

Advanced Corporate Finance (Prof. E. Croci)

The course is designed to introduce students to empirical research in corporate finance and governance. The availability of data to test hypotheses and theories in corporate finance is growing dramatically. In this course, students will become familiar and work with some of the main datasets used in empirical research and apply some of the main methods used to analyze them. We will devote time to study selected prior empirical works, chosen to make students work with specific datasets and methods. Students will be asked to replicate or extend some of these studies. Students are expected to have at least a preliminary knowledge of Stata (or other statistical software).

The grade will be based on:

1. Participation (30%)
2. Paper presentation (35%)
3. Two assignments during the course (35%) (These assignments will require Stata)

Reading list

* denotes paper to read before class.

Session 1. Monday November 4, 8:30-10:30

Ownership structures: Shareholder Activism & Large shareholders

*Brav, A., W. Jiang, F. Partnoy, and R. Thomas. 2008. Hedge fund activism, corporate governance, and firm performance. *Journal of Finance* 63, 1729–75.

*Becht, Marco, Julian Franks, and Jeremy Grant, and Hannes Wagner, 2016. The Returns to Hedge Fund Activism: An International Study, *The Review of Financial Studies*, Volume 30, Issue 9, September 2017, Pages 2933–2971.

Brav, Alon, Wei Jiang and Hyunseob Kim, 2015. The Real Effects of Hedge Fund Activism: Productivity, Asset Allocation, and Labor Outcomes. *Review of Financial Studies*, 28(10), 2723-2769

Brav, A., W. Jiang, and H. Kim. 2010. Hedge fund activism: A review. *Foundations and Trends in Finance* 4:185–246.

*Lins, Karl, Paolo Volpin, and Hannes Wagner, 2013. Does Family Control Matter? International Evidence from the 2008-2009 Financial Crisis, *Review of Financial Studies* 26, 2583-2619.

Faccio, Mara, Maria-Teresa Marchica, and Roberto Mura, 2011. Large shareholder diversification and corporate risk-taking. *Review of Financial Studies*, November 2011, vol. 24(11), 3601-3641.

Session 2. Wednesday November 6, 14:30-16:00

Guest speaker: Luca Del Viva

*Del Viva, Luca, SP Kothari, Neophytos Lambertides and Lenos Trigeorgis , "Nonlinearities, Asymmetric Returns and the Economic Content of Accruals and Investment", working paper.

Session 3. Monday November 11, 8:30-10:30

CEOs & Executives

*Bertrand, Marianne, and Sendhil Mullainathan, 2003. Enjoying the Quiet Life? Corporate Governance and Managerial Preferences." *Journal of Political Economy* 111 (5), 1043-075.

*Fee, C.E., Hadlock, C.J. and Pierce, J.R., 2013. Managers with and without style: Evidence using exogenous variation. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 26(3), pp. 567-601.

*Graham, J.R., Li, S. and Qiu, J., 2011. Managerial attributes and executive compensation. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 25(1), pp. 144-186.

Meisner Nielsen, Kasper, B.D. Nguyen, 2014. "What death can tell: Are executives paid for their contribution to firm value?". *Management Science* 60 (12), 2994-3010.

Malmendier, Ulrike, and Geoffrey Tate. 2009. Superstar CEOs. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, November 2009, vol. 124(4), pp. 1593-1638.

Malmendier, U., Tate, G., and Yan, J., 2011. Overconfidence and early-life experiences: The effect of managerial traits on corporate financial policies, *Journal of Finance* 66(5), pp. 1687- 1733.

Fracassi, Cesare, and Geoffrey Tate, 2012. External Networking and Internal Firm Governance. *Journal of Finance*, vol. 67(1), pp. 153-194.

Session 4. Wednesday November 13, 14:30-16:00

Guest speaker: Dusan Isakov

*Isakov, Dušan and Perignon, Christophe and Weiskopf, Jean-Philippe, 2019. What If Dividends Were Tax-Exempt? Evidence from a Natural Experiment. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3190485> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3190485>

Session 5. Monday November 18, 8:30-10:30

Diversification

*Villalonga, Belen, 2004, Diversification Discount or Premium? New Evidence From BITS Establishment-Level Data, *Journal of Finance* 59, no. 2 (April), pp. 479-506.

*Duchin, R. A. N., 2010, Cash Holdings and Corporate Diversification, *Journal of Finance* 65. no. 3 (June), pp. 955-992

Matvos, Gregor, and Amit Seru, 2014, Resource Allocation within Firms and Financial Market Dislocation: Evidence from Diversified Conglomerates, *Review of Financial Studies* 27:4, 1143-1189

Session 6. Monday November 25, 8:30-10:30

Students' presentations.