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Academic Positions

Southern Methodist University Visiting Assistant Professor of Finance	2019-Present
University of Arizona Assistant Professor of Finance	2015-Present

Education

University of Texas-Austin , Austin, TX Ph.D. in Finance	2015
Lewis & Clark College , Portland, OR Bachelor of Arts, Mathematics and Economics	2009

Published Papers

“Debt and Bargaining Outcomes: Evidence from U.S. Hospitals”

- Forthcoming, *Management Science*
- Presented at 11th Annual Finance Conference at WUSL Olin Business School, University of Arizona, University of Houston, University of Texas, University of Utah, Virginia Tech University, and 2015 Western Finance Association

Using the healthcare industry as a novel laboratory, I study whether a firm's use of debt enhances its bargaining power during negotiations with non-financial stakeholders. I find that reimbursement rates negotiated between a hospital and insurers for two homogeneous procedures are higher when the hospital has more debt. This relation is stronger among hospitals with less bargaining power relative to insurers ex ante. I provide direct evidence that debt improves a firm's bargaining outcomes.

Working Papers

“Quasi-Insider Shareholder Activism: Corporate Governance at the Periphery of Control” joint with Jonathan Cohn and Aazam Virani

- Presented at 2018 AFA*, Arizona State University, Arizona Junior Finance Conference, University of New South Wales, 2018 Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2019 Drexel Academic Conference on Corporate Governance

We document the role of investors at the periphery of control - “quasi-insiders” - in corporate governance. These agents, who include founders, former CEOs, and other former officers, launch activist campaigns in smaller and worse-performing firms than traditional activists, and use aggressive tactics to seek greater control. Their campaigns are associated with positive abnormal returns comparable to those in other activist campaigns and subsequent improvements in operating performance. The presence of a quasi-insider as a blockholder is associated with a significant increase

in CEO turnover-performance sensitivity. Overall, our results suggest that quasi-insiders play a meaningful role in governance.

“Renewable Governance: Good for the Environment” joint with Alexander Dyck, Karl Lins, Lukas Roth, and Hannes Wagner

- Best Paper Award at the 2019 FMA Global Conference in Latin America
- Presented at University of Arizona, Université de Neuchâtel*, Hong Kong Baptist University*, University of Alberta*, University of Illinois at Chicago*, 2018 UT Smokey Mountain Finance Conference*, 2018 SHoF-Misum Conference on Sustainable Finance*, 2018 UN PRI Academic Network Conference, 2019 AFA, University of British Columbia*, 2019 FMA Global Conference in Latin America, 2019 International Workshop on Financial System Architecture and Stability*, 2019 Telfer Conference on Accounting and Finance*, 2019 Queens Conference on Green Finance: New Directions in Sustainable Finance Research and Policy*

We test the impact of firms’ corporate governance structures (G) on firms’ environmental performance (E) in an international sample. We find strong evidence that better governance improves firms’ environmental performance, including in settings where environmental risks are most salient. Governance mechanisms that focus on board renewal through enhanced investor power in director elections or appointment of female directors are associated with the greatest improvements. Quasi-exogenous shocks to these board renewal mechanisms support a causal interpretation—that is, G drives E. Female directors have a stand-alone impact, as the positive female director effect holds when we directly control for director characteristics.

“The Role of Proxy Advisors and Large Passive Funds in Shareholder Voting: Lions or Lambs?” joint with Audra Boone and Stu Gillan

- Presented at University of Arizona, FIRCG, University of Georgia*

Large passive mutual funds and proxy advisory firms have faced criticism both for being too powerful and not exercising diligence in proxy voting. We document that the “Big 3” passive fund families, Blackrock, State Street, and Vanguard, are increasingly likely to vote with management, and their support is paramount in approving controversial proposals. Meanwhile, mutual funds overall are less likely to vote according to ISS recommendations, and ISS recommendations are not predictive of controversial votes passing, especially post-financial-crisis. Our findings suggest that the Big 3 actively vote their proxies, and that ISS appears less influential over time.

