

## FOUNDATION FOR VC INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS

### SPEAKERS



**Cara Van Riet** is an Associate Partner, based in Berlin. Cara brings 15 years of operational experience across sectors. Most recently in Finance, working with capital market participants, developing & implementing ESG strategies and reporting frameworks with a strong emphasis on meeting regulatory requirements whilst focusing on sustainable organisational development and growth. Cara has worked with Private Markets clients on shaping their sustainable investment strategies as well as with their portfolio companies post-acquisition to incorporate sustainability factors into their operations. She has extensive stakeholder management experience having led the Investor Relations team at a Pan-European fund and will leverage this during the engagement period.



**Christian Schneider** is a Managing Partner with **Vesalius Biocapital**. He has extensive work and investment experience in the areas of diagnostics and medical R&D. As a Life Science venture capitalist, co-founder, and entrepreneur for over ten years, Dr. Schneider was directly involved in the start-up and served on the board of 11 public and private companies.



**Cyril Demaria** is currently Managing Director of two venture and growth capital funds. Formerly, he was CIO for private markets at UBS Wealth Management and for a multi-family office. Cyril is Affiliate Professor at EDHEC, lectures at EADA, and holds training for Invest Europe, France Invest and SECA. He authored six PE books, the best seller being "Introduction to private equity, private debt and private real assets" (Wiley, 3rd ed, 2019) translated in four languages.



**Israel Sanchez** is a strategy consultant specializing in decarbonisation and ESG value creation for private equity and infrastructure investors. He has supported two major PE clients (€90B and €6B AUM) in embedding decarbonisation strategies across portfolios, quantifying financial impacts, and driving implementation. He contributed to delivering \$18M in OPEX savings and €32M in interest savings through tailored strategies and green financing. Projects have included MAC curve analysis, asset archotyping, and Scope 1-3 GHG inventories. Israel holds an MBA from Warwick Business School, an MSc in Business Analysis, and a Cum Laude degree in Economics & Statistics.



**Joop Joost Hietbrink** is a Partner based in ERM's Utrecht office and co-leads ERM's strategy efforts across ERM's network. He has over 18 years of consulting experience in sustainability, strategy and performance management. Over time, Joop Joost has worked in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. His experience covers numerous sectors, ownership structures, and client sizes as well as a myriad of sustainability challenges. Joop Joost specialises in sustainable strategies development and implementation. In recent years, he has led various projects focusing on value creation, both from a business and societal impact angle.



**Katrin Geyskens** Katrin brings twenty years of investment experience to the Capricorn Digital team. Before falling in love with venture capital, she had a short career in banking and management consulting followed by a try at a start-up. The first female president of the BVA, she served on their board of directors for ten years. Katrin is a council member of VARIO (the Flemish Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship)

and a member of the supervisory board of EIT Digital. In 2020, she was named one of Belgium's 'Inspiring Fifty', an award celebrating inspiring female leaders in technology.

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**Manuel Meyer** has been with **Baker McKenzie** Zurich since 2005 and has practiced as a lawyer since 2008, specializing in M&A, private equity, and corporate reorganizations with a strong focus on complex cross-border transactions. He advises strategic investors, private equity sponsors, and multinational companies across the full deal lifecycle, from structuring to post-acquisition integration. Known for his pragmatic, deal-driven approach and technical expertise, he leads the firm's Swiss Reorganization Practice and is part of its global M&A and reorganization groups.