Ruishen Zhang

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Education

Frankfurt School of Finance & Management   **Frankfurt, Germany**
Ph.D. Candidate in Accounting   *2017–2020*

MIT Sloan School of Management   **Cambridge, U.S.**
Visiting Ph.D. Student   *2018–2019*

Tilburg University   **Tilburg, Netherlands**
Research Master in Accounting (Full time 2-year doctoral coursework)   *2015–2017*

Dongbei University of Finance & Economics   **Dalian, China**
BBA (Accounting)   *2010–2014*

Working Papers

Language Commonality and Sell-side Information Production

Abstract: I study the effects of language commonality (i.e., sharing a native language) on information production in financial markets. Using a hand-collected dataset on the prevalent dialects for 2,091 cities (counties) in China, I identify the effects of language commonality separately from those of shared hometown and geographic proximity. I find that language commonality between analysts and CEOs increases the return of trading on analysts' recommendations by 5.6 percent with a roughly one-year average holding period. The results mainly stem from less intelligible dialects. Broadly speaking, language commonality can alleviate communication frictions when non-native languages are used in professional settings.

Anti-Pledging Policy, CEO Compensation, and Investment

with: Jihun Bae

Abstract: We study the implications of a recent governance trend promoted by proxy advisors, namely an anti-pledging policy, which limits managers' flexibility to unwind their equity-based compensation. Manually collecting information on share pledging of S&P 1500 firms, we find that CEO's pay-for-performance sensitivity (i.e., delta), risk-taking incentives (i.e., vega), investment growth, and investment-Q sensitivity decrease after adopting an anti-pledging policy. We also find that the adoption of an anti-pledging policy mitigates opposition from proxy advisors. Taken together, our findings suggest that limiting compensation flexibility to cater for proxy advisors may produce unfavorable outcomes for the firm, which calls into a question the "one-size-fits-all" governance policies.

Work in Progress

Temperature Anomaly and Firm Decisions

with: Wenjiao Cao

Status: Data Analysis

Lazy Capital

Status: Data Analysis

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2019: China International Finance Conference (scheduled); MIT Finance Lunch; AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Meeting;

2018: MIT Finance Lunch; Frankfurt School of Finance & Management; EAA Annual Congress, EAA Doctoral Colloquium; Rotterdam School of Management Finance Brownbag; Lancaster University; University of Manchester; Annual Accounting Conference 2018 Berlin; Swiss Accounting Research Alpine Camp; AAA mid-year International Accounting (invited);

2017: Singapore Management University Accounting Symposium, Nanyang Technological University ,Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Tilburg University;

Teaching Experience

2018: Basics in Accounting (Master in Management), Instructor, Frankfurt School

2018: Data Analysis and Machine Learning (Master of Finance), TA, Frankfurt School

2017: Stata Workshop (Master of Finance), Instructor, Frankfurt School

External Doctoral Workshop

Limperg Course on Audit and Assurance   **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
Faculty: Professor Robert Knechel and Professor Marleen Willekens   *2017*

ERIM Course on Executive Compensation   **Rotterdam, Netherlands**
Faculty: Professor David Yermack   *2017*

Limperg Course on Capital Market Research   **Tilburg, Netherlands**
Faculty: Professor Peter Easton   *2016*

Professional Experience

Deloitte Touche Tohmastu CPA LLP   **Shenzhen, China**
Associate   *2014–2015*

Accentrue Technology Solution   **Dalian, China**
Intern Analyst   *2013–2013*

Awards and Fellowships

2015–2017: CentER Scholarship

2013: CFA Access Scholarship

Skills

Python, Stata, LaTeX

Miscellaneous

ACCA Affiliate, PADI Advanced Open Water Diver, Snowboarder