“ETFs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” joint with David Brown and Scott Cederburg

- Presented at Southern Methodist University

We document that the massive growth in ETF assets is driven by both retail and institutional investors. Equity, debt, and especially Smart Beta ETFs have experienced the largest growth in recent years. Investors prefer ETFs that are older, have more liquidity, and have lower fees. We develop four measures of Smart Beta quality and find that investors correctly invest more in good and less in bad Smart Beta ETFs. Investors also prefer ETFs that focus on one factor as opposed to many factors. We find clientele effects with institutional investors being more sensitive to ETF liquidity and quality than retail investors.

“The Evolution of Healthcare and Corporate Finance”

I give a brief summary of the institutional details of the U.S. healthcare sector with a special emphasis on healthcare finance. In addition to its large size, U.S. healthcare has four unique features that can be used to help answer corporate finance questions: segmented markets, variation in corporate type, extensive data requirements and recent consolidation. I explain how changes over the last 100 years have led to each of these features. Next, I delve deeper into bargaining between insurance companies and hospitals, Medicare pricing, and hospital capital structure decisions during 2008-2012. Finally, I conclude with a brief discussion on how the Affordable Care Act has contributed to these factors.

*Denotes presented by coauthor

Non-Refereed Publications

“Norway’s Summit On Responsible Investing” *The Journal of Investment Management* 12.01 (2014): 33-44.

Research Interests

Capital Structure, Corporate Governance, Investor Activism, Institutional Investors, Corporate Finance, Health Care

Teaching Experience

University of Texas-Austin: Business Finance FIN 357 (Undergraduates) Summer 2011
University of Arizona: Investments FIN 421 (Undergraduates) 2015-present
University of Arizona: Investment Analysis FIN 521 (Masters) 2016-present
Southern Methodist University: Investments FINA 4326 (Undergraduates) Fall 2019

Professional Offices and Committees

Program Committee Member, Western Finance Association meetings: 2015-2018
Program Committee Member, Midwestern Finance Association meetings: 2018-present
Program Committee Member, Financial Research Network (FIRN): 2019-present
Program Committee Member, FMA Asia/Pacific Conference: 2019-present
Faculty Advisory Board, Eller Center for Management Innovations in Healthcare: 2015-present
Finance Department Seminar Coordinator 2016-17
Tenure-track Recruiting Committee 2017-18
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Member for Eller College: 2018

Referee Service

Review of Financial Studies, Management Science, Journal of Corporate Finance, Journal of Banking and Finance, The Review of Corporate Finance Studies

Media Coverage

Columbia Law School’s Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets “Insider Activism”
<http://clsbluesky.law.columbia.edu/2017/04/27/insider-activism/>

Honors and Awards

2017-18 University of Arizona Scrivner Teaching Award
2016 World Series of Poker Event #41 Monster Stack Champion
2016 Spring Eller Small Research Grant with Jeremy Douthit
2015 Fall Eller Small Research Grant with Aazam Virani
2015 Cubist Systematic Strategies Ph.D. Candidate Award for Outstanding Research
2014 Stuart I. Greenbaum Ph.D. Outstanding Paper Award at Washington University in St. Louis
Conference on Corporate Finance
2009-12 4-time member of the U.S. Bridge Junior Team for World Championships – 2012 Silver
2003 Junior world champion in “Magic: the Gathering” card game

Dissertation Committee

2020 Ye (Emma) Wang, Finance

List of Collaborators

Aazam Virani, *University of Arizona*
Jeremy Douthit, *University of Arizona*
Jonathan Cohn, *University of Texas*
Stuart Gillan, *University of Georgia*
Audra Boone, *Texas Christian University*
Alexander Dyck, *University of Toronto*
Karl Lins, *University of Utah*
Hannes Wagner, *Bocconi University*
Lukas Roth, *University of Alberta*
David Brown, *University of Arizona*
Scott Cederburg, *University of Arizona*

References

Laura Starks (Co-chair)
Charles E. and Sarah M. Seay Regents
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Jonathan Cohn (Co-chair)
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Tyler Family Endowed Chair in Finance
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