Cong Wang

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EDUCATION

Sapienza University of Rome — Rome, Italy
Ph.D. in Economics, Advisor: Giacomo Morelli — 2021–2024

HSE University — St. Petersburg, Russia
M.S. in Finance — 2018–2020

Shenyang Ligong University — Shenyang, China
B.S. in Engineering — 2012–2016

RESEARCH INTEREST

Sustainable Investment, Econometrics, Machine Learning

EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles — LA, United States
Visiting PhD Student — Mar 2023–Sep 2023

- Conducting research and collaborating with faculty members and fellow researchers.
- Data collection and analysis joint with my supervisor.

China Life Asset Management Company — Guangzhou, China
Analyst — Jul 2020–Sep 2021

- Daily risk exposure monitoring and periodic industry reports.
- Data collection and analysis for internal reports.

University of Amsterdam — Amsterdam, The Netherlands
QTEM Program — Sep 2019–Feb 2020

- Quantitative analysis training.
- Financial modeling training.

Cbonds.ru — St. Petersburg, Russia
Analyst — Mar 2019–Aug 2019

- Aggregate and analysis bonds' data.
- Weekly bond market monitoring reports.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Political Economy of Climate and the Environment Mini-Conference — Los Angeles, USA
University of California, Los Angeles. — Aug 2023

2023 North American Summer Meeting (NASM) — Los Angeles, USA
The Econometric Society. — Jun 2023

CCPR Differences-in-Differences Mini-Conference Los Angeles, USA
University of California, Los Angeles. May 2022

9th Asset Pricing Workshop Online
University of York, Center for Applied Macro-Finance. Jul 2022

Empirical Tools/Applications in Banking and Macro-Finance. Barcelona, Spain
Barcelona School of Economics, summer school. Jul 2022

Workshop on Demand System Asset Pricing Online
Held by Ralph S.J. Koijen and Motohiro Yogo. Jun 2022

Innovation, Growth, and International Production. Models and Data Analysis Rome, Italy
Sapienza, University of Rome. Advanced Course 2022, 17th Edition. May 2022

2019 International Banking Cycle Amsterdam, Netherlands
University of Amsterdam. Innovation and Sustainability of the Banking Industry. Oct 2019

Skills

- **Python:** Advanced
- **R:** Advanced
- **Stata:** Advanced
- **Matlab:** Intermediate

Languages

- **English:** Working level
- **Russian:** Advanced
- **Chinese:** Mother tongue

Working Papers

Firms' Carbon Emissions and Stock Returns
Coauther: Giacomo Morelli

- In recent years, unanticipated climate change risks have propelled green portfolios to achieve superior returns compared to their brown counterparts. Paradoxically, both empirical and theoretical evidence underscore a perplexing phenomenon: brown firms, characterized by higher carbon emissions or lower ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) scores, tend to yield greater expected stock returns. This discrepancy is primarily attributed to investors' demand for climate change-related risk premiums from these brown firms' stocks. This paper seeks to explore this apparent contradiction. Despite the consistent outperformance of green portfolios over their brown counterparts, empirical studies at the firm level frequently uncover the reverse trend. By conducting empirical analyses encompassing all publicly listed companies in the U.S. stock market spanning the years 2002 to 2021, our objective is to furnish a comprehensive explanation for this intriguing and seemingly contradictory disparity.

Multi-Measure Stock Return Prediction Using Neural Network Models
Solo paper

- This paper provides an exhustive discription on how to use neural network model to predict different measures of stock return in the US market. The results demonstrate that the model performs similarly well in predicting various measures of stock returns using only stock characteristic variables. However, adding macroeconomic variables significantly enhances the model's predictive accuracy for stock excess returns, in comparison, the improvements for predicting stock abnormal returns are not so significant. Furthermore, the study evaluates the performance of prediction-based portfolios under diverse macroeconomic conditions and finds that they perform better in volatile markets during recession periods. These findings suggest that incorporating macroeconomic data and adjusting portfolios based on macroeconomic conditions can lead to more effective investment strategies.

Sustainability Pays Off: Investigating the Impact of ESG Scores on Corporate Financial
Performance Worldwide
Coauther: Iuliia Zolotareva

- The study analyzes a comprehensive dataset across various companies, industries, and countries, employing rigorous econometric techniques. The findings reveal a statistically significant and positive relationship between lagged ESG scores and financial performance, persisting over time and across diverse contexts. The robustness of the results highlights the importance of sustainability for companies worldwide. Additionally, the study explores the underlying mechanisms through which ESG factors influence financial performance. These findings have crucial implications for investors looking to integrate ESG considerations into their strategies and for companies striving to enhance their sustainability practices and achieve long-term financial success in an increasingly responsible business landscape. The research emphasizes the enduring and beneficial association between ESG scores and financial performance, urging the adoption of sustainable practices on a global scale.

Asset Risk and Climate Change

Coauther: Giacomo Morelli

- This paper investigates the relationship between asset's risk and climate change. We use VaR model to stress the tail risk due to rare disaster brought by climate change. We use the Hodrick-Prescott filter to remove the pro-cyclicality in the VaR model. Carbon emission is used as a proxy for climate change effect, companies' other fundamental financial indicators will also be included in regressors. We use difference in difference approach to explore the influence of climate change related policy shocks such as Paris Agreement and Stern Review. To study how climate change will affect financial asset's risk measure, we can optimize asset risk management and contribute to the study of risk related asset pricing.

Scholarships and Awards

- University of Rome International Mobility Scholarship   2022
- University of Rome fully founded Ph.D scholarship   2021
- QTEM Honored Graduate Diploma   2020
- SHE University International Mobility Scholarship   2019
- SHE University Scholarship   2018

Reference

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