

# The interdisciplinary nature of psychology and accounting: A review and research

Lam Khanh Tran<sup>1\*</sup>, Hung Tri Tang<sup>2</sup>, Thien Huu Nguyen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vietnam Association of Certified Public Accountants (VACPA), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

<sup>2</sup>Dong Nai Technology University, Dong Nai Province, Vietnam

\*Corresponding author: [trankhanh@vacpa.org.vn](mailto:trankhanh@vacpa.org.vn)

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## ABSTRACT

This article explores the symbiotic relationship between psychology and accounting, two social sciences investigating human behavior and decision-making. While they share common interests, methods, and challenges, the interdisciplinary nature of these fields requires careful consideration. Hence, this paper offers a comprehensive literature review, illuminating the interdisciplinary aspects of psychology and accounting and presenting a research agenda for future studies. The study adopts a qualitative approach comprising two primary phases. Firstly, a systematic literature review and content analysis are conducted to introduce the concept and dimensions of interdisciplinarity, along with its benefits and challenges. Subsequently, an in-depth analysis of the primary areas of interaction and collaboration between psychology and accounting is performed. The findings unveil current trends and challenges for psychology and accounting as social sciences, identify gaps and opportunities, and highlight the impact and implications of interdisciplinary collaboration and integration in psychology and accounting research. Furthermore, a suggested model is proposed to foster interdisciplinary.

## 1. Introduction

Interdisciplinarity, defined as integrating information, viewpoints, and methods from many disciplines, has evolved as a practical approach to scientific study (Frodeman, Klein, & Pacheco, 2017; Graff, 2016; Nissani, 1995). Interdisciplinarity can manage complex challenges that transcend the boundaries of fields by leveraging the profound knowledge of multiple fields (Frodeman et al., 2017; Graff, 2016). In addition, academia has yet to reach unanimity in assessing interdisciplinarity's usefulness and weaknesses. Nevertheless, its benefits apply to the social sciences (Graff, 2016; Hoffmann, Schmidt, & Nersessian, 2013; Politi, 2019). Thus, the purpose of this study is to investigate the interdisciplinarity between psychology and accounting, two social sciences that share common issues in ideas, techniques, research methods, and challenges to create more comprehensive results in each field (Alshurafat, Beattie, Jones, & Sands, 2019; Davison, 2015).

The study of human behavior and decision-making in psychology comprises a variety of subfields, including cognition, society, and organization. On the other hand, accounting is concerned with the financial and economic elements that impact human behavior and decision-making and includes financial accounting, management accounting, and auditing. Despite their dissimilarities, both fields strive to comprehend and explain human behavior in various contexts

(Davison, 2015; Gendron & Baker, 2005). Psychology provides insight into the cognitive, motivational, and social elements influencing accounting procedures and results (Cohen, Holder-Webb, & Khalil, 2017). Cohen et al. (2017) stated that knowledge of psychological decision-making processes can give accountants and auditors a deeper understanding of financial behavior. Accounting can simultaneously give psychologists insights into the economic effects of human behavior, providing a broader context for comprehending psychological phenomena (Cohen et al., 2017; Yip, Van Staden, & Cahan, 2011). Furthermore, psychology and accounting can interact through methodologies and techniques (Bryman, 2016). Both fields employ experimental investigations, surveys, interviews, case studies, and statistical modeling. Researchers can adopt a more thorough approach to understanding complicated phenomena and expand the scope of their inquiries by exploiting these approaches.

Despite this collaboration, disciplinary boundaries and differences in paradigms, languages, cultures, values, and incentives hinder collaboration and integration between psychology and accounting. Researchers and practitioners in both domains tend to prioritize their disciplinary paradigms and viewpoints, impeding the integration of knowledge and insights from other disciplines (Choi & Pak, 2006; Graff, 2016; Hoffmann et al., 2013; Politi, 2019). Thus, they should recognize and value their interdisciplinarity more. To overcome these obstacles and the rise of interdisciplinarity and promote meaningful communication, collaboration, and integration between psychology and accounting scholars and practitioners, it is necessary to highlight the research's relevance, rigor, and impact in both domains. In addition, recognizing the potential of interdisciplinary methods might result in more effective solutions for real-world challenges, which frequently require a multidimensional perspective.

