporate Governance Best Practices for Non-Profit Organizations: The Case for a CG Code for Non-Profit Organisations in Albania
3. CEO performance evaluation pratices at business firms / non-profit organisations in Albania. Evaluation of NG Team organizations CEOs as a practical example
4. Board self-evaluation practices: proposal for a self-evaluation framework for board based on the CG code for unlisted joint-stock companies in Albania
5. What can for-profit and non-profit boards learn from each other about improving corporate governance?
6. The efficiency of corporate governance in state-owned / foreign-owned enterprises in Albania
7. The case of corporate social responsibility in Albanian business firms: a change of mentality or only sporadic examples?

## Intercultural Communication (Dr. Roy Atwood)

1. Using social media as positive cross-cultural learning tools
2. Intercultural communication in the classroom: teaching business students in a second language (we are a laboratory for this challenge)
3. Media transitions in AL (what are the challenges of people moving from MSM to social media?)
4. What principles of conflict resolution could be effective in (northern?)
5. Developing worldview analysis tools for identifying potential points of intercultural tension and conflict resolution
6. Mixed Signals? Overcoming the challenges of marketing communication in a multicultural environment (Albania’s religious and cultural mix, e.g.: muslim, orthodox roman catholic, evangelical, atheist/agnostic)

## Leadership (Dr. Roy Atwood)

1. Leadership best practices in NGOs (native characteristics and learned behaviors)
2. Followership in NGOs: Creativity and constructive criticism among “good” followers
3. Self-Deception: Leaders’ self-evaluation and evaluation by their employees and followers
4. Perceptions of leaders within organizations in relation to organizational effectiveness and success
5. How do organizations develop their next generation of skilled and effective leaders?
6. Transitioning to next generation leaders: what factors ensure successful (or poor) CEO leadership succession/transition (could be businesses, organizations, or schools)

## Professional Ethics (Dr. Roy Atwood)

1. Identifying and overcoming key business ethics challenges in Albania
2. Ethics in Albania’s NGOs: When does helping hurt or create unwelcomed long-term dependency?
3. By what standard? Identifying and evaluating the ethical principles that guide Albanian businesses (e.g., Intuitionism, emotivism and situational ethics in the workplace)
4. The cultural consequences of lying in Albanian public and private life (Bok)
5. Playing by the same rules on a level field? Can Albanians find sustainable success in a capitalist economy if the rule of law and ethics don’t apply evenly across the country?

## Governance & Organizational Development (Dr. Roy Atwood)

1. The paradox of Governance: Balancing control and collaboration (Sundaramurthy & Lewis, 2003)
2. To what extent do Governing Boards in Albanian businesses & organizations assess their performance?
3. Avoiding governance extremes: How do organizations protect themselves against micro-management and abdication of responsibility?
4. The Policy Governance Model’s benefits and limits: What problems have Albanian organizations encountered applying the popular Carver Policy Governance Model and how have they adjusted?
5. To what extent do Governing Boards adequately distinguish ends and means in their policies?
6. How do board leadership and organizational management avoid “stepping on each other’s toes”?
7. What formal policies or processes (fail to?) nurture and protect healthy Board-Management linkage?
8. The challenges of governance in family-owned business (Martins, et al., 2012; Gonzales-Bustos, 2017)

## Education (Dr. Irmarela Tarelli)

1. Preschool education reform in Albania and challenges related in its implementation
2. Teachers’ professional practices and beliefs in Albania (e.g., instruction and professional development)
3. Parental involvement in school educational processes in Albania

## Education (Prof. Dr. Bardhyl Musai)

1. Inclusive education in primary schools (The case of Pogradeci region)
2. Bullying and Cyberbullying in Albanian schools as form of aggression
3. Effective education assessment tools (The case of Nehemia school)
4. The impact of classroom management in students’ behavior (The case of Nehemia school)
5. The problem of parental attitudes towards school (The case of Nehemia school)
6. The impact of Albanian family involvement on academic achievement
7. Perceptions of Albanian principals in school leadership

## Performance Management, Leadership, Marketing et al. (Dr. Peter Makiriyado)

1. Decision Making
2. The most effective measures of performance: The prevailing performance measures, their effectiveness and improvement.
3. Employees Attitude Towards Performance Appraisal Practices [in a certain] Industry
4. Investigating effective advertising and promotional strategies in [a certain marketing area].
5. The importance of having an account on renowned social networking sites: are they effective or just plain simple presence on the web
6. Current trends in [a certain country/business sector] advertising and consumer behavior
7. The relationship and common aspects of innovation management and organizational culture
8. Empirical investigation into the influence of organizational and leadership performance
9. A case study of rural marketing project
10. Investigating the effects of mobile banking
11. Analyzing the effectiveness of advertising
12. A comparative study of organized trading in [country 1] and [country 2]
13. Analysis of the effects of branding on the buyers’ purchase decision
14. Relationship of financial incentives to worker morale
15. Influence of advertising on consumer behavior
16. Impact of HRM on organizational growth