Last update: November 3rd, 2020

Contact

Simon Business School Information

Tel: +1 (585) 319-8838University of Rochester ⊠ E-mail:shuaiyu.chen@simon.rochester.edu Rochester, NY 14627 Homepage: https://shuaiyuchen.github.io/

**EDUCATION** 

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY Ph.D. in Finance 2015–2021 (expected)

Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD M.S., Applied Mathematics and Statistics 2013 - 2015

Central University of Finance and Economics Beijing B.S., Mathematics and Economics 2009-2013

Research Interests Empirical asset pricing, institutional investors (e.g., mutual funds and hedge funds), real effects of financial markets

Working Papers

### Predicting Active Fund Performance with Aggregate Idiosyncratic Volatility Job Market Paper

**Abstract:** This paper shows that aggregate idiosyncratic volatility (AIV) is a key determinant of active funds' ability to generate superior performance. Using the sample of active US equity mutual funds from 1984 through 2019, I find that AIV positively predicts benchmark-adjusted fund returns, and its predictive power is stronger for funds that deviate more from passive benchmarks. The predictability of AIV is also significant for active mutual funds in 47 equity markets and equity hedge funds in the US. I then explore two non-mutually exclusive explanations for these findings: 1) active funds require a reward for accommodating exogenous asset demands and AIV drives their risk-bearing capacity (i.e., the risk view); and 2) they profit from private signals about firms' fundamentals and AIV proxies for aggregate flows of fundamental news (i.e., the information view). Additional analyses provide evidence consistent with the risk view. First, on average, active mutual funds scale back their active positions when AIV rises. Second, funds that do not reduce active positions earn larger abnormal returns following high AIV levels. Third, a substantial AIV shock leads to a temporary impact on stock prices. The evidence during the COVID-19 crisis also corroborates the risk view.

### Does Media Investor Identity Affect Its Coverage? The Role of Common Ownership (with Zhao Jin and John Yang)

**Abstract:** We study whether institutional investors affect media coverage of their portfolio firms through their ownership in media firms. We hypothesize that the blockholders of a publicly traded media outlet affect this media outlet's coverage of their portfolio firms in their interests. Consistent with this hypothesis, we find that a news outlet issues more positive articles covering the firms in its blockholders' portfolios. In addition, the results are stronger when the covered firms have higher weights in the blockholders' portfolios. Our results are robust when we fully control for firm fundamentals by exploiting within firm-quarter variation in media ownership and coverage, providing evidence that the effect is causal. Overall, our findings suggest that institutional investors influence media coverage through their media ownership.

Working In Progress

Lending Fees and Pricing Under Asymmetric Information (with Ron Kaniel and Christian Opp)

Agglomeration Investing as Mutual Fund Manager Skill (with Zhao Jin)

What do managers learn from stock prices? Evidence from cross-border mergers and acquisitions (with John Yang)

Awards	Doctoral Fellowship, University of Rochester National Scholarship in China (Granted to top 1%)	2015–2021 2010
Workshops	Finance Theory Group Summer School Office of Financial Research (OFR) PhD Symposium	2017 2020
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<ul> <li>Instructor:</li> <li>Laboratory for Quantitative Finance with Python</li> <li>Teaching Assistant:</li> <li>Investment</li> <li>Fixed Income</li> <li>Investment Management and Trading Strategies</li> <li>Options and Futures Market</li> </ul>	2018, 2019 2016 2017 2017, 2018, 2019 2019
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE	For Ron Kaniel and Christian Opp For Robert Novy-Marx	2020 2019-2020

SKILLS Python, MATLAB, SAS, Stata

#### References Ron Kaniel (co-advisor)

Jay S. and Jeanne P. Benet Professor of Finance

Simon Graduate School of Business

University of Rochester Phone: (585) 275-1836

E-mail: ron.kaniel@simon.rochester.edu

#### Alan Moreira (co-advisor)

Associate Professor of Finance Simon Graduate School of Business

University of Rochester

 $\hbox{E-mail: alan.moreira@simon.rochester.edu}$ 

# Christian Opp

Associate Professor of Finance Simon Graduate School of Business

University of Rochester

E-mail: opp@simon.rochester.edu

## Robert Novy-Marx

Lori and Alan S. Zekelman Distinguished Professor of Business Administration

Simon Graduate School of Business

University of Rochester

E-mail: robert.novy-marx@simon.rochester.edu