Hence, this research aims to illuminate the interdisciplinary prospects in psychology and accounting, highlighting the significance of collaboration and integration for increasing fundamental understanding and tackling complicated challenges in practice by investigating elements of interdisciplinarity and obstacles faced by these fields. Hence, the authors have presented a sound evaluation of how psychology and accounting interact and proposed directions for future research programs. The authors have also urged researchers and practitioners to adopt a wider and deeper interdisciplinary approach that can help find new solutions to complex research problems.

This paper consists of three main sections. The first section gives a comprehensive overview of the current theories and research in psychology and accounting and shows how they are connected. It also describes the research methods used for this study. The second section reports and discusses the research findings and reveals the current state and interdisciplinary research trends of the two fields of accounting and psychology. Moreover, this section examines the impact and implications of the research related to psychology and accounting and provides regulatory guidance to encourage industry-relevant research collaborations between researchers and professional accountants. The last section draws some exciting conclusions from the research results and suggests possible directions for future research.

## **2. Theoretical basis**

### **The development progresses**

Human behavior, mental processes, and financial transactions were observed and recorded in ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, India, and China. These processes are the origins of psychology and accounting (Birnberg, Luft, & Shields, 2006; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

However, psychology and accounting arose as separate sciences in the 19th century due to philosophical, physiological, economic, and social influences. Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, and Kant presented distinct conceptions of the mind, knowledge, and practice that influence psychology (Birnberg et al., 2006; Cherry, 2022). Using scientific methods, physiologists such as Fechner, Helmholtz, and Wundt examined sensation, perception, reaction time, and consciousness. They led to psychology becoming increasingly practical and experimental (Cherry, 2022; Schultz, 2013).

In 1879, Wundt established the first psychological laboratory in Leipzig, Germany, and is considered the father of psychology (Nicolas, 2005). Psychology as a distinct science then evolved into various schools of thought, including structuralism (which focuses on analyzing the essential elements of consciousness), functionalism (which focuses on the adaptive functions of mental processes), behaviorism (which focuses on observable behaviors and their environmental influences), psychoanalysis (which focuses on unconscious motivations and conflicts), and Gestalt psychology (which focuses on the holistic organization of perception and cognition) (Cherry, 2022; Schultz, 2013). Psychology was also increasingly applied to other realms of human activity, including education, industry, health, law, social concerns, and personality. Psychology also became more diverse and interdisciplinary by incorporating theories and methods from biology, sociology, anthropology, linguistics, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and statistics (Cherry, 2022; Hothersall & Lovett, 2022; Schultz, 2013).

Accounting originated with those who wanted to use Luca Pacioli's 1494 work *Summa de Arithmetica* to popularize double-entry bookkeeping, which replaced single-entry accounting procedures throughout time to keep track of the transactions and assets of merchants and traders (Sangster & Scataglinibelghitar, 2010). Pacioli is regarded as the father of accounting and bookkeeping since double-entry bookkeeping enabled the more accurate and systematic recording of financial data and the preparation of financial statements (Edwards, 2020). Then, accounting developed into a profession, with the first professional accounting agency established in Scotland in 1854 by Royal Charter, now the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (Sangster & Scataglinibelghitar, 2010). The development of enterprises and the industrial revolution raised the demand for accounting services and regulation and led to economic theories and principles such as marginalism, utility theory, agency theory, information economics, and game theory having more influence on accounting (Edwards, 2020; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

As business complexity has increased, accounting has expanded to encompass a variety of business activity domains. Management accounting, for example, customizes information for internal planning and decision-making, whereas financial accounting provides crucial information to external parties such as investors and creditors. Auditing emphasizes the substantiation of the accuracy and dependability of financial information. Taxation centers on compliance with tax regulations and laws. Forensic accounting focuses on fraud and prospective litigation-related investigations. Environmental accounting evaluates the economic effects of environmental practices and policies (Edwards, 2020; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020). Accounting also became more diverse and globalized, incorporating different accounting standards (such as GAAP and IFRS), accounting systems (such as accrual-based and cash-based), accounting software (such as QuickBooks and SAP), accounting cultures (such as Anglo-American and Continental European), accounting ethics (such as independence and integrity), accounting education (such as CPA and CMA), accounting research methods (such as archival and experimental), and accounting topics and issues (such as corporate governance, sustainability, and social responsibility) (Edwards, 2020; Sidhu, Pillay, & Joshi, 2023).

Psychology and accounting share similar goals as social sciences, aiming to understand, explain, and predict human behavior and mental processes in various social contexts. They both seek to apply their knowledge and skills to improve human welfare and address social problems (Cohen et al., 2017; Ishikawa, 2005; Yip et al., 2011). Psychology explores the subjective and personal aspects of human experiences, such as cognition, emotion, behavior, motivation, personality, and mental health. Accounting, on the other hand, studies objective issues from the outside, especially economic activities such as transactions, money, assets, liabilities, revenue, expenses, profits, and efficiency performance (Birnberg et al., 2006; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Mautz, 1963; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

Psychology and accounting both use empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to test hypotheses and theories. They also perform both quantitative and qualitative scientific research methods in their investigations, such as experiments, surveys, interviews, observations, case studies, content analysis, and statistical analysis (Bryman, 2016). However, psychology and accounting have their own specificities in applying research processes to suit their particular fields and objectives.

Accounting uses more quantitative and standardized methods to assess and explain the financial aspects of behavior, whereas psychology employs more qualitative and experimental methods to examine psychological processes and effects (Nobes & Parker, 2016; McGannon, Smith, Kendellen, & Gonsalves, 2021). Psychology collects data from a variety of sources, including self-reports, behavioral observations, physiological measurements, and brain imaging, and performs statistical testing and modeling using SPSS, R, or MATLAB. Accounting takes data from financial records, such as invoices, receipts, ledgers, and financial statements, and performs computations and reporting using software such as Excel, SPSS, AMOS, Stata, and Smart-PLS. Psychology adheres to the ethical standards of the American Psychological Association (APA) or the British Psychological Society (BPS) to protect human participants and maintain the validity of research. While scholars in the accounting field adopt accounting standards established by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) or the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), they assure the comparability and consistency of financial information (Bryman, 2016; Kyriazos, 2018; McGannon et al., 2021; Nobes & Parker, 2016).

With similar assumptions and ideas in social sciences research, psychology, and accounting share comparable frameworks that influence their research and practice. It is acknowledged that biological, psychological, and social elements, among others, influence human behavior and mental processes at various levels of analysis. In addition, ethical norms and professional codes govern conduct and obligations in both fields (Birnberg et al., 2006; Mautz, 1963; McGannon et al., 2021).

However, as distinct social sciences, psychology, and accounting exhibit distinctive frameworks with divergent epistemological, ontological, axiological, and methodological orientations. Regarding epistemology, psychology takes a positive stance, seeking objective facts and employing scientific methods to discover general rules. It presumes the existence of a single, observable, and computable universe (Cherry, 2022; Mautz, 1963; Rose, 2008; Schein, 2015). On the other hand, accounting leans towards an interpretive perspective, which emphasizes subjective meanings and acknowledges the existence of multiple realities. It recognizes that personal interests and values shape the interpretation of accounting information (Lowe & Puxty, 1990; Wang, Guo, & Yang, 2023; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

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Methodologically, psychology emphasizes experimental and observational methods for manipulating and measuring variables of interest, in order to tightly control and generalize findings (Birnberg et al., 2006; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; McGannon et al., 2021).

Accounting researchers, on the other side, use archival and analytical methods to check and explain financial information, focusing on specific situations and giving detailed descriptions (Bougie & Sekaran, 2019; Mautz, 1963).

Psychology and accounting have different ways of looking at things, like what counts as knowledge, reality, values, and inquiry. Psychology tries to find objective facts, thinks there is only one reality, and wants to make general rules. Accounting is more about understanding different meanings, realities, interests, and situations (Cherry, 2022; Lowe & Puxty, 1990; Mautz, 1963; Rose, 2008; Schein, 2015).

### **Emergence and evolution of interdisciplinary accounting research**

Interdisciplinary accounting research is a good and varied field that looks at how accounting works and affects different things, like people, companies, and the environment. It uses ideas and methods from different disciplines, like sociology, psychology, history, philosophy, and critical theory, to see accounting stuff from different views.

In 2009, the *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal* published the article “Interdisciplinary research on accounting: Institutions and practices,” which summarizes the views and insights presented at the meeting of scholars from several disciplines on interdisciplinary accounting research (Jane, 2009). The paper explores the institutional and historical context, theoretical and methodological issues and developments, and the ethical implications of multidisciplinary accounting research.

In the article “Profiling Interdisciplinary Accounting Research: An Analysis of Publication Descriptors in Three Leading Journals,” published in *Meditari Accountancy Research* in 2021, Xu, Dellaportas, Yang, and Ji (2021) provided a comprehensive overview of the characteristics and trends in interdisciplinary accounting research. Scholars investigated and determined the most prevalent themes, contributing authors, institutions, and nations of *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal* (AAAJ); *Accounting, Organizations, and Society* (AOS); and *Critical Perspectives on Accounting* (CPA). In addition, they evaluate the existing obstacles and prospects for future research in this sector (Xu et al., 2021).

In “Broadening the Boundaries of Accounting: A Call for Interdisciplinarity in the Calculative Era” in 2023, published in *Meditari Accountancy Research*, Twyford and Abbas reflected on the development of criteria for evaluating the quality of accounting research. They investigate the ramifications of journal rankings, citation measures, and impact factors on accounting scholars and their research, focusing on the fundamental values and principles of interdisciplinary accounting research, including innovation, rigor, significance, and authenticity.

### **Influences and interactions**

Social disciplines, psychology, and accounting have exhibited reciprocal influence and interaction throughout their development. Their evolution is a result of numerous intellectual and sociological changes. Early in the 20th century, scientific management and behaviorism, which stressed the measurement and regulation of human behavior in companies, influenced psychology and accounting. Researchers from both fields used experimental and statistical methodologies to examine the effect of incentives, feedback, and budgeting systems on employee motivation, productivity, and satisfaction (Birnberg et al., 2006; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020; Wood, 2016).

During the middle of the 20th century, cognitive psychology and the theory of information processing substantially impacted both fields. These methods focused on comprehending the mental processes and cognition underlying human perception, memory, learning, problem-solving, and decision-making. Psychologists and accountants used cognitive models and heuristics to investigate the implications of diverse information formats, cues, biases, and techniques on managerial operation, decision-making, and communication (Birnberg et al., 2006; Hogarth, 1991; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

In the late 20th century, both psychology and accounting were shaped by the rise of social psychology and institutional theory. These perspectives highlighted how social and cultural elements mold human behavior and cognition within groups, organizations, and civilizations. The influence of norms, values, roles, identities, expectations, and pressures on individual and organizational behavior, performance, and change boosted psychologists' and accountants' research more by using social concepts and conceptions (Birnberg et al., 2006; Guerreiro, Frezatti, & Casado, 2006; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020; Zhuk, 2017).

The expansion of technology and globalization at the start of the 21st century has offered new opportunities and difficulties for psychology and accounting in interdisciplinarity. The integration of current technologies and approaches has facilitated a greater comprehension of contemporary human behavior's complex and dynamic character. Hence, researchers have been focusing on exploring the implications of digital platforms, tools, systems, and networks on human behavior, cognition, emotion, communication, and collaboration (Birnberg et al., 2006; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Wang & Shan, 2022; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

### **Harmony and reciprocity in theories, techniques, and applications**

Accounting has been profoundly influenced by psychological frameworks, which have increased knowledge of the behavior and decision-making processes of accounting practitioners, including managers, investors, analysts, auditors, regulators, and accounting and auditing standards builders (Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Salehi & Dastanpoor, 2021; Wood, 2016). The impact of psychology on accounting research has encompassed a wide array of topics, such as earnings management, financial reporting quality, disclosure choices, investor reactions, analyst forecasts, audit judgments, corporate governance, ethics, and fraud (Birnberg et al., 2006; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Salehi & Dastanpoor, 2021; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

Conversely, accounting has influenced psychology as accounting offers tangible real-world situations and empirical data that facilitate the examination and enhancement of psychological theories and principles within practical environments. And accounting only contributes to psychology as a research subject (Birnberg et al., 2006; Hall, 2016). Through the examination of accounting-related phenomena, researchers in psychology have gained insights into cognitive biases, heuristics, motivation, incentives, accountability, attribution, social

comparison, affect, and trust. Accounting provides valuable empirical evidence for psychological research across various domains (Birnberg et al., 2006; Hall, 2016; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

The interaction between psychology and accounting has fostered the development of interdisciplinary approaches and methodologies that integrate their perspectives and insights to tackle complex and pertinent issues (McGannon et al., 2021; Rodrigues, Oliveira, Borges, Franco, & Silva, 2022; Salehi & Dastanpoor, 2021; Wang & Shan, 2022). These collaborations between psychology and accounting have spawned behavioral research in accounting using experimental and survey methodologies to examine how psychological aspects influence accounting practices. These interdisciplinary studies in both fields have enriched our insight and understanding of the complex interaction between human behavior and accounting procedures and activities (Birnberg et al., 2006; Coşkun & Karakoc, 2020; Koonce & Mercer, 2005; Wibbeke & Lachman, 2020).

### **Advantages and challenges**

The application of psychological theory and methodology to accounting research issues and vice versa offers many opportunities and challenges for both fields. First, accounting researchers and practitioners can benefit from applying psychological theory and methodologies by adding psychological viewpoints, and accounting professionals can get an excellent knowledge of the behavior and decision-making processes of accounting's most influential persons, including managers, investors, auditors, and regulators (Coşkun & Karakoc, 2020; Koonce & Mercer, 2005). This comprehension enables them to forecast actions and design more ethical and practical accounting systems, rules, and practices (Birnberg et al., 2006; Gerhard, Gladstone, & Hoffmann 2018; Salehi & Dastanpoor, 2021; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020). Second, applying accounting theory and methodologies to problems in psychology enables psychologists to conduct quantitative research and study the financial elements impacting human behavior and well-being. This combination expands revenue, expenditures, assets, liabilities, performance, and customer satisfaction measurements. Such integration facilitates designing and evaluating cost-effective and sustainable interventions (Birnberg et al., 2006; Guerreiro et al., 2006; Wen, Leung, Li, & Hu, 2021; Wood, 2016).

However, applying psychology to accounting, or vice versa, presents challenges for both disciplines (Beattie, 2014; Hall, 2016). Accounting researchers and practitioners may encounter methodological and practical difficulties bridging the differences between the epistemological, ontological, axiological, and methodological orientations of psychology and accounting. They may also need to acquire new skills and competencies not typically emphasized in accounting education and practice. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and potential harm, must be carefully addressed (Beattie, 2014; Birnberg et al., 2006; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

Likewise, psychologists who apply accounting theory and methods to their research face conceptual and empirical challenges (Devine, 1960; Wen et al., 2021). They must overcome the limitations and assumptions inherent in accounting models and measures, which may not fully capture the complexity and diversity of human behavior and well-being (Luft & Shields, 2010). Validating and interpreting accounting data influenced by psychological factors or biases can also be challenging (Lucas & Chang, 2022). Balancing financial objectives with individuals' or groups' psychological needs and preferences is an additional consideration (Cherry, 2022; Wang et al., 2023; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

### 3. Research method

This study adopts a qualitative approach to investigate the interdisciplinary relationship between psychology and accounting. A qualitative design is justified as it allows for a comprehensive exploration of the psychological factors influencing accounting research and the reciprocal impact of accounting on psychological processes (Bogdan, Meşter, & Matica, 2018; Bryman, 2016).

The data collection process involved two primary phases: a systematic literature review and content analysis. In phase 1, a comprehensive search strategy was developed to identify relevant scholarly articles, books, and research papers published in reputable journals and databases. The search terms employed included combinations of keywords such as “psychology,” “accounting,” “interdisciplinary,” “cognitive processes,” “decision-making,” “mental accounting theory,” and “behavioral aspects.”

The scope of the search included psychology, accounting, management, and behavioral economics, among others.

Specific inclusion criteria were established to ensure the inclusion of studies related to the interdisciplinary nature of psychology and accounting. Studies that examined psychological theories and concepts applied to accounting practices or investigated the influence of accounting principles on psychological processes were considered relevant. Additionally, articles published in English were included in the analysis.

The retrieved articles were thoroughly screened based on their titles and abstracts. Only those articles meeting the established inclusion criteria proceeded to the full-text analysis stage. During this phase, a rigorous examination of the selected articles was conducted to extract pertinent data and identify key themes.

By following this comprehensive research methodology, the study aims to gain valuable insights into the interdisciplinary relationship between psychology and accounting, shedding light on how psychological factors impact accounting research and how accounting practices influence psychological processes.

### 4. Research results

Following an extensive investigation involving research, analysis, and synthesis of existing studies, the findings indicate the following key aspects in the field of psychology and accounting research (APA, 2021; Birnberg et al., 2006; Cherry, 2022; Emich, Norder, Lu, & Sawhney, 2020; Gendron & Baker, 2005; Grossmann, Huynh, & Ellsworth, 2016; Guerreiro et al., 2006; Gokten, 2017; Hall, 2016; Luft & Shields, 2010; McLaney et al., 2022; NIHR, 2019; Spiner, 2022; Twyford & Abbas, 2023; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020; Wood, 2016):

#### *The current trends and challenges for psychology and accounting as social sciences*

Researchers in both psychology and accounting use technology to improve work and data collection. By using tools like social media, technology apps, online platform apps, big data, and artificial intelligence, they can connect with a much larger number of participants, which is more diverse, personalized, and accessible parts and components, and collect more in-depth data to address complex and pressing social issues, such as health mental health, climate change, misinformation, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Therefore, they work together in many different industries and increasingly multidisciplinary cooperation (Twyford & Abbas, 2023).

Psychology and accounting also support inclusivity and diversity in their own fields. They are questioning their assumptions and biases, trying to include different views and voices from different backgrounds, cultures, identities, and experiences. Besides, they are working to increase the presence and involvement of marginalized groups in their research, education, and practice (APA, 2021).

Both psychology and accounting are redefining their roles and identities by expanding their influence beyond traditional areas such as therapy and financial reporting. They are exploring innovative approaches to effectively communicate their value and relevance to the public and policymakers (Twyford & Abbas, 2023; Wibbeke & Lachmann, 2020).

### ***The gaps and opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and integration***

Despite the growing utilization of psychological theories and concepts in accounting research, there needs to be more communication and collaboration between researchers in psychology and accounting. This lack of interaction impedes the exchange of ideas, insights, and feedback between the two disciplines, consequently restricting the development of comprehensive and rigorous theories and methodologies. Furthermore, accounting researchers demonstrate limited awareness and appreciation for the diversity and intricacy of psychological phenomena and approaches. Instead, they often rely on dominant or familiar psychological theories or concepts, neglecting alternative perspectives and resulting in fragmented or inconsistent findings and implications.

It is so important to encourage more integration and collaboration between the two fields to deal with these issues and improve scientific research in both psychology and accounting. There are many chances for interdisciplinary cooperation and integration, especially in solving complex social problems that need multiple perspectives and approaches. For example, researchers from both fields can work together to study how psychological factors influence the behavior and decision-making of accounting professionals, such as managers, investors, and auditors. By using psychological theories and concepts in their research, researchers from both fields can create more complete and rigorous models and frameworks that can better explain and predict accounting events and issues.

Besides working with other fields, accounting research can also benefit from using new technologies and methods. By using techniques like online experiments, surveys, interviews, observations, case studies, archival analysis, content analysis, statistical analysis, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data, accounting researchers can understand the psychological side of accounting situations better. These methods help accounting researchers get a wider and deeper understanding of how psychology and accounting work together, and make their findings more reliable and consistent.

### ***Contributions and implications***

Psychology and accounting research can have a huge impact on how things are done and decided in accounting. By doing research based on evidence, these fields can give useful insights and suggestions that can improve the behavior and decision-making of the people who are part of accounting processes, like managers, investors, analysts, auditors, regulators, and standard makers. This research helps to make accounting systems, rules, and practices more efficient, ethical, and effective.

Studies in both fields can also make a difference for society and the economy. They can make people happier, organizations better, society fairer, the environment greener, and the public more confident and valuable. By finding out the psychological stuff that affects how people act

and decide in different accounting situations, researchers can come up with ways and methods that lead to good outcomes for both individuals and society.

Moreover, psychology and accounting researchers can make their work better and more valuable by talking more with the important people, like the ones who do accounting, the ones who make rules, the ones who use accounting, the ones who benefit from accounting, the ones who help with accounting, and the ones who pay for accounting, during the whole study process. Thus, researchers can gain insight and understand their needs, desires, expectations, preferences, attitudes, and points of view. This interaction also enables researchers to customize their study topics, methodologies, findings, consequences, and dissemination to ensure that they address the pertinent concerns and interests of the intended audience.

Hence, psychologists and accountants collaborate in research to enhance their findings' practicality, applicability, and relevance. This joint effort amplifies the real-world impact and ensures that research results are efficiently translated into practical applications and policy decisions. It also facilitates the co-creation of knowledge, where stakeholders can contribute their expertise and experiences, leading to more robust and comprehensive research outcomes.

#### ***A framework or model for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation.***

The proposed possible framework for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation between psychology and accounting researchers and practitioners which is formulated based on our insights and expertise may be constructed:

##### **Vision**

Create a community of psychology and accounting researchers and practitioners who share a common interest in advancing the knowledge and practice of psychology and accounting as social sciences to address complex societal and economic problems.

##### **Mission**

Promote and facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation between psychology and accounting researchers and practitioners by providing opportunities and platforms for communication, collaboration, learning, exchange, dissemination, and impact.

##### **Values**

- Respecting and valuing the diversity and complexity inherent to both psychology and accounting as academic severe disciplines and professions.
- Capitalize the distinctive contributions of each domain, collaboration paves the way for a deeper understanding of both disciplines.
- To actively seek out and implement concepts and insights from both fields.
- Creating a culture in which constructive arguments are communicated and valued increases the breadth of knowledge and collaboration.

##### **Goals**

- Identify and investigate topics, concepts, methodologies, data sources, and research findings that can be shared between psychology and accounting.
- Develop and conduct interdisciplinary research projects or initiatives that generate new knowledge or evidence informing or improving psychology, accounting theory, or practice.

- Disseminate and communicate the results and outcomes of interdisciplinary research projects or initiatives to relevant stakeholders, including practitioners, policymakers, users, beneficiaries, intermediaries, and funders.
- Evaluate and demonstrate the impact or value of interdisciplinary research projects or initiatives for society and the economy.
- Create and sustain a network or community of psychology and accounting researchers and practitioners, fostering ongoing collaboration and learning.

By adhering to this framework, researchers, scholars, and professionals can facilitate interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation. This collaboration enhances the understanding and application of psychology in accounting, and vice versa, and contributes to the resolution of broader social and economic issues.

To foster interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation between psychology and accounting, we propose the following strategies (using Behavioral Works Australia (BWA) at Monash University as an example):

- Create a group or committee of psychology and accounting researchers and practitioners to lead and coordinate interdisciplinary activities.
- Organize events such as seminars, workshops, conferences, webinars, podcasts, newsletters, and blogs to facilitate communication, collaboration, learning, and idea exchange between researchers and practitioners from both fields.
- Develop a comprehensive professional database or directory of psychology and accounting professionals interested in interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation to enable networking, matching, and partnering.
- Establish a dedicated online platform or website to highlight interdisciplinary activities, including events, projects, initiatives, results, and outcomes, raising awareness and recognition of the efforts.
- Pursue financial support from universities, research councils, professional associations, and foundations to enhance interdisciplinary activities, ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness.

To integrate psychology theory and methods into accounting research, or vice versa, follow these guidelines:

- Conduct a comprehensive literature review: Identify gaps, theories, methods, and future research directions in relevant psychology and accounting literature.
- Select an appropriate psychological theory or concept: Choose one that aligns with the accounting problem of interest, considering definitions, explanations, predictions, validity, and applicability.
- Choose an appropriate research method: With a well-defined design, sample, data collecting, analysis, ethics, and recommendations that permit testing of the established theories in the accounting environment.

Communicate results effectively: Convey the results, address the research question, significance, and limitations, and provide suggestions for further research or practical applications.

## 5. Conclusion

This study provides a comprehensive investigation of the interdisciplinarity between psychology and accounting. It also highlights interdisciplinary researches' positive impact and ramifications, besides the current trends, challenges, gaps, and opportunities. The results contribute to advancing knowledge and practice in both domains by providing a framework for promoting discourse and collaboration.

Adopting interdisciplinarity improves research in psychology and accounting, resulting in a more profound comprehension of both fields. Integrating psychology into accounting methods increases decision-making, ethical standards, and accounting system efficiency. Similarly, bringing accounting ideas into psychology broadens the practical applicability of psychological theories. This mutual exchange will contribute to promoting more research in both fields.

Although the research results provide valuable insights into psychology and accounting, their limits must be acknowledged. First, the section's dependence on a restricted number of studies and sources may impede the conclusions' applicability to a broader context. Second, the section may need to adequately account for contradictory data or alternative interpretations, ignoring essential nuances and diminishing the impartiality of the results. Therefore, future research must include more studies, provide clear methodological descriptions, evaluate contradictory evidence, and incorporate various perspectives throughout the discussion.